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Agenda

Meeting: Corporate & Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

Members: Councillors Andrew Williams (Chair), Bryn Griffiths (Vice-

Chair), Chris Aldred, Karl Arthur, Nick Brown, Michelle Donohue-Moncrieff, Kevin Foster, Richard Foster, Tim Grogan, Robert Heseltine, David Ireton, Tony Randerson, Subash Sharma,

Steve Shaw-Wright, Malcolm Taylor and Phil Trumper.

Date: Monday, 11th September, 2023

Time: 10.30 am

Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD

This meeting is being held as an in-person meeting. Members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting as observers for all those items taken in open session. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer whose details are at the foot of the first page of the Agenda if you would like to find out more.

Recording is allowed at Council, committee and sub-committee meetings which are open to the public, please give due regard to the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at public meetings, a copy of which is available to download below. Anyone wishing to record is asked to contact, prior to the start of the meeting, the Democratic Services Officer whose contact details are below. We ask that any recording is clearly visible to anyone at the meeting and that it is non-disruptive.

Business

- 1. Apologies for Absence & Notification of Substitutes
- 2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 June 2023

(Pages 3 - 8)

3. Declarations of Interest

All Members are invited to declare at this point any interests they have in items appearing on this agenda, including the nature of those interests.

4. Public Participation

Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have given notice to Mark Codman of Democratic and Scrutiny Services and supplied the text (contact details below) by midday on Wednesday 6 September 2023, three working days before the day of the meeting. 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 Chair who will instruct anyone who may be taking a recording to cease while you speak.

- 5. Notice of Motion Proposal to Ban Trail Hunting on Council (Pages 9 14)
 Owned Land
- 6. Bi-annual Update on Community Safety Plan Delivery & (Pages 15 24)
 Partnership Working

The Chair of the partnership Assistant Chief Constable Scott Bisset and Odette Robson, Head of Safer Communities

- 7. Youth Justice Performance Update (Pages 25 34)
 Barbara Merrygold, Head of Early Years and Andy Dukes Youth Justice Team
 Manager
- 8. Bi-annual Stronger Communities Update & Update on Corporate (Pages 35 46)
 Volunteering Project
 Marie-Ann Jackson Head of Stronger Communities and Adele Wilson-Hope
 Stronger Communities Delivery Manager (Hambleton)
- 9. Update on Operation of the Parish Portal and Parish Council (Pages 47 56)
 Engagement
 Nigel Smith Head of Highways Operations and Deborah Flowers Highways Customer
 Communications Officer
- 10. Work Programme 2023/24 (Pages 57 60)
 Purpose of the Report To consider, amend and adopt the committee's work programme for the remainder of the municipal year.
- 11. Other business which the Chairman agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances

Members are reminded that in order to expedite business at the meeting and enable Officers to adapt their presentations to address areas causing difficulty, they are encouraged to contact Officers prior to the meeting with questions on technical issues in reports.

Contact Details

Enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Mark Codman Tel: 01423 556415 or e-mail:

Mark.codman@northyorks.gov.uk
Website: www.northyorks.gov.uk

Barry Khan Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall Northallerton

Friday, 1 September 2023

North Yorkshire County Council

Corporate & Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Monday, 5th June, 2023 commencing at 10.30 am.

County Councillor David Ireton in the Chair. plus County Councillors Nick Brown, Chris Aldred, Karl Arthur, Michelle Donohue-Moncrieff, Kevin Foster, Richard Foster, Bryn Griffiths, Tim Grogan, Robert Heseltine, Tom Jones, Yvonne Peacock, Subash Sharma, Malcolm Taylor and Phil Trumper.

In attendance: County Councillors Carl Les, David Chance and George Jabbour.

Officers present: Rachel Joyce, Trudy Forster, Jonathan Spencer and Hazel Smith.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

36 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 March 2023

Members identified a typographical error in the draft Minutes. It was also noted that the meeting held on 6 March 2023 was not a remote meeting as stated, and that it should have been noted as an in-person meeting.

In addition, Councillor Karl Arthur asked that his attendance be updated to record that he was present at the meeting.

Resolved – That subject to the amendments identified at the meeting, the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2023, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

37 Apologies for Absence & Notification of Substitutes

There were no apologies for absence.

38 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Chris Aldred declared a non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 8 – Annual Update on Library Services, as his wife was employed by the Library Service.

39 Public Participation

There was no registered public participants.

40 Annual Review of Councillor Locality Budgets 2022/23

Members received a report reviewing the operation of County Councillor Locality Budgets in the financial year 2022/23.

Rachel Joyce, Assistant Chief Executive agence introduced the report, which

confirmed the Locality Budgets were in their eighth year.

Attention was drawn to the breakdown of the organisations and types of projects/activities that had been supported throughout the year.

Overall, Members were pleased to note that more locality budget monies had been spent than in the previous year and thanked the officers involved for their hard work in administering the scheme. In response to the cost of living crisis, they noted that there had been 32 allocations made totalling £61,900.

Councillor Phil Trumper drew attention to an error in Appendix 2 of the report in which it showed he had given a grant of £32,500 for the fireworks display at the Whitby Christmas Festival event, which should have read £2,000.

Councillor Subash Sharma queried the protocol for the remaining budgets at the end of the financial year, and it was confirmed the rules did not allow for roll over of any remaining balances. He asked whether the scheme could be adapted to allow for it.

Councillor Bryn Griffiths noted the funding allocated by Members acted as seed funding and questioned whether it was known how much it had generated.

Resolved -

That the report on the operation of County Councillor Locality Budgets during the 2022/23 financial year be noted.

41 Workforce Report

Trudy Forster - Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) provided an overview of the detailed report presented, which included baseline workforce data for the new Council. She focussed on section 3.6 of the report containing a series of tables containing baseline data on NYC since 1 April 2023. Specific attention was drawn to the following:

Table 4 – The types of contracts held by employees. It was noted that it was healthy for an organisation to have a range of contract types. Also that officers from the District/Borough councils had been Tuped over on their existing terms and conditions.

Table 8 – The date on gender by Directorate reflected the national picture.

Table 11 – There was likely to be some under reporting of disability.

Table 14 – NYCC turnover in 2022/23 was 15% - a healthy turnover would be around 10-13%.

Table 16 - Sick days/FTE was increasing across the public sector

Tables 18 & 19 – NYCC had its own 'grow your own' Apprenticeship Scheme.

Table 20 – the Graduates at Ryedale District Council had been recruited by NYCC and seconded out to Ryedale.

Table 25 – Demand continued to outstrip supply in each of the hard to fill posts.

Members raised the following queries:

- What steps were being taken to increase the number of men working in schools?
- Were staff doing too much when working from home and not striking the right work/life balance?
- What was the gender mix across the various contract types, and what was being done to address the imbalance at the various level of management etc?

In response to other queries, Trudy Forster confirmed the following:

• Developing apprenticeships in Planning was a key part of the plan to address the

- ongoing vacancies in the service.
- the new Hybrid Working Policy was now in place data on its implementation would be available by September 2023.
- Sickness was increasing but was still below the national picture.
- The area of sickness of most concern was that due to stress/depression/anxiety a
 number of employee assistance programmes were available to staff together with
 resistance training. Members requested that the Policy on sickness be circulated after
 the meeting.
- The authority was not spending as much as others on agency workers.

Councillor Richard Foster suggested there had been no real integration of staff at the Craven district Council offices, with ex Craven staff and NYCC staff using separate floors.

Councillor Malcolm Taylor welcome the improved situation regarding social worker recruitment and retention.

Councillor Michelle Donohue -Moncrieff highlighted her concerns about the holding of vacancies whilst the new council restructured its service teams. She noted the added strain it placed on the remaining staff, as a result of the increase to their workloads and the longer term effect it could have on their productivity.

Members thanked Trudy Forster for her detailed report and requested that she pass on the Committee's thanks to all staff.

Resolved - That:

- The update be noted
- A further update be provided in 12 months' time

42 North Yorkshire Refugee Resettlement update

Considered – A report of the Assistant Director - Policy, Partnerships and Communities providing an update on refugee resettlement in North Yorkshire relating to the United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

Jonathan Spencer - NYC Refugee Resettlement Manager, presented the report and provided an overview of the background to, and an update on:

- The various individual schemes that made up the UKRS i.e. those for refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, and the Ukraine;
- The Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS), for refugees regardless of their nationality but specifically children at risk and their families from the Middle East and North Africa region;
- The three community sponsorship schemes in place across North Yorkshire, and the proposed new scheme in Scarborough and Thirsk.;
- The UK-wide welcome programme to support the integration of new arrivals from Hong Kong

Members noted the following:

- The Refugees' Council was now providing support for 3 years
- Volunteer support remained good across North Yorkshire
- It was unlikely the UKRS would be completed next year still awaiting a response from the Home Office on new cases;
 Page 5

- Payment by Government to local Authorities for the resettlement support provided to individuals was well behind schedule – members queried the exact amount owed to the Authority.
- It was estimated there was a further 4000+ afghanis eligible for the Scheme.
- Another ten families were scheduled to come to Catterick Garrison, with the existing nine families moving on to permanent homes.
- Many lessons had been learnt from the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.
- The placement of refugees across the old district areas was a planned approach to
 ensure access to and best use of the available resources, which is why some areas had
 taken more than others.
- The bridging hotel in Scarborough was still open with 80-90 residents who would have
 to leave by 16 August 2023. There was some concern that not all of those residents
 would be re-housed by that date. The policy regarding evictions was the responsibility
 of the Home Office, and there was some concern that some could be declared
 homeless as of 16 August 2023.
- Only one family in the hotel had confirmed they wished to stay in Scarborough. Many
 were unwilling to settle anywhere other than Manchester/London/Birmingham work
 was ongoing to promote other areas.
- Mental health issues were a concern the longer residents are in the hotel. Those families with Mental Health issues were prioritised.
- Some families were very large (12+) and had specific needs, which meant finding suitable housing often proved difficult.
- Language remained the main barrier to employment with English lessons available online. Written skills were not good, and support was needed regarding interview techniques
- The lack of education for women in Afghanistan was a factor
- Employment was slow but steady with most of the men in the hotel were in work.
- Business start-up grants of £2K were available more business mentors were needed.

Members thanked the officer for his ongoing hard work, and it was

Resolved – That the annual update be noted

43 Annual Update on Library Services

Members received a presentation from Hazel Smith, General Manager of NYC Libraries, providing an overview of their work since the last annual update.

Members noted the breakdown of library provision provided in Hazel Smith's presentation and the following:

- The new Library Strategy for 2020-2030 was approved by Council in July 2020 with its new core priorities of Digital; Literacy & Learning; Health & Wellbeing; and Communities:
- There had been a partial re-opening between lockdowns with well over 1 million visits and 1.5 million books issued;
- A number of libraries had been refurbished;
- The Home Library service had continued throughout the pandemic;
- The Library Service had been working with the Police and Trading Standards on IT scams;
- Work on the collection and redistribution of IT equipment had continued, and more donations were required – 167 devices had been distributed to individuals up to March 2022;
- The Library Service continued to what a continued to

- Six young people had been supported through the Kickstart programme;
- Free time on the library computers had been extended to 2 hours;
- · Access to foreign newspapers was now being provided online;
- · Libraries were nearly back to pre-Covid opening hours;

She went on give an overview of the priorities for 2023-24, as detailed in her presentation, and Members noted the challenges ahead, which included improving customer confidence, increasing volunteer capacity and volunteer retention, and funding.

Members recorded their appreciation for the work of library staff and volunteers, and it was

Resolved - That the annual Library Services update be noted.

44 Notice of Motion on PFCC to Resign

Considered – A report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Democratic Services) presenting information in response to a Notice of Motion at Full Council in May 2023 that sought the resignation of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (PFCC).

Councillor Bryn Griffiths introduced the report as the proposer of the motion and drew attention to the options in the report at paragraph 6.1. He confirmed his Motion was not political but rather a reaction to the poor performance identified in the recently published reports of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS). He also expressed disappointment at the initial response of the PFCC when she had expressed surprise at the findings of those reports and suggested her monitoring of performance must have been lacking given her level of awareness of the issues.

Councillor Malcolm Taylor suggested the Motion was fundamentally flawed as it was not the role of the Council to hold the PFCC to account, but rather that responsibility laid with the Police Fire & Crime Panel (PFCP). Other Members agreed the PFCC's performance was the responsibility of the PFCP including calling for the resignation of the PFCC should they deem that an appropriate response.

With that in mind and noting the planned special PFCP meeting on 21 June 2023 at which the Panel would focus on the PFCC's performance in relation to the HMI inspection outcomes, and the progress being made etc, the Committee agreed no further action was required in relation to the Motion.

However, given their remit of scrutinising crime and disorder, members of the Committee agreed they would like to invite the PFCC, the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer individually to attend future meetings of the Committee, and agreed to add their attendance to the Committee's work programme.

Resolved - That:

- i. No further action be taken in response to the Notice of Motion.
- ii. The work programme be updated to include the attendance at future meetings of the PFCC, the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer

45 Work Programme 2023/24

The report of the Principal Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer inviting Members to consider the Committee's Work Programme for the remainder of 2020 taking into account the outcome of Castasions on previous agenda items and any

other developments taking place across the county.

 ${\sf Resolved-That\ the\ work\ programme\ be\ amended\ to\ reflect\ the\ discussions\ at\ the\ meeting\ and\ to\ include\ any\ additional\ items\ identified.}$

46 Date of Next Meeting - 24 July 2023

The meeting concluded at 12.53 pm.

North Yorkshire Council

Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 September 2023

Notice of Motion on Trail Hunting

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Democratic Services)

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present information on Trail Hunting in response to a Notice of Motion at Full Council on 19 July 2023. This information has been provided to enable the Committee to consider the proposal made and draft a response for full Council's consideration.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At Full Council on 19 July 2023, the Chairman decided that a Notice of Motion proposing the banning of trail hunting on council owned land should be passed to the Corporate and Partnerships OSC for consideration, with the intention of it being considered and recommendations brought back to the November 2023 meeting of full Council.
- 2.2 The Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Rich Maw (and seconded by Councillor Arnold Warneken) stated:

'This council resolves to ban trail hunting, exempt hunting, hound exercise and hunt meets outright across all council land where legally possible, including any NEW tenancies where there are positive covenants attached to the land that currently require the council as owner to allow trail hunting events and formal gatherings.

We request that the Chairman considers that the matter be debated today at Council without being referred to the Executive or a relevant committee. This is because the hunting season is September to March and therefore this motion requires debating at the July full council as to do so in November will potentially put the lives of wildlife at risk.'

3.0 Introduction

- 3.1 Trail hunting is a legal, although controversial, alternative to hunting animals with hounds in Great Britain. A scent trail is laid using the 'prey' animal's urine (foxes, hares, or other animals) and deliberately laid in areas where those animals naturally occur; ostensibly to recreate the experience of chasing a real animal. The trail does not follow a pre-determined course and those controlling the hounds do not know the route in advance. The trail is tracked by the hound pack and a group of followers; on foot, horseback, or both.
- 3.2 By 2005, most forms of hunting animals with hounds had been made illegal across Great Britain, although many remain within the law in Northern Ireland. To preserve their traditional practices, most registered hunts switched to trail hunting as a legal alternative.
- 3.3 It is claimed that Trail hunting is designed to replicate the practice of hunting as closely as possible, but without the deliberate involvement of live prey (superficially similar to the established sport of drag hunting, where mounted riders hunt the trail of an artificially laid scent with hounds). According to the Countryside Alliance most foxhound packs use an ethically sourced quarry-based scent based on fox urine. The hounds are bred to follow this scent and this, rather than an artificial scent, prevents offering the hounds an element of choice which could lead them to deviate onto the scent of other quarry species. Trails are laid where they are

permitted such as in woods, across fields, through hedgerows, into farmyards, across rivers or along ditches etc ahead of the hounds for them to search and follow. The timescale for laying a trail before the hounds start to search varies considerably, whilst the hounds' ability to hunt can depend on several environmental factors such as the terrain, wind, rain, air pressure, temperature, etc. The hunt area allowed on a specific day is known in advance and hounds are encouraged to search for the trail within those parameters. If the scent of a live quarry species is picked up the hounds are stopped as soon as it is know that the hounds are no longer following a trail that has been laid (Countryside Alliance guide to trail-hunting).

- 3.4 Anti-hunt organisations claim trail hunting is a smokescreen for illegal hunting and a means of circumventing the Hunting Act 2004¹ which applies in England and Wales, and the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002, which applies in Scotland. [11]
- 3.5 It is argued that because the trail is laid using animal urine, and in areas where such animals naturally occur, hounds often pick up the scent of live animals; sometimes resulting in them being caught and killed.
- 3.6 It has also been alleged that trail hunts rarely lay an actual trail; therefore, encouraging hounds to pick up live animal scent. The League Against Cruel Sports has claimed that, of 4,000 monitored hunts, someone was seen laying a possible trail in an average of around only 3% of occasions.

4.0 National Position

- 4.1 In recent years several major landowners have suspended or permanently banned trail hunting on their land:
 - In 2020 the Lake District National Park suspended trail hunting indefinitely and the Church of England announced a ban on use of its land for trail-hunting.
 - In 2021 the board of Natural Resources Wales (one of Britain's biggest landowner a government-sponsored agency managing 7% of Wales' land area which includes 311,000 acres of woodlands) decided the outcome of a court case against a senior leader of the Masters of Fox Hounds Association (MFHA) had resulted in a loss of confidence in the organisation's ability to ensure its activities were carried out within the law and terms of its agreement. They therefore agreed to end its agreement with the MFHA and stop all forms of trail hunting on its land. The Head of Land Stewardship at NRW confirmed that in order to properly assure themselves that trail hunting was not being used as a cover for illegal activity, they would have had to invest heavily in skills and resources, to police it properly.
 - In the same year, the <u>Malvern Hills Trust</u>, banned trail hunting on its land, having said that, during the monitoring of ten separate hunts, they had seen only one trail being laid.
 - In September 2022 the Forestry England Board announced that trail hunting in the
 nation's forests was suspended until the Board could take a decision on its future. The
 asked for more information and agreed to suspend Trail hunting in the nation's forests
 until their next Board meeting in 2023. To date have not publicised the outcome of their
 deliberations.

¹ The Hunting Act 2004 came into force on 18 February 2005. The Act bans the hunting of most wild mammals notably foxes, deer, hares and mink) with dogs in England and Wales, subject to some strictly limited exemptions; the Act does not cover the use of dogs in the process of flushing out an unidentified wild mammal, nor does it affect drag hunting, where hounds are trained to follow an artificial scent.

- In October 2022 the National Trust whose Board of Trustees voted overwhelmingly to stop issuing licences for trail hunting on its land – almost a year to the day since they had temporarily suspended the activity.
- In 2023, following a thorough review, United Utilities (major water provider in North West England) concluded that it would no longer issue licences to trail hunting groups.
 In coming to that decision, they considered several factors including local stakeholder views and an assessment of the resources required to facilitate and monitor trail hunting.
- 4.2 A number of local authorities have also banned trail hunting on their land due to concerns that foxes were being hunted illegally. This includes:
 - In 2019 Nottinghamshire County Council was the first local Authority to ban trail hunting
 on its land. They chose to introduce a ban to close a loophole that allowed both the
 'accidental' and deliberate illegal hunting and killing of animals and remove a 'false alibi'
 regularly used by hunts to avoid prosecution. At that time there had been 282 reports of
 illegal hunting in the hunting season, including 39 reported fox kills
 - Cheshire West & Chester Council Cheshire is a hot spot for hunting in Britain and in the lead up to the introduction of their ban, there had been 27 reported incidents of illegal activity.
 - Peterborough City Council whilst they introduced a ban of trail hunting on their own land, they noted it would not affect any of the local hunts because none of them used council-owned land to conduct their hunting activities.
- 4.3 In May 2019 Essex County Council rejected a proposal to ban trail hunting and hound exercise on County Council land on the basis here had been no convictions for unlawful hunting in the county and therefore no justification for the motion. They agreed a ban would remove the rights of the common man to freely use public rights of way.
- 4.4 In 2020 Cherwell District Council in Oxfordshire also rejected a proposal to ban trail hunting on the basis that it was unclear whether the council actually held rights over any land on which trail hunting took place.
- 4.5 In 2022 Cornwall Council agreed that banning a lawful activity would be a direct attack on rural people, and therefore rejected a proposal to ban trail hunting despite a petition with more than 10,000 signatures. Their Council agreed to continue to permit the council farm tenants to decide whether or not to allow trail hunting on land within their agricultural holding. That where land was owned and managed by the council the officers responsible for its management would continue to make the decision to allow or not allow trail hunting on that land in line with the overall management plan for that land. And finally, that the council would continue to comply where there were positive covenants attached to the land that required the council as owner to allow trail hunting on a specific site.

5.0 Issues to Consider

Equalities

5.1 There are no significant Equalities issues associated with the matters raised in this report

Climate Change

5.2 There are no significant climate change issues associated with the matters raised in this report

Financial Implications

5.3 In considering the Notice of Motion put to the Council earlier this month, Members will recognise there may be issues around enforcement if a decision were taken to ban trail hunting on council owned land i.e., the huge amount of property/land owned by the Council, and the possible financial implications and other resources it may require. It is difficult to quantify any potential costs, however, there would be costs of officer time, both in legal and estates and it would depend on the individual circumstances and volume of actions associated with both implementing and enforcing a ban.

Legal Implications

- 5.4 The land owned by the Council mostly affected by this issue will be the Council's Farm Estate Portfolio. The Council has a number of farm tenancies either granted under the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 or farm business tenancies under the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995.
- 5.5 Property services are not aware of any individual tenants that do permit trail hunting on the Council's land based on their knowledge of the portfolio and the tenants. They have also not been made aware of any reports of illegal activity in relation to hunting taking place on the Council's land and the Council has no individual agreements with any hunts or other third parties to specifically permit trail hunting on its land.
- 5.6 Some of the Council's tenancies reserve sporting rights to the Council others pass those rights to the tenants. Sporting rights are the right to hunt, fish and shoot on the land. It is not clear whether trail hunting is a sporting right and therefore could be relied upon to control trail hunting on land where the Council has reserved the right.
- 5.4 Currently existing leases do not contain specific provisions restricting trail hunting on the land. The Council as landlord has no power to legally require its tenants to prevent trail hunting. The Council would be reliant upon the voluntary co-operation of its tenants to comply with such a ban.
- 5.5 A ban could be introduced on new farm business tenancies or other leases by including specific clauses in the agreement to prevent trail hunting occurring on the land. However, it may be very difficult, costly and time consuming to enforce such a ban. The routes of enforcement would be limited. Firstly, it would be necessary to establish that a breach has occurred then the Council would need to consider forfeiture action. Forfeiture is the landlords right to prematurely terminate a tenancy and should not be considered lightly particularly where the holdings include a residential element. The tenant would have a right to apply to the court for relief from forfeiture. The courts have a wide discretion and if the tenant can remedy the breach of covenant quickly the court are likely to rule in favour of the tenant, this is likely to be the case in this situation as the nature of trail hunting is a short-term event.
- In respect of highways and grass verges the Council does not have the legal ability to prevent trail hunters from using the same. Highways maintainable at the public expense only vests in the highway authority (the surface and sub-soil as far as necessary), ownership of the subsoil (that below the highway) remains that of the landowner (note a landowner of the subsoil cannot interfere with the public right to use the highway).
- 5.7 The public (including pedestrians, horse riders and carriages) have the right to pass and repass along the full width of the highway (there are some limitations such as footways) and the highway authority has a duty to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of any highway (s130 Highways Act 1980).

5.8 The highway authority has a duty to prevent as far as possible the obstruction of the highway in their area and any restriction that interferes with the public right to use the highway would be an interference/obstruction. The introduction of a TRO is not an option and there is no mechanism that could be used to prevent trail hunting over or on the Highway.

6.0 Options

- 6.1 Taking account of the information within this report and the issues raised at the meeting, the options available to the Committee are:
 - i. Agree no further information is required, and agree a recommendation to go to the next meeting of full Council on 15 November 2023;
 - Setup a task and finish group to meet in October/November 2023, to consider any further relevant evidence before making a final decision at the Committee's next meeting on 4 December 2023, in order to make a recommendation to full Council at its meeting on 14 February 2024;

7.0 Recommendation

7.1 Members are asked to consider the information provided within the report and at the meeting and agree a way forward based on the options listed above.

Barry Khan Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) County Hall, NORTHALLERTON 11 September 2023

Report Author: Melanie Carr Principal Democratic Services and Scrutiny Offcer

Background documents:

Constitution of North Yorkshire County Council - New Council Constitutions (northyorks.gov.uk)

Full Council Meeting 19 July 2023 - Agenda

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.



North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership September 2023

1.0 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 To update on the partnership working around the priority areas agreed by North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on local authorities to create multi-agency partnerships to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment and to reduce re-offending. The world of community safety continually changes and despite significant organisational change, the need for partners to work together is essential.
- 1.2 The Strategic Plan 2022-24 aims to identify the national and local influences that affect the agreed multi-agency priority areas for delivery. The local partnership arrangements for delivery will be reviewed during this period, with a new strategy to be planned for 2024.
- 1.3 North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership has agreed the following priority areas for delivery.
 - Partnership development (links across safeguarding)
 - · Community safety hubs
 - Domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
 - Early intervention and prevention (Serious and Organised Crime)
 - Hate crime and community cohesion.
- 1.4 Local CONTEST arrangements (UK's counter terrorism strategy) sit within a separate governance structure to the Community Safety Partnership.
- 1.5 The last update provided a generic overview of the multi-agency partnership, with consideration to local and national influences. This report intends to provide further detail regarding the key priorities of the multi-agency arrangements, including local context and performance. All the priorities are overseen by multi-agency partnerships that report directly to the Community Safety Partnership. Each partnership has specific datasets and action plans that aim to address areas for action, this may be via commissioning interventions, scrutinising individual partner's action, including 'enforcement', engagement with specific cohorts and communities, communication campaigns and multi-agency training.

2.0 Community Safety Hubs

2.1 Local community safety hubs work together to

- Protect their local communities from crime and disorder, and help people feel safer
- Deal with local issues such as anti-social behaviour, drug, or alcohol misuse, reoffending and crime prevention; and
- Assess local crime and disorder priorities and consult partners and local communities about how to deal with them.
- 2.2 There are currently 7 community safety hubs across North Yorkshire, on the previous borough and district council boundaries. Differing arrangements exist locally regarding resourcing and co-location of agencies. Currently North Yorkshire Police contribute to the administration roles and each of the hubs receives a small amount of funding from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. The Head of Service (Community Safety and CCTV) has recently been confirmed and will undertake a wide review of all community safety and CCTV structures and arrangements.
- 2.3 The Hubs have a wide range of partnerships and forums these include
 - REACH/ SAFE (Scarborough/ Harrogate identifying and support individuals facing exclusion/ homelessness)
 - Daily briefing meetings with partners
 - MAPS (Multi-Agency Problem Solving) these are mainly around individuals, but Ryedale undertake a wider community-based approach
 - Focused interventions, including diversionary activities for young people
 - Hate crime forums
 - Anti-social behaviour tactical groups
 - A wide range of local and community engagement events.
- 2.4 To enable effective case management, the same system is used by all the Hubs, Orcuma. This can be accessed by both local authorities and policing colleagues. In reviewing and ensuring a more consistent approach and management, the consistent use of Orcuma and effective analysis and action around the outputs will be key and will be considered in the review of arrangements.

3.0 Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

3.1 This update focuses on local domestic abuse arrangements. The previous report had some focus of the partnership's involvement in the wider Violence Against Women and Girls strategy, led by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021, for the first time, created a statutory definition of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse is defined as "Any incident or patterns of incidents of controlling or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality."

- 3.2 Section 1 of the Domestic Act 2021 provides greater detail on behaviour which constitutes domestic abuse. The Act specifies the following as types of abuse
 - a) Physical or sexual abuse
 - b) Violent or threatening behaviour
 - c) Controlling or coercive behaviour
 - d) Economic abuse
 - e) Psychological, emotional, or other abuse.
- 3.3 For the first time, it identifies that a child (a person under the age of 18 years), is for the purpose of the 2021 Act, recognised as a victim of domestic abuse if they see, hear, or experience the effects of the abuse.
- 3.4 Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has placed a range of statutory duties on partners and partnerships, including the establishment of a multiagency Partnership Board, which reports directly to North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership. North Yorkshire's Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board has recently commissioned SafeLives (website Home | Safelives) to undertake an independent strategic needs assessment of domestic abuse across North Yorkshire and City of York. The findings and recommendations are influencing the new Domestic Abuse strategy which will be published by 2024.
- 3.5 We recognise that domestic abuse is widespread and persistently underreported. Although data and statistics are helpful in giving an indication of how far-reaching domestic abuse is, reported incidents will be much lower than actual abuse levels and estimates may mask under-reporting within groups across the population.

3.6 Domestic Abuse Related Crimes (North Yorkshire)

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Q1	1420	1523	1573
Q2	1615	1660	1778
Q3	1424	1625	1501
Q4	1307	1538	1435
	5766	6346	6387

3.7 North Yorkshire Council, City of York Council and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire jointly commission the local specialist domestic abuse services, local victim support services, which consists of a community-based support service, refuge and safe accommodation service and a whole family approach service, all of which are currently provided by IDAS (website IDAS) and managed via a central hub referral point. IDAS also provides a Respect service, which utilises a Respect accredited programme

to support young people displaying abusive behaviour towards their parents or family members. As part of the joint commissioning arrangements there is also the provision of an adult perpetrator service, which is a behaviour change intervention for perpetrators of domestic abuse, which is currently provided by Foundation (website +Choices - Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme - Foundation (foundationuk.org)).

- 3.8 The 2022/23 impact report provided by IDAS showed that they had received 9,739 referrals during this period, as well as receiving 17,012 helpline calls, an average of 1,418 per month. 80% of these referrals were support by the IDAS hub, which provides triage and short-term support for victims of domestic abuse, whilst 1,784 individuals were referred to the community-based service for longer term support. IDAS provided safe accommodation, either through refuge or dispersed units, to 164 adults and 97 children, as well as undertaking 8,389 safety plans across all their services during 2022/23. 210 adults and 132 children were supported through the whole family approach service, whilst 264 parents and 76 children were supported via the Respect service.
- 3.9 Foundation's 2022/23 impact report highlighted successes of the behaviour change programme, which is delivered as part of a whole system approach and utilises dedicated victim liaison officers to work closely with IDAS and ensure a victim led approach that reduces risk to the victim. During the 2022/23 financial year Foundation supported 122 service users through the +Choices programme to address their behaviour, 75% of them evidenced reduced risk at the point of service exit.
- 3.10 In reviewing the findings from SafeLives and in developing the local Domestic Abuse Strategy the voice of victims and survivors has been key. Victims spoke positively about support received from IDAS, valuing effective communication, support, compassion, and flexible response from familiar, consistent, and knowledgeable professionals which was tailored to their needs. Many survivors were unaware that they were experiencing abuse and felt IDAS helped them to recognise the signs of abuse in a non-judgemental way. Additional needs and multiple disadvantage such as immigration, no recourse to public funds and disabilities create additional barriers to support for victims.
- 3.11 Alongside the joint commissioning of specific services there is a range of multi-agency arrangements relating to domestic abuse, which includes Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)- where high-risk victims are identified, discussed and multi-agency action is taken, Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC)- with a focus on high-risk perpetrators.
- 3.12 Several surveys were undertaken by SafeLives, including surveys aimed at local professionals. 82% of professional survey respondents felt the MARAC "greatly or somewhat" improved the safety of victims. 96% of respondents felt the MARAC "greatly or somewhat" improved the safety of children.

3.13 A specific MARAC/ MATAC steering group has been established, to ensure that the multi-agency arrangements are effective and robust, Escalation of concerns regarding irregular agency attendance and engagement, including representatives not always of sufficient seniority has been raised to the Community Safety Partnership and strategic oversight and action is being planned.

4.0 Early Intervention and Prevention (Serious and Organised Crime)-Serious Violence Duty

- 4.1 The Duty, introduced in January 2023 requires the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to convene partners including North Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Probation services, North Yorkshire Council, City of York Council and the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, that occurs in the area, develop a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) and implement a response strategy to address it.
- 4.2 Full national guidance has been published <u>Serious Violence Duty GOV.UK</u> (<u>www.gov.uk</u>) A multi-agency working group has been established, that reports directly to the Community Safety Partnership. The SNA and strategy must be shared with the Home Office by 31st January 2024.
- 4.3 The aims of the North Yorkshire and York responses to serious violence are
 - To understand the extent of violence across North Yorkshire and York, through the analysis of characteristics, patterns of behaviour and the impact on the wider community
 - To establish the risk factors that increase the likelihood of violence, and how these factors can be reduced through prevention, diversion, and early intervention
 - To establish effective interventions in a variety of settings and monitor the impact on reducing serious violence these interventions produce.
- 4.4 The North Yorkshire and York definition of serious violence and associated SNA include a focus on the following crimes
 - Homicide
 - Violence with injury, including attempted murder, endangering life, and wounding with intent
 - Domestic abuse
 - Rape and sexual offences
 - Weapon related violence, including weapons possession
 - Arson endangering life.
- 4.5 In addition, the following areas of thematic interest will be considered within the wider profile
 - Diversion, prevention, and early intervention
 - Domestic abuse
 - Violence against women and girls
 - Young people

- Robbery, theft, and burglary
- Stalking and harassment (non-domestic)
- Drug related offences
- Offences against emergency workers
- Alcohol and substance misuse.
- 4.6 An initial SNA will be presented at the next working group, due to take place 6th September 2023.

5.0 Hate Crime and Community Cohesion

- 5.1 An Inclusive Communities Joint Coordination Group reviews hate crime incidents across North Yorkshire and York, this group reports directly to North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership and Safer York Partnership.
- 5.2 For quarter 1 2023/ 24 there has been a slight decrease in reported hate crime, compared to the equivalent quarter 2022/ 23. There has been a rise in hate crime compared to the first three months of this year, however this is a recurring annual trend (transitioning towards summer, lighter nights, increased social activity etc.)
- 5.3 Race remains the dominant strand, there has been an increase in reports of hate crime in relation to sexual orientation. There has been a decrease in reports relating to disability and little movement for the remainder (transphobic, religion, misogyny, asylum seeker/ migrant worker, gypsy/ traveller, sex worker).
- 5.4 Over the last 12 months there has been a gradual decrease in reports of disability hate crime, during the annual Hate Crime Awareness Week (October) there will be a focus on raising awareness around disability hate crime.
- 5.5 There is ongoing work in creating a North Yorkshire 'credibility' framework to monitor community tensions more effectively in relation to anti minority activity. The term anti minority is used to refer to all forms of activism explicitly targeting one or more minority groups. It covers ideologically distinct groups ranging from 'single issue groups', such as those protesting against 'Islamification' (Britain First) through to the extreme right wing (National Front, National Action).
- 5.6 Several workshops with Community First Yorkshire are planned over the next few months to raise awareness around community tensions, hate crime and Prevent. The outcome of these workshops will influence and shape further work moving forward, such as increasing community intelligence,

improving community messaging (both in and out of the community), providing support and awareness raising within our communities.

6.0 Prevent

- 6.1 Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain specified authorities, including all local authorities, in the exercise of their functions to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism." A multi-agency Prevent Partnership Board has oversight and scrutiny of local arrangements.
- 6.2 The Home Office, via their Regional Prevent Advisers, complete an annual local assurance exercise. Ten benchmarks and a set of performance criteria are reviewed, using a scoring system based on a scale 1-5. A score of 3 against a benchmark indicates that the duty is being met, and a score of 4-5 indicates that the duty requirements are being exceeded. Arrangements for North Yorkshire scored 3 and above, findings were shared April 2023.
 - Risk Assessment. The organisation has a local risk assessment process reviewed against the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (3)
 - Multi-Agency Partnership Board. There is an effective multi-agency partnership board in place to oversee Prevent delivery in the area (4)
 - Prevent Partnership Plan. The area has an agreed plan (4)
 - Referral Pathways. There is an agreed process in place for the referral of those identified as being at risk of radicalisation (5)
 - Channel Panel. There is a Channel Panel in place, meeting monthly, with representation from all relevant sectors. This is the statutory forum where individuals are identified, and a multi-agency action plan is developed. This is observed on a regular basis by Channel Panel Quality Assurance leads, again from the Home Office. This was not scored for this process
 - Problem Solving Process. There is a Prevent problem solving process in place to disrupt radicalising influences (4)
 - Training Plan. There is a training programme in place for relevant personnel (5)
 - Venue Hire and IT Policies. There is a venue hire policy in place, to ensure that premises are not used by radicalising influences, and an effective IT policy in place to prevent the access of extremist materials by users of networks (3)
 - Engagement Activity. There is engagement with a range of communities and civil society groups, both faith based and secular, to encourage an open and transparent dialogue on the Prevent duty (3)
 - Communications. There is a Communications Plan in place to proactively communicate and increase transparency of the reality/ impact of Prevent work and support frontline staff and communities to understand what Prevent looks like in practice (3).
- 6.3 The feedback gives further detail regarding action that will support improvement. All has been incorporated within the multi-agency action plan and the Prevent Partnership Board will ensure action is undertaken.

7.0 Modern Slavery

- 7.1 Modern slavery is a serious crime being committed across the UK in which victims are exploited for someone else's gain. It can take many forms including trafficking of people, forced labour and servitude. It is a hidden crime with the victims often unable to come forward and consequently reporting is partial and quantifying the number of victims is challenging.
- 7.2 Although currently it is not an identified priority of the Community Safety Partnership, it was agreed earlier this year that the Modern Slavery multiagency partnership would report to the Community Safety Partnership, to ensure strategic oversight.
- 7.3 The partnership reviews several data sources
 - National Referral Mechanism (NRM) submissions must be submitted if a 'first responder' encounters an individual that they reasonably believe may be a victim of Modern Slavery. NRM is important because it tells us how many potential victims have been identified and, in most cases, a NRM referral necessitates the recording and investigation of a crime under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 by the Police
 - The partnership reviews local issues and potential sectors that may be more vulnerable.

8.0 Development of North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership

- 8.1 Over the next few months there is significant partnership activity planned to improve arrangements, these include
 - A review of the current priority areas for delivery, using strategic needs assessments and relevant data, including the Serious Violence Duty SNA, and the development of a new strategic plan
 - Development of an effective performance framework that covers all the agreed priorities and statutory duties of the Community Safety Partnership
 - Review of 'performance' and reporting ensuring that the 'right' information is being shared in a range of forums and partnership, for clear purpose and accountability, including the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Area Constituency Committees
 - Review of community safety and CCTV arrangements, alongside relevant services, and directorates e.g., Localities, North Yorkshire Council.

9.0 Recommendations

9.1 For members to consider the content of the report and to identify any areas for clarity and potential future action.

9.2 For members to identify partnership priorities and duties, that can be a focus for future updates and reports to the committee.			



North Yorkshire Council

Annual Performance Update on the Youth Justice Service for the Corporate & Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 11 September 2023

1.0 Introduction

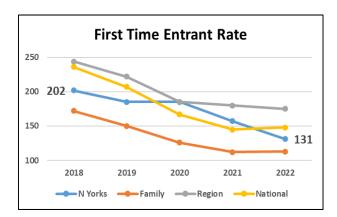
- 1.1 Our Youth Justice Service is located within the broader Early Help offer, supporting a single, coordinated pathway for children presenting risky or challenging behaviour.
- 1.2 The key principles of the national youth justice practice model have been blended with the advanced, child-centred & strength-based approach used by Children's Services, achieving consistency and transferability of our assessments, plans & interventions.
- 1.3 North Yorkshire services work closely together across a breadth of other key partnerships to develop and deliver this coordinated approach. This has been further advanced by a Unitary Council structure that began in April 2023.
- Our single, overarching vision for our services is to focus our work within communities, schools, and families to support early, creative and sustainable positive change. The more effectively we do this, the fewer people will develop complex, costly, or risky needs later. This is especially important for our children, who are prioritised in every strategy.
- 1.5 Our partnership within our Youth Justice Service reflects these values and is illustrated in our key object to reduce the number of children who get into trouble, and wherever possible to divert them to positive support. For the small cohort of children who present persistent or serious offending and invariably have substantial, complex unmet needs we want our Youth Justice Service to work alongside our children, their families, schools, and communities to find positive change.
- 1.6 We have a highly skilled, hardworking, well trained operational workforce. We are proud of the successful HMIP Inspection. We regularly receive feedback from the service's QA processes, and independent analytical reports provided by the CYPS Strategy & Performance Team. We confidently know that our frontline teams are providing a high standard of assessment, planning and support for the children. Recent thematic audits and learning conversations have continued to inform us that we are continually striving for excellence for the children and families we serve.

2.0 Performance

- 2.1 It is important to first highlight the significant and valuable improvements that have been achieved against the three National Youth Justice indicators.
 - The First Time Entrant rate has continued to decrease with a 29% reduction seen between the 2020 and 2022 calendar years.
 - The April-June 2021 cohort was the 3rd successive cohort where the binary reoffending rate has been 30% or lower. Each of these rates has been below the national rate a significant improvement compared with previous years.
 - Only 1 custodial sentence was given in 2021/22 followed by only 2 in 2022/23 both years were a significant improvement on the 9 received in 2020/21.

2.2 First Time Entrants (FTEs)

- We are pleased that our FTE rate continues to improve, the latest official data for the 12 months ending December 2022 showed a further decrease in the rate of FTE's (r=131) into the criminal justice system in North Yorkshire compared with the rate 12 months previously (r=157). The rate of 131 relates to 72 young people and places North Yorkshire in the 2nd Quartile nationally
- 16 fewer young people entered the criminal justice system for the first time in the 12 months ending December 2022 when compared to the same period 12 months earlier
- The current rate in North Yorkshire is lower than the national (r=148) and regional (r=175) rates but higher than the family group average (r=113). The rate in North Yorkshire has decreased at a faster rate than any of the 3 comparators since 2020.



We have continued to work hard to improve the quality and impact of our diversionary Youth Outcomes Panel (YOP) and maintain closely detailed analysis of YOP throughput, outcomes, and re-offending. We know that the 2022 cohort had a significantly increased rate of diversion from recorded criminal outcomes – increasing from 48% in 2021 to 73% in 2022, primarily through greater use of 'Outcome 22'.

2.3 Prevention & diversionary activities

- The Early Help Service continues to lead on the delivery of a 2-year Test & Learn Pilot Programme of work as part of the Regional Health & Youth Justice Vanguard. The primary focus is to build on existing work delivering action that brings about a reduction in the number of First Time Entrants (FTE's) into the criminal justice system as well as positively influencing the trajectory of those young people at risk of re-entering the system. Recent data suggests that this approach is having a positive impact. Our Test & Learn site has now received confirmation of an additional one year of full funding, which means the offer in place has now been extended through to March 2025. We also remain hopeful of a further extension beyond this period.
- Funding for the Turnaround Programme was announced by the Ministry of Justice in October 2022 with a launch date of January 2023.

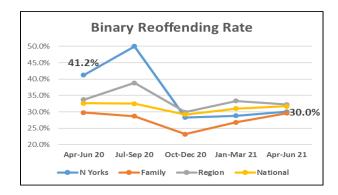
- The Programme is a three-year programme which aims to improve outcomes and prevent offending for children who are on the cusp of the youth justice system and who do not meet the threshold for statutory support.
- We have been able to build on shared learning from our Change Direction programme (part of the test & learn pilot) and will continue to work with North Yorkshire Youth to refine and improve the programme as we move forward. We have planned and embedded:
 - A Turnaround pathway agreed with by our local policing teams to gain the right referrals at the right time.
 - Close links to ensure the right ethos and embedding of the criteria is in place with North Yorkshire Youth.
 - Creativity with the work North Yorkshire Youth will carry out upon receiving a referral around diversion and prevention sessions.
 - Regular meet ups with the Ministry of Justice programme team to update them on North Yorkshire's plans to deliver our local Turnaround programme and express and highlight gaps and areas to improve as well as share good practice.
- This highlights a major change of focus and practice for the operational Youth
 Justice Service, pivoting from historical high-volume/light-touch casework to a
 more sustained and detailed engagement with far fewer but much more complex
 children.

2.4 Work with girls

- We are concerned by the unusually high representation of girls in our FTE cohorts (29.2% in the most recent cohort) significantly exceeding national trends. It is also notable that female FTEs present a higher prevalence of primary violent offences (63% girls v 39% boys).
- Our data tells us that the town and Eastfield areas of Scarborough are particularly significant, both in the extent of social exclusion and the impact of this upon antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime trends. Some of those Wards are ranked in the lowest of the national Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), and local children have grown-up in systemic, multi-generational social exclusion. This is reflected throughout our performance monitoring systems, where we see much higher First-Time Entrant (FTE) rates and reoffending there, and a concerning overrepresentation of girls.
- We are at the early stages of developing specific work around our female cohort. North Yorkshire has taken the lead alongside Leicester Youth Justice Service to develop a national focus group exploring work with girls coming to the attention of Youth Justice Service. As part of this development, we are aiming to explore examples of good practice, examine what is already working and enable the opportunity for sharing resources and evidence-based practice. We have been contacted by the Youth Justice Board who have now joined this focus group as they are keen to be part of this learning. We recently jointly organised and chaired the first national meeting with over 500 participants. There are subsequent dates in the diaries to drive this forward.

3.0 Reoffending

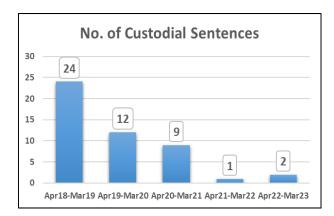
- 3.1 For the 3rd consecutive cohort, the Binary reoffending rate has remained at 30% or lower. This is the 1st time this has occurred in North Yorkshire and highlights the significant progress that has been seen since the very high rate of 50% was seen in the July-September 2020 cohort. Although the covid-19 pandemic is likely to have impacted on offending, that will obviously have been the case nationally and, as the chart below highlights, the binary rate in North Yorkshire has moved and remained below the regional and national rates in each of the last 3 cohorts.
- 3.2 The current rate rate of 30.0% is lower than that seen regionally (32.2%) and nationally (31.7%) but remains higher than the family group average (29.6%).
- 3.3 The percentage of females in North Yorkshire cohorts remains a concern, with the 17 females in the April to June 2021 cohort being 28.3% of the overall cohort. This compares with the national average of approximately 14%. We have contacted other Youth Offending Teams with a view to carrying out a review of our practice in relation to supporting young females and to try and identify the best practice that is occuring elsewhere. See 2.5



3.4 We had planned to establish a local dashboard system which applied PNC reporting rules to real-time case outcomes. However, due to notice being given on Careworks, the development of a dashboard has paused until a new case management system is in place.

4.0 Custodial sentences

- 4.1 Reduction of custodial sentencing has been a key North Yorkshire priority for several years, and we are delighted by the sustained progress our partnership has achieved. Only one custodial sentence was given in 2021/22 followed by only two in 2022/23 both years were a significant improvement on the nine received in 2020/21.
- 4.2 The chart below shows the significant decrease in the actual number of custodial sentences in North Yorkshire in the last 5 years. The 24 custodial sentences received in the 12 months ending March 2019 equated to a rate per 1,000 of the 10-17 population in North Yorkshire of 0.45, compared with the then national rate of 0.30 and the regional rate of 0.39.
- 4.3 Whilst the rate of custodial sentences has also decreased nationally in recent years, the current national rate (r=0.11) and regional rate (r=0.12) are both higher than the 0.04 in North Yorkshire.



5.0 Child First

5.1 Our North Yorkshire practice model is fully engaged with the Child First values. We distinguish children from adults and treat them with special care, recognising their young lives and potential. We take all possible steps to divert children from formal criminalisation, and where that is unavoidable, we foster trusting and influential relationships to support them through positive, strengths-based change.

6.0 Voice of the child

- 6.1 North Yorkshire has а comprehensive engagement and participation approach. Within Children's Services this is led by our Youth Voice and Creative Engagement Service, comprising of 5 specialist participation workers who support and facilitate the voice of young service users. This includes a number of consultative 'voice groups', a team of Young Inspectors, and a Children in Care Council. As described in this plan, our partnership approach to Youth Justice does not distinguish or stigmatise children who commit offences. Some of the children supported by youth justice are involved in Youth Voice projects, but we do not have (or want) a separate strand which primarily labels them as criminals.
- 6.2 The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner also funds a very active Youth Commission project facilitated by Leaders Unlocked, which gathers a wide range of views from all young people aged 10-25 across York and North Yorkshire through the delivery of peer-to-peer workshops and consultation events.
- 6.3 North Yorkshire Children's Services have for some time been using the award-winning online 'Mind of My Own' to gather individual wishes and feelings, service feedback and development insight from young people. Mind of My Own comprises a suite of tailored modules for different ages, circumstances, and journeys, but until recently this did not include youth justice. We are very proud to have secured grant funding to extend Mind of My Own, and that our staff and service-experienced young people led the design and piloting work.
- North Yorkshire Youth have recently used grant funding as part of Turnaround monies to purchase Mind of My Own to ensure the voices of Children and Young People they support have the opportunity to be heard.

7.0 Humber Coast & Vale - Trauma based project.

7.1 Our Test & Learn site has now received confirmation of an additional one year of full funding, which means the offer in place has now been extended through to March 2025. We also remain hopeful of a further extension beyond this period. All three

- delivery elements (Change Direction, Trusted Relationships, and PIPA), remain fully staffed and operational. For year one of the programme (including the mobilisation period), 158 young people accessed this support offer for the first time.
- 7.2 We continue to focus on work delivering action that brings about a reduction in the number of first-time entrants into the Youth Justice System as well as positively influencing the trajectory of those young people at risk of re-entering the system. Through our PIPA Clinicians, we are also working with young people across services, where multiple complex and complicating risk factors are negatively affecting their lives and decreasing their opportunities to change track.
- 7.3 Our ARC Trauma Informed development of practice journey continues with both regional support and within the partnership through Community of Practice Groups. Senior Leaders in all Local Authority Children & Young Peoples Services involved in the Programme have recently been offered an opportunity to participate in some Leadership Training around the ARC Framework. Preparations for internal roll-out of the ARC Training Framework to staff are underway led by our Clinical Psychologist and Advanced Practitioner, in conjunction with the Training & Learning and the Head of Effective Practice. We are currently working towards commissioning a two-phase rollout over the next couple of years, with Early Help and Youth Justice Teams being in phase one.
- 7.4 The Participatory Appraisal element of the programme has been scheduled for a week in February 2024 and is expected to take place in Eastfield/Scarborough Town. This is a social action research model where workers and young people pair up to jointly go out into the local community.

8.0 My Assessment Plan (MAP) – (alternative assessment)

- 8.1 The MAP model has been periodically refined in the light of evidence and learning and continues to be used for most children supported by the service. We are confident that this concise family-centred and strengths-based approach is defensible and effective, and our internal performance monitoring is very encouraging.
- 8.2 The MAP evaluation project has begun with the collating of the required data. A number of individuals within NYCC have participated in an interview so far (thank you to them) and recruitment of further participants is underway. The necessary YJB data has been shared and analysis will begin soon. Contact has also been made with other YOTs across the country who are undertaking alternative assessment models and they have been very helpful in sharing their model and evaluations with Rachel Vipond (Project Lead, School for Business and Society, University of York).

9.0 Careworks – Case Management system

- 9.1 We have had some significant developments in respect of strategic decisions to explore, source and implement a new case management system. Youth Justice Service are expected to migrate when the Careworks contract expires on the 31st of March 2024.
- 9.2 Procuring a new system is a timely process. A project group has been established bringing together a number of focus groups involving practitioners from YJS, business support services and business intelligence, performance and technology and change, to refine each element and function to ensure we secure a case management system that is fully aligned with our strengths in relationship practice model.

- 9.3 We are trying to shape the Youth Justice module as we need it, for example making sure MAP integration is embedded. We are keen to ensure we are taking the right strategic option for long-term integration. We are eager to develop a more child-centred, inter-operative system.
- 9.4 Development capacity is a critical barrier, but we are working towards this with a clear plan in place. Compatibility between partnership case management systems is a continuing barrier to collaborative, integrated working. We have learnt that most other Youth Justice Services have moved to a systemic strengths-based, child & family-centred practice, and there is an increasing consistency of language and process which facilitates joined-up, trauma informed working.

10.0 New Key Performance Indications

- 10.1 It is essential whilst securing a new product that we are able to report on the following new Key Performance Indicators introduced in from April 2023. As the first submission is required August 2023, business intelligence are currently pulling data from a number of systems to enable accurate submission to be achieved. Youth Justice Services are being asked to include any supporting data, if available, regarding:
 - suitable accommodation
 - education, training and employment
 - special educational needs and disabilities/additional learning needs
 - mental health care and emotional wellbeing
 - substance misuse
 - out-of-court disposals
 - links to wider services
 - management board attendance
 - serious violence
 - victims
- 10.2 Local performance targets are also being encouraged. This can include any local targets that aim to improve the outcomes for children in North Yorkshire Council.

11.0 Quality Assurance

- 11.1 Quality assurance We have completed migration into the overarching Children's Services Quality Assurance model, and a process of regular "Learning Space" reviews now take place with all case-holding practitioners to develop holistic, reflective practice. The outcomes are fed into an integrated reporting system which informs strategic planning and leadership.
- 11.2 In April 2023 the YJB introduced a new Single Oversight Framework. The framework has been developed to clarify how the YJB will undertake their function of oversight across the youth justice system, support understanding of their expectations of standards and performance, whilst providing ministers with an accurate assessment of the youth justice landscape.

- 11.3 This framework emphasises the importance of delivery against both the local priorities agreed between local partners and the national expectations set out primarily through the standards for children in the youth justice system, the terms and conditions of the youth justice core grant, and national key performance indicators
- 11.4 The purpose of the new framework is to:
 - ensure priorities across the delivery of youth justice services (YJSs) and wider system partners are aligned
 - identify effective practice and/or where individual YJSs may benefit from, or require, support, and how to provide this
 - provide an objective basis for decisions about when and how intervention is needed
 - drive improvement across the youth justice system through supporting the dissemination and promotion of practice that delivers effective outcomes for children.

12. Ongoing development opportunities

- 12.1 An online Child Adolescence Parental Violence Abuse session goes live in September 2023. As part of this work, a one-minute guide has been developed for the workforce which is included within the documents section of the report.
- 12.2 The Youth Justice Service have recently funded more training on the AIM 3 training programme. Practitioners including social workers & youth justice workers have been trained and accredited in the new AIM 3 practice model. In addition, line managers have received AIM 3 training for supervision, support and quality assurance.
- 12.3 We are confident that this investment has established a robust, coordinated network of best practice. We are working with partners to finalise a single, shared Harmful Sexual Behaviour practice and procedures model. We are hoping that this will reduce costs, facilitate joint working and collaborative language, and also provide a consistent service offer to our courts and criminal justice partners.
- 12.4 Harmful Sexual Behaviour covers a range of behaviours and as such there is no universally agreed definition. This means data collection on the prevalence of Harmful Sexual Behaviour in North Yorkshire is problematic and the number of Harmful Sexual Behaviour incidents across the county is unknown. Up until recently, partner agencies across North Yorkshire have used the 'Brook Traffic Light Tool' to consider incidents of Harmful Sexual Behaviours.
- 12.5 Children and Families Service will have an improved understanding of the prevalence of Harmful Sexual Behaviours in the different localities, concise evidence of the need locally and of current provision which will mean we are able to better allocate resources where they will have the most impact.
- 12.6 There will be an overarching Harmful Sexual Behaviour strategy across North Yorkshire with a fully trained workforce who will report feeling confident in how to identify Harmful Sexual Behaviour and how to act once it has been identified. Universal services such as schools will feel confident in how to offer preventative work to all young people to educate and reduce the instances of HSB in their communities.

13.0 Looking forward 2023 -2024

- We will work complete an independent evaluation of My Assessment Plan.
- We will hold and improve progress on reduction of FTEs and Custody, while driving forward decisive actions to reduce re-offending.
- In terms of Prevention & Diversion, we will continue to focus on Integrated, Systemic & Relational Practice, develop and improve approaches around Education, Training & Employment and continue to tailor support for Higher Need Groups, particularly through the trauma informed approach of the Humber Coast Vale project
- Procure and migrate to a new Case Management ensuring the system aligns with our Practice Model whilst having the ability to report on the new KPIs.
- Serious Violence Duty The Duty, which commenced 31st January 2023, requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce Serious Violence that occurs in the area and implement a strategy to address it. Funding is allocated through the OPFCC to support the Duty. North Yorkshire YJS will work collaboratively with the OPFCC and partners to implement and respond to the Duty, aligned to the wider work of the YJS accordingly.



North Yorkshire Council

Corporate & Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee

11 September 2023

Stronger Communities Programme & Corporate Volunteering Update

Report of Assistant Chief Executive Local Engagement

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the work of Stronger Communities and the Corporate Volunteering Programme.
- 1.2 To propose future reporting arrangements in light of the imminent creation and development of the Localities team.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Throughout a period of significant change for local government in North Yorkshire, the core work of the Stronger Communities team has continued, with the start of the developmental journey of the Community Anchor Organisation (CAO) model, exploring how locally rooted organisations can support the health, wellbeing and prevention agenda, and wider community resilience in localities.
- 2.2 A number of new countywide and national initiatives have been launched over the past 18 months; the latter particularly focusing on alleviating the cost-of-living pressures being felt by families and residents on low incomes. Stronger Communities are leading on a number of these programmes and work in partnership with others within the Council and externally.
- 2.3 Post Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), the Corporate Volunteering Programme continues to be delivered by the Resourcing Solutions Team HR, sponsored by Stronger Communities, with approximately 4400 volunteers currently engaged in activity.

3.0 Core Stronger Communities Programme Activity

3.1 Community Anchor Organisations

As previously reported to Committee, in February 2023 as part of it's established 'Achieve Together' Investment Programme, Stronger Communities opened a new opportunity to establish a Community Anchor model for North Yorkshire. Grants of £15,000 a year (for up to 3 years) were made available from April 2023

for place rooted organisations, based in principal service towns or centres, who are able to serve a wider hinterland. This investment supports the core aims of the wider Stronger Communities Programme which include:

- Prevention and reducing health inequalities.
- Community resilience.
- Social regeneration.
- 3.2 Following a competitive application and evaluation process, 23 place-based organisations from across the County progressed to the next stage of development work, which encompassed a collective assessment workshop (July 2023), and the subsequent development of organisational action plans which is on-going. For the ten localities where a suitable CAO has not been initially identified, development work will continue to explore the potential for a local voluntary sector organisation to become a CAO, or to look at alternative models.
- 3.3 Recognising that in our larger urban areas, characterised by distinctive neighbourhoods, it was recognised that the model of a single place-based community anchor may not work, we are working with local partners in Harrogate and Scarborough to understand what the optimal options for investing in Community Anchors are in those areas.
- 3.4 The funding currently being used to support this work is non-recurring and as such, the challenge is to develop financially sustainable options for CAOs in order for them to become more financially independent and resilient and therefore less dependent on public sector grants by identifying and establishing diverse income streams which could include earned income through contracts and charging.

3.5 Community Partnerships

In May 2023, the Executive agreed to develop the ambition of supporting local partnership and multi-agency working through the establishment of local Community Partnerships, focussing on principal towns and surrounding areas, and reflecting natural communities. This will take a phased approach, with the Stronger Communities team commencing work in five pilot areas: Easingwold, Leyburn and Middleham, Ripon, Sherburn and Thornton-le-Dale and rural hinterland.

3.6 <u>Inspire Grants</u>

Stronger Communities has awarded £34,911 through the small, grass roots Inspire Grants supporting 38 groups and / or projects to date in 2023/24. This investment has allowed communities and small grass roots groups and organisations to develop and deliver local events and activities in their communities. A geographical breakdown of the grants awarded is outlined below.

District	No. of	Total Value	% of total	% of total
	Grants		number	spend
Craven	1	£629	2.6	1.8
Hambleton	2	£2,000	5.3	5.7
Harrogate	9	£8,495	23.7	24.3
Richmondshire	3	£2,500	10.5	7.2
Ryedale	4	£3,690	10.5	10.6
Scarborough	12	£11,781	31.6	33.7
Selby	5	£4,816	13.2	13.8
Countywide	1	£1,000	2.6	2.9
Total	38	34,911	100	100

4.0 Wider Stronger Communities Programme Work

- 4.1 In addition to the core work of the Stronger Communities team; it is also leading on a number of countywide and national programmes.
- 4.2 The range of activities the team are leading on, or are contributing to, is broad and varied:
 - Holiday Activities and Food Programme for free school meal eligible children (Department of Education funded)
 - Household Support Fund awards to low-income households (Department of Work and Pensions funded)
 - North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund (NYLAF)
 - Homes for Ukraine Programme (Home Office)
 - Wellbeing and Prevention investment Stay Healthy, Independent and Connected
 - Digital Inclusion (Reboot North Yorkshire)
 - Cost of living support
 - UK Shared Prosperity Fund Communities & Place (UKSPF)
 - Mental health programmes (NHS)

4.3 <u>Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)</u>

The HAF programme – FEAST - continues to develop and improve its reach in all areas of North Yorkshire. The Holiday Activities and Food Coordinator has been working with North Yorkshire Together (NYT) partners, and colleagues in Children and Young People's Service (CYPS), Stronger Communities and Public Health to develop the programme further with a particular emphasis on providing a wraparound service for families.

In order to develop strong local delivery providers across the county, NYT are developing their training offer to ensure that children and young people can be well supported emotionally, as well as access a diverse range of activities. Topics

that have been identified by providers in previous phases of delivery as potential areas that they would welcome additional support with include trauma-based practice and supporting those with special educational needs and disability, autism and neurodiversity.

Our programme leaders have also been reinforcing the importance of FEAST activities to schools and encouraging them to explore how they could be involved in hosting sessions, as well as promoting activities to their children and young people. Through the work that has been done with the Active Leaders programme via secondary schools it is also hoped to develop a young leader's pathway.

Easter's data was positive with 2200 eligible children and young people enjoying 6887 free activity sessions. In addition, 1173 of their peers also took part in these activities where paid for opportunities were offered. The Summer FEAST programme is currently running; initial indications are good with an increased number of providers, locations, and places on offer from previous delivery periods. Once delivery is complete and providers have submitted their monitoring, the FEAST team will assess the data and general feedback to help inform and guide future phases of delivery.

4.4 Household Support Fund

In the last 6 months, Stronger Communities has continued to lead the development and administration of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) funded Household Support Fund, which aims to support those most in need or crisis with significantly rising living costs in 2023/24.

In line with the expenditure guidelines and the agreed eligibility framework and delivery plan, c22,500 households across North Yorkshire will receive a direct award in the form of a shopping voucher to support them over the autumn and winter months. This will encompass eligible families, pensioners and working age adult households, as well as those who missed out on other forms of national Cost of Living support. In addition to this, funding has been awarded to:

- North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund (NYLAF), enabling the maximum number of awards for emergency food and utilities to remain at four over a 12-month rolling period.
- The provision of Energy Support which will be available from 1 September 2023 via North Yorkshire Citizens Advice and Law Centre.
- Food Support: 18 grants have been awarded to locally based free or low cost providers across the County.
- An HSF Exceptional Circumstances Fund will be delivered, to support those
 who may have missed out on support due to circumstances beyond their
 control throughout the time period the direct award is live.

HSF will be transitioned to Customer, Revenues and Benefits in 2023/24.

4.5 North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund (NYLAF)

Stronger Communities continue to administer NYLAF, an emergency fund that provides support for those deemed most vulnerable in the County, and who often, are in crisis.

Year to date, NYLAF has received 4,131 applications. 3,785 (92%) of which have been approved. Grant expenditure in total has been £503,559.27. (38% food / energy awards, 62% standard awards). 39% of applications this year have come from the Scarborough district, compared to 4% of applications received by the Richmondshire district. Historically, this trend has continued to highlight both Scarborough and Harrogate as the geographical areas with most demand on the scheme whilst Richmondshire and Craven place the least demand.

Mental health issues and homelessness account for the majority of reasons that people apply to the fund, accounting for 29% of all applications received. Last financial year, NYLAF received 13,229 applications. 91% of these applications were approved, with 20,032 individual items provided. Demand on the scheme in the last couple of years has been unprecedented and expenditure in 23/24 was over £1.4m.

NYLAF will be transitioned to Customer, Revenues and Benefits in 2023/24.

4.6 Homes for Ukraine Programme

Officers from the Stronger Communities team continue to coordinate and lead the Homes for Ukraine Programme, supported by a number of dedicated posts within specialist services such as Living Well, Early Help and Adult Learning, to ensure support is provided with language development, employability and integration.

Although guest arrivals have dropped significantly in recent months, we have seen a rise in the number of single arrivals joining family members already in North Yorkshire.

Due to a grant award through the Local Authority Housing Fund, the Council has worked with Broadacres to acquire additional houses that are being offered to Ukrainian families in North Yorkshire at affordable rents. Those at greatest risk of homelessness have been prioritised in the allocations process. This overall increase in housing stock means reduced pressure on the private rental market, as well as providing families with a sustainable housing option.

Of a total of 1336 arrivals in North Yorkshire, 720 guests have now moved on from their original sponsor as follows:

	Households	Individuals
Rematched to new sponsor	24	47
outside of North Yorkshire	24	47
Returned to Ukraine	86	172
Another Country	21	41
University	3	3
Private Rental – N. Yorks	155	371
Social Housing – N. Yorks	10	24
Private Rental – Out of Area	33	62
TOTAL	332	720

A range of partnerships have also been developed with a number of voluntary and community organisations, with investment provided to support with the provision social events, activities, conversational language classes and integration opportunities.

4.7 Well-being and Prevention – Stay Healthy, Independent & Connected

The Stay Healthy, Independent and Connected (SHIC) grants scheme was launched in late 2022, with new providers starting work in their localities on 1 April 2023. Stronger Communities continue to work with colleagues in Targeted Prevention (Health and Adult Services) to support the scheme and to explore synergies between SHIC and the various areas of work that Stronger Communities are involved in.

4.8 Digital Inclusion

The team continue to promote the digital inclusion agenda within the authority and with our wider community partners. This includes the continued development of digital champions through our partners Digital Unite, building on the work with Citizen's Online prior to the pandemic. Reboot North Yorkshire continues to thrive with requests for devices being fulfilled from all areas of the County. These devices are making a significant difference to the new owner's lives, allowing people to continue with education and training, to access services and information online, to keep in touch with family and friends and to improve their mental health.

Strategically the team are working with the Humber and North Yorkshire integrated Care System (ICS) Digital Inclusion Network and the UK Shared Prosperity Programme (UKSPF) team to ensure that the UKSPF investment planned for 2024/2025 is designed to best meet the needs of those most digitally excluded in North Yorkshire. A programme to support the development of community based digital access points will be launched as part of the UKSPF prospectus later this year with funding available from 1 April 2024.

4.9 Cost of living - Food Insecurity

Work on the collaborative insight work with City of York Council to better

understand the regional food insecurity landscape is now complete, with the final report made available in spring 2023¹. The work evaluates the range of food support services that were established during the pandemic and explores potential opportunities for future service provision alongside a series of recommendations. Work has now commenced to start planning a partnership event to launch the findings/carry out some further engagement work in September 2023, and the findings are already being used to inform other related work areas both internally across the Council, and externally with partners.

The team continues to work closely with the Public Health Healthier Lives, Community and Economy team who are looking to bring together a range of organisations in the food sector to establish a food system framework and ultimately a food partnership to address the immediate to long term challenges presented. Joint work on exploring the impact of cost of living on health outcomes has continued with a multi-agency event taking place in September 2023.

As outlined in Section 4.4, a further 18 grants have been awarded through the current round of HSF to support free or low-cost food provision across the County over the winter period.

4.10 <u>UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)</u>

As previously reported, there is a strong emphasis within the criteria for UKSPF on place shaping, community empowerment, engagement and strengthening the voluntary and community sector, and Stronger Communities are taking the lead role in the delivery of the Communities and Place strand. The following progress has been made in 2023/24:

- 11 feasibility studies have now been funded totalling £163,310. Feasibility study priorities include:
 - Building capacity in people & places.
 - Generating new ideas for community regeneration.
 - Promoting healthy & active communities.
 - Increasing levels of digitisation.
 - Celebrating distinctive and vibrant places.
 - Growing businesses.
 - Promoting innovation.
 - Attracting new investment through sector growth.
 - Promoting climate resilience and decarbonisation.
- Following an open bidding round, North Yorkshire Sport has been appointed to manage and administer the Active Travel and Sports grants programme, focussed on improving access to green space, new and

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¹ The final report and associated assets can be viewed at <u>York and North Yorkshire Covid Recovery Insight Project: Food Insecurity – Just another WordPress site (skyblue.org.uk).</u>

improved sports facilities, active travel measures and promoting healthy lifestyle campaigns in North Yorkshire until 31 March 2025.

4.11 Mental health programmes

The Stronger Communities team have worked in partnership with colleagues in Public Health and the NHS to deliver a range of community led mental health projects since 2019. These include grass roots suicide prevention programmes and other specialist mental health services. As part of the national Community Mental Health Transformation programme, Stronger Communities continue to work in partnership with the NHS for a third year to transform community based mental health services for people with a serious mental illness through building capacity within communities and the voluntary sector. The approach includes NHS financial investment, managed by Stronger Communities, working with four place based multi-agency partnerships to develop and/or pilot new community - based services and projects through grant funding to voluntary organisations and community groups with the over-arching aim of enabling people with a serious mental illness to live well in their communities.

The team, in conjunction with Public Health are also refreshing Headfirst, North Yorkshire's Mental Health Training Hub, with the aim of relaunching the site and broadening its reach in autumn this year. This will provide free (funded) places for individuals living / working or volunteering across North Yorkshire in the areas of Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), Suicide First Aid (SFA), Mental Health Awareness and bespoke courses as required.

4.12 Children and Young People

As previously reported, the Stronger Communities team continues to work with the Early Help team from CYPS to deliver their Get Going grants scheme 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.

4.13 Capacity Building

Stronger Communities Programme has continued to strengthen local community assets and infrastructure; this has included encouraging relationships and collaborations between voluntary and community sector organisations as well as stabilising, and / or building capacity within them if required. The impact of the pandemic on income and capacity within the sector, together with concerns in relation to rising fuel costs is resulting in concerns about their long-term viability and sustainability. Stronger Communities continues to work with colleagues such as Community First Yorkshire, The Two Ridings Foundation, the Lottery and other partners to identify issues and concerns and develop joint responses.

4.14 Local Government Reorganisation

The work of the Stronger Communities team is now positioned within the

Localities Team, in Local Engagement. With the Head of Service now in post, work is currently on-going to develop and structure this new service area, bringing together the functions and work programmes of the Stronger Communities team and former District and Borough Council Communities teams to ensure continuity is achieved, but also accommodating development and growth of key work areas. It is anticipated that this will be complete by December 2023.

In light of the imminent structural changes, it is recommended that future reporting to Committee should take the form of a bi-annual update on the work of Localities team and the Corporate Volunteering Programme.

5.0 Corporate Volunteering Programme Update

- 5.1 The Corporate Volunteer Project relates to all volunteering activity that takes place by members of the community to support North Yorkshire Council services. This includes volunteers who help across many different services from the Skipton Museum, Youth Justice Service, Libraries, Major Incident Response, Countryside Service and Waste reduction education.
- 5.2 Sponsored by Stronger Communities the corporate Volunteer Project is being delivered by the Resourcing Solutions Team HR, recognising the synergies between the volunteer journey and employee journey, whilst acknowledging that there are key differences between the two. The focus for this project is to maximise and optimise the use of volunteers across all council services, creating consistencies in: marketing, recruitment, induction, expenses, training, ongoing support and efficient volunteer processes.
- 5.3 A Volunteer Sub-Group meets regularly to provide a steer for the project, discussing challenges and priorities and inputting into areas of work as they progress. This group comprises of representatives from Stronger Communities and the Resourcing Solutions Team and lead officers from the services that manage volunteers.

5.4 Volunteer numbers

The number of registered volunteers in April 2023 stood at approximately 4400. This includes people who volunteer their time to support wider council services such as community Libraries and as School Governors. Since we have moved to one unitary Council, new volunteers who are not directly engaged by the council but who contribute towards supporting wider services are still being discovered. Detail of all the services who engage volunteers support, is provided in **Appendix 1.**

5.5 Highlights

A volunteer in the Youth Justice Service has recently achieved 20 years of volunteering for the service, Officers are arranging a formal letter of thanks from

senior management.

National Volunteers Week was held during June. The Council organised some informal events for volunteers to come together, these were open to all NYC volunteers from all services countywide to attend and a total of 41 attended. Chairman of the Council David Ireton and Vice Chair Roberta Swiers attended these events to meet with volunteers and thank them for their contribution.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that:
 - Members note the update on the work of the Stronger Communities programme.
 - b) Members note the update from the Corporate Volunteering Programme.
 - c) Members approve bi-annual reporting on the work of the Localities team and the Corporate Volunteering Programme in the future.

Report Authors

Adele Wilson-Hope, Stronger Communities Delivery Manager (Hambleton) Marie-Ann Jackson, Head of Localities Keeley Metcalfe, Talent Acquisition Manager 31 August 2023

Appendix 1 – Number of NYCC Volunteers

Directorate	Service	Approx. number of registered volunteers	Role(s)
Environment	Countryside Volunteers	126	Checking paths, low-level maintenance and conservation tasks
Environment	Rotters	44	Events/shows, schools workshops and talks to groups all promoting reduction of food waste, home composting, recycling and reuse.
Community Development	Libraries	1433	Help customers in library, help with shelving and stock, deliver books for home library service, help with children's activities & IT
Community	Records and	25	Digitising records, cataloguing, organising
Development	archives		materials
Central	Democratic	50	Volunteers serve as appeals panel members for
Services	Services		exclusion or admissions appeals
Central Services	MIRT	16	Supporting people affected by an incident
Central Services	Ready for Anything	325	Database of community volunteers to be called on in an emergency.
CYPS	Adult learning	32	Volunteer teaching assistants (Syrian Refugee project and English classes)
CYPS	Youth Justice Service	37	Panel members, appropriate adult, mentor, reparation supervisor
CYPS	Young People's Council	5	A youth voice project for young people who have experienced Care Services
CYPS	Youth Voice Executive	12	A youth voice committee representing young people's view across North Yorkshire
CYPS	SENDIASS	5	Independent support for parents of children or young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), or for young people (16 -25 years) with SEND to ensure their education, learning or training needs are supported.
CYPS	School governors	1775	Serve as governors and trustees on school boards
CYPS	Peer Mentors	2	Peer mentors- current or former care leavers who have volunteered to mentor other care leavers.
CYPS	Chaperones	10	Chaperones who accompany children who have a licence to act or perform, to auditions/performances
HAS (Learning Disability Service)	Gardeners	1	Supporting service users with gardening and conservation activities

Central	Team North	111	Responding to COVID support requests
Services	Yorkshire (Former		(weekends) e.g. collecting prescriptions,
	Covid Vols)		shopping etc.
Community	Skipton Museum	28	
Development			
(former			
Craven DC)			
Community	Craven Tourist	12	
Development	Information		
(former			
Craven DC)			
Community	Harrogate Cultural	10	
Development	Services		
(former			
Harrogate			
BC)			
Environment	Litter pickers	250	
Total	ı	4376	

North Yorkshire Council

Corporate & Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee

11 September 2023

Update on the Operation of the Parish Portal / Members' Dashboard and Parish Council Engagement

Report of the Assistant Director – Highways and Transportation, Parking Services, Street Scene, Parks and Grounds

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update the Committee on the Parish Portal and Members' Dashboard.

2.0 Background - Parish Portal

- 2.1 Members will recall the briefing note submitted to your meeting of 24 October 2022. By way of update/recap, there are some 731 Parish councils/meetings in North Yorkshire. Of this number, around 570 are currently active. When we first reported in December 2018, some 382 parish portal accounts existed this figure has now increased to 457. This means that 80% of all active parish councils/meetings now has a parish portal account.
- 2.2 Approximately 38,000 service requests have been made via the portal since the launch. The target set for activity is 11,000 service requests annually on an on-going basis and in the last 12 months to end of March 2023 that target has been exceeded. More encouraging is that volumes continue to increase steadily, which demonstrates the long-term value of the portal and the increasing use / buy-in continues to be reinforced by those parishes using the facility who see it as being of benefit.

3.0 Improvements to date – Parish Portal

- 3.1 As per the last update, work has been ongoing to increase the list of services that can be requested via the Portal to make the portal more attractive to Parishes. Those currently 'integrated' into our asset management system (Symology) are Roads, Pavements, Drainage, Vegetation and Street Lighting. This means that we have the mechanism to provide direct feedback to the Parish on any cases they may raise in these specific categories. The following elements have been reviewed and integrated to simplify and improve user experience:
 - Boundary fences and walls
 - Road markings
 - Obstructions/deposits on the highway
 - Winter maintenance request for grit bin/heap refill

4.0 Future of the Parish Portal

4.1 There will be a project set up later this year to look at the future of the portal. This project will look at what is the best solution now that we are a single tier authority:

- The project will look at the scope of the current portal with a view to finding a
 solution that can deliver more integrated highway service options as well as
 additional services more representative of the Environment Directorate. The
 ambition is to include a wider range of Street Scene services at a minimum.
- We are very grateful for the feedback Parishes and Members have provided to date on the portal and this and any future feedback will be considered for any upcoming project to ensure what we deliver meets their needs.
- The message to Parish Councils is that we are considering how the new council will engage with them in the future and what tools we need to do this. We will work with them to understand their requirements and ensure that they are fully engaged in any changes.
- We will engage with Members as part of any change project.

4.0 Members' Dashboard

- 4.1 Using existing Business Intelligence data, we have developed a system that allows Members to have an overview of what Parishes and the Public are reporting in their Division. This provides a more streamlined means of Members being able to access data in their ward in sufficient detail that allows vision of what Parish/Town Councils are reporting in their Division without the need for Members to register for every individual parish portal account. The Members Dashboard also includes reports made via the customer portal thereby giving Members an encompassing perspective of demand for service in their Division.
- 4.2 This system has been live for some time. It is an easy to use but effective tool to access real-time information regarding activity and service demand in their Division. This allows Members to keep a true 'finger on the pulse' of local issues on a local level and will benefit the Members as well as the parish councils/meetings they support, especially as Members can access data immediately in advance of any formal parish council meetings.
- 4.4 Members can request refresher training or introduction sessions at any time via the HCCO.
- 4.5 The Members Dashboard will be considered during the project to review the Parish Portal so Members can still access information in their divisions.

5.0 Equalities Implications

5.1 Consideration has been given to the potential for any adverse equality impacts arising from the recommendation. It is the view of officers that the recommendation does not have an adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics identified in the Equalities Act 2010 and a copy of the completed decision that "Equalities Impact Assessment is included with this report – Appendix A

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 Now the system is set up and continues to use Business Intelligence data, any ongoing maintenance of the system is negligible. Whilst some officer time will be required to induct/upskill new Members and refresh re-elected Members in how to access and navigate the system. This is being undertaken as BAU (as part of the HCCO role) Any training can be facilitated via the local weekly Member Highways surgeries that now exist, so Members could have area-based or one-to-one training depending on their preference. The fact that Members can also 'self-serve' using the dashboard if they wish means that HCCOs will have more time to support Members with more-complex queries. Ultimately, this 'quid-pro-quo' time swap means there are no financial implications.

7.0 Legal Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications with these proposals.

8.0 Climate Change Impact Assessment

8.1 Since the Members' Dashboard was rolled out there has been no environmental / climate change impact. Access to data would be online using existing IT equipment issued to Members. The Climate Change Impact Assessment form is attached to this report – Appendix B

9.0 Recommendation

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Members of this Committee:
 - i. Note the content of this report
 - ii. Endorse the continued roll out of the Members Dashboard.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A Equalities Impact Assessment
Appendix B Climate Change Impact Assessment

BARRIE MASON

Assistant Director – Highways & Transportation, Parking Services, Street Scene, Parks and Grounds

Authors of Report:

Nigel Smith, Head of Highway Operations Deborah Flowers – Highways Customer Communications Officer

Background Documents:

- Briefing Note dated 24 October 2022
- Briefing Note dated 13 September 2021 to informal Skype Meeting of O&S Committee
- Report to O&S Committee December 2018

Initial equality impact assessment screening form

(As of October 2015 this form replaces 'Record of decision not to carry out an EIA')

This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.

proportionate.	
Directorate	Environment
Service area	Highways & Transportation
Proposal being screened	Update on the Operation of the Parish Portal / Members' Dashboard and Parish Council Engagement
Officer(s) carrying out screening	Nigel Smith
What are you proposing to do?	Provide Update on Parish Portal use & continued Roll-out of Members' Dashboard
Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?	O&S Committee are keen to keep pace with take-up / use of the portal and the rollout of the Members' dashboard to provide Councillors with a simple means of accessing service request data salient to their Division will improve Members' ability to keep track of those service requests and support the local community as strongly as possible A number of mechanisms exist for online reporting of highway issues; 'do it online' and self-service makes the process efficient, but to ensure its effectiveness parish and town council meetings/ forums are supported by local highways teams. The desired outcome is an effective and efficient fault reporting system
Does the proposal involve a	No. The portal is already up and running and the
significant commitment or removal of	Dashboard uses existing business intelligence data.
resources? Please give details.	Upskilling Members can be incorporated into regular liaison meetings between local highways contacts and Members

Is there likely to be an adverse impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYC's additional agreed characteristics?

As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:

- To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics?
- Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important?
- Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to?

No / Not applicable

If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be a significant adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your <u>Equality rep</u> for advice if you are in any doubt.

Protected characteristic	Yes	No		-	know/No railable
Age		V			
Disability		1			
Sex (Gender)		V			
Race		√			
Sexual orientation		V			
Gender reassignment		1			
Religion or belief		√			
Pregnancy or maternity		1			
Marriage or civil partnership		1			
NYC additional characteristic	1	l.			
People in rural areas		√			
People on a low income		V			
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		1			
Does the proposal relate to an area	No				
where there are known					
inequalities/probable impacts (e.g.					
disabled people's access to public					
transport)? Please give details.					
Will the proposal have a significant	No				
effect on how other organisations					
operate? (e.g. partners, funding					
criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with					
protected characteristics? Please					
explain why you have reached this					
conclusion.					
Decision (Please tick one option)	EIA not	V	Continue t	:0	
,	relevant or		full EIA:		
	proportionate:				
Reason for decision	This a report the	•			
	the Parish Porta				
	continue the roll				
	has no negative highway from the			operat	ion of the
	Ingriway ironi ur	e currer	it position.		
	Both the Parish	Portal a	nd the Mem	hers [Dashboard
	meet the access				
	public sector boo	•	3	J	
	For these reason	ons, it l	has no nec	ative	impact on
	people with prot				•
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Karl Battersby				
Date	31.08.2023				

Climate change impact assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to help us understand the likely impacts of our decisions on the environment of North Yorkshire and on our aspiration to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030, or as close to that date as possible. The intention is to mitigate negative effects and identify projects which will have positive effects.

This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. The final document will be published as part of the decision making process and should be written in Plain English.

If you have any additional queries which are not covered by the guidance please email climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk

Please note: You may not need to undertake this assessment if your proposal will be subject to any of the following:

Planning Permission

Environmental Impact Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment

However, you will still need to summarise your findings in in the summary section of the form below.

Please contact climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk for advice.

Title of proposal	Update on Parish Portal & ongoing Roll-out of Members' Dashboard
Brief description of proposal	Provide Update on Parish Portal use & ongoing Roll-out of Members'
	Dashboard
Directorate	Environment
Service area	H&T / Highway Ops
Lead officer	Nigel Smith
Names and roles of other people involved in	Nigel Smith – Head of Highway Operations
carrying out the impact assessment	
Date impact assessment started	30 August 2022

Options appraisal

Were any other options considered in trying to achieve the aim of this project? If so, please give brief details and explain why alternative options were not progressed.

No – Following discussion at previous O&S Committees, this is an evolution of the Parish Portal Concept by allowing Members a means of accessing Business intelligence Data through a dashboard.

This is a regular report based on the ongoing roll out of the parish portal (and Members' dashboard).

What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?

Please explain briefly why this will be the result, detailing estimated savings or costs where this is possible.

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When the system uses existing Business Intelligence data, any maintenance of the system will be negligible, if any. Some officer time will be required to brief / with larger time will be required to br

This can be rolled out as part of the Highway Customer Communication Officer (HCCO) role.

Any training can be facilitated via the local weekly Member Highways surgeries that now exist so Members could have area-based or one to one training depending on their preference. The fact that Members can also 'self-serve' using the dashboard if they wish means that HCCOs will have more time to support Members with more-complex queries.

Ongoing promotion of effective self-service through our online reporting mechanisms ensures costs of dealing with service requests are kept to a minimum as opposed to, for example, parish and town councils calling NYCs customer service centre. Ultimately, this is a cost-neutral exercise.

APPENDIX B

							AFFLINDIA D
	How will this proposal impact on				Explain why will it have this effect and over	Explain how you plan to	Explain how you plan to
the environment?		ant,	/ant	/ant	what timescale?	mitigate any negative	improve any positive
		elev	ele v	elev		impacts.	outcomes as far as
N.B. There may be short t	_	re r	re r	re r	Where possible/relevant please include:		possible.
impact and longer term p		below where relevant))act X in the box below where relevant)	whe	 Changes over and above business as 		
impact. Please include all	-	V WC	1 MC	\ W(usual		
impacts over the lifetime		belc	pelc	belc	Evidence or measurement of effect		
and provide an explanation	on.		XOC	act SOX	Figures for CO₂e		
		npact the box	Je b	impact the box	Links to relevant documents		
		in the	. : द	in th	Clina to relevant documents		
		ve a X	<mark>No impact</mark> (Place a X in	ative e a X ir			
		siti	No imp (Place a	gal			
		Pos (Pla	Nela)	Nega (Place			
Minimise greenhouse	Emissions		X		There might be a small reduction in travel if		
gas emissions e.g.	from travel				Members do not travel to Highways Offices		
reducing emissions from					to seek information about service requests in		
tracel, increasing energy					their Divisions once this can be accessed		
efficiencies etc.					online		
4	Emissions		X				
	from		^				
	construction						
	Emissions		Χ				
	from						
	running of						
	buildings						
	Other		X				
Minimise waste: Reduce	e, reuse,		Χ				
recycle and compost e.g.	reducing use						
of single use plastic							
Reduce water consumpt	tion		Χ				
					1	1	

APPENDIX B

						APPENDIX B
How will this proposal impact on the environment? N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.	Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)	No impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)	Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)	Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale? Where possible/relevant please include: Changes over and above business as usual Evidence or measurement of effect Figures for CO ₂ e Links to relevant documents	Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.	Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.
Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise)		X		Potential for reduced CO2 emissions if travel to meet officers reduced		
Edure resilience to the effects of climate change e.g. reducing flood risk, migating effects of drier, hotter summers		X				
Enhance conservation and wildlife		X				
Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of North Yorkshire's landscape		Х				
Other (please state below)		n/a				

Are there any recognised good practice environmental standards in relation to this proposal? If so, please detail how this proposal meets those standards.

Not directly, however the ability to access this information online and remotely will be of benefit to users (Members)

Summary Summarise the findings of your impact assessment, including impacts, the recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker.

If officer recommendations are taken then the proposal is to seek permission from the Corporate Director and Executive Member for access & Leader to roll this facility out to all Councillors, however there is no environmental / climate change impact.

Sign off section

This climate change impact assessment was completed by:

Name	Nigel Smith	
Job title	Head of Highway Operations	
Service area	Highway Operations / H&T	
Directorate	Environment	
Signature	N Smith	
Completion date	30 August 2023	

Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature): Karl Battersby

Date: 31 August 2023

Corporate & Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee Remit

Scope

- The Council's corporate organisation and structure, resource allocation, asset management, procurement policy, people strategy, equality and diversity, performance management, communication and access to services.
- Partnership working, community development, community engagement, community strategies and community safety.
- This Committee is the Crime & Disorder Committee for the purposes of Part 3 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

Agenda Briefings (Attended by Group Spokespersons only) - will be held at 9.30am on the day of the committee meeting

Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2023-2024 Work Programme

Page	Committee Meeting – 5 June 2023 @ 10:30am						
)e 57	Locality Budgets	Annual review of Councillor Locality Budgets 2022/23 – Rachel Joyce, Assistant Chief Executive (Local Engagement)					
	Workforce Update	Provided by Trudy Foster, Assistant Chief Executive (HR & Business Support)					
	North Yorkshire Refugee Resettlement Update	Annual Programme Update – Jonathan Spencer, Refugee Resettlement Project Manager					
	Motion for PFCC to Resign	Delegated from full Council on 17 May 2023					
	Community Libraries	Annual Update on Library Services – Hazel Smith, Interim General Manager Libraries					
	Work Programme 2023/24	Consideration of the work programme					
	Mid Cycle Briefing – 24 July 2023 @ 10:30am						

Work Programme 2023/24	Consideration of the work programme						
Committee Meeting – 11 September 2023 @ 10:30am							
Notice of Motion – Trail Hunting	Motion calling for a ban on trail hunting on NYC owned land (with a focus on the practicality of such a ban, not a broader debate about the pros and cons of hunting with dogs).						
Community Safety	Bi-annual Update on Community Safety Plan Delivery & Partnership Working – Odette Robson, Head of Safer Communities & Chair of CSP - Assistant Chief Constable Scott Bisset						
Youth Justice	Performance Update – Barbara Merrygold, YJS Planning & Development Officer / Andy Dukes YJS Team Manager						
Stronger Communities	Bi-annual update on work of the Stronger Communities team and progress update on the corporate volunteering project – Marie-Ann Jackson, Head of Stronger Communities & Keeley Metcalfe, NYCC Resourcing Solutions Business Partner						
Customer Access	Update on the Operation of the Parish Portal and Parish Council engagement – Nigel Smith, Head of Highway Operations / Jayne Charlton Interim Head of Highway Operations						
Work Programme 2023/24	Consideration of the work programme						
Mid Cycle Briefing – 23 October 2023 @ 10:30am							
Work Programme 2023/24	Consideration of the work programme						
	Committee Meeting – 4 December 2023 @ 10:30am						
Attendance of Police Fire & Crime Commissioner	Attendance of CFO Jonathan Dyson confirmed						
Property Services	Bi-annual Performance Update – Jon Holden, Head of Property Services						

Council Plan Development	Progress update on implementation of Council Plan Priorities – Simon Moss, Strategy & Performance Team Leader
Equality and Diversity	Overview of progress with achieving the Council's new Equality and Diversity objectives – Deb Hugill, Senior Strategy & Performance Officer
Customer Access	Update on the Operation of the Customer Portal – Madi Hoskins, AD Technology & Change
Resilience and Emergencies	Annual overview of the National Resilience Standards and NYC's current performance, together with an overview of ongoing Resilience and Emergencies work – Matt Robinson, Head of Resilience and Emergencies
Work Programme 2023/24	Consideration of the work programme
Mid Cycle Briefing – 15 January 2024 @ 10:30am	
Work Programme 2023/24	Consideration of the work programme for the remainder of the municipal year
Committee Meeting - 5 March 2024 @ 10:30am	
Attendance of North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service Chief Fire Officer	Invite issued to Chief Fire Officer - Jonathan Dyson – awaiting feedback
Community Safety	Bi-annual Update on Community Safety Plan Delivery & Partnership Working – Odette Robson, Head of Safer Communities & Chair of CSP
Investment Strategy	Update on NYC's Investment Strategy & its Investments – Karen Iveson, AD Strategic Resources
Draft Work Programme 2024/25	Consideration of the draft work programme for the coming municipal year
Mid Cycle Briefing – 15 April 2024 @ 10:30am	
Work Programme 2022/23	Consideration of work programme

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