

North Yorkshire County Council

Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee held virtually via Microsoft Teams on 15 January 2021 at 10 am.

Present:-

Members:-

County Councillors Richard Musgrave (Chairman), Karl Arthur, Stephanie Duckett, Mike Jordan, Andrew Lee, Cliff Lunn, John McCartney, Don Mackay, Andy Paraskos and Cliff Trotter; together with Co-opted Member, Howard Ferguson.

Invited Executive Members:-

County Councillors David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson and Carl Les.

Officers:-

Gary Fielding (Corporate Director – Strategic Resources), Sharon Fox (Area Highways), Steve Loach (Democratic Services), James Malcom (Area Highways Manager), Andrew Dixon (Strategic Planning Manager, Education and Skills); Julie Pattison (Principal Education Adviser); Chris Reynolds (Head of SEND Strategic Planning and Resources, Inclusion); Howard Emmett (Assistant Director, Strategic Resources); Sally Dunn (Head of Finance – Schools and Early Years)

Apologies were received from County Councillor Chris Pearson

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

76. Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting including Members of the Executive that were in attendance. He noted that the meeting was being live broadcast and explained the protocols in relation to that.

77. Minutes

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2020, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and would be signed by the Chairman as a correct record at the next available opportunity.

78. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this stage of the meeting.

79. Public Questions or Statements

There were no public questions or statements.

80. COVID 19 - Update

Representatives of the Executive, County Councillors Carl Les, Caroline Dickinson and David Chance provided a verbal update on the latest position regarding the COVID 19 pandemic and the County Council's response. The following issues were outlined:-

- ◆ The Leader stated that regular communications on the current position were issued by the County Council, and responses to community needs continued to be delivered. He noted that there was a great deal of optimism in terms of dealing with the pandemic, in view of the success of the roll out of the vaccination programme, however, new virulent strains of COVID 19 were also creating concerns, and it was essential that the advice around lockdown controls continued to be heeded.
- ◆ The Leader highlighted the number of fixed penalty notices that had been issued by North Yorkshire Police to those breaking lockdown, in particular, those crossing the county boundary from other areas, which was prevalent when North Yorkshire was in Tier 2. Members noted that there appeared to be more people around than during the initial national lockdown, and it was asked what was being done to address the cross-border issue, as this was a major concern to local communities. The Leader stated that weekly meetings were being held with the County's MPs, and noted that should the position be necessary the current lockdown would be tightened to address those ignoring it.
- ◆ County Councillor David Chance provided an update in respect of the work being carried out by the Stronger Communities Team in assisting local communities during the pandemic. He noted that the Teams would continue to be funded for the foreseeable future to ensure the needs of local communities, particularly those that were vulnerable, continued to be met. Additional funding had been obtained to assist this service provision.
- ◆ It was noted that local schools were effectively providing school meals for those that required them through a successful voucher scheme, with only a very few people requiring the delivery of food parcels. It was noted that this would also be in place for the forthcoming half-term holiday.
- ◆ A Member highlighted the need to emphasise those that were complying with the rules of lockdown, around 96% of the population, rather than the over emphasis on those not complying.
- ◆ County Councillor Caroline Dickinson stated that the number of new cases of COVID had fluctuated in the Constituency area in recent weeks, but the general trend in North Yorkshire was downwards. She provided details of the Multi-Agency group that was meeting regularly to co-ordinate the response to the pandemic and address issues throughout North Yorkshire. This, in turn, received feedback from a number of satellite groups that met weekly, or in some cases, daily, allowing a fully integrated response. She stated that the group had co-ordinated pro-active work in local communities to ensure lockdown was being adhered to, but emphasised that, in the main, compliance was high. In terms of numbers of COVID cases in the Constituency area, she noted that this was down to 490 per 100k population on 10th January, but highlighted that this had been 99 at the beginning of September. In relation to the vaccination programme, she stated that this had commenced before Christmas and was being rolled out successfully. The various CCGs were providing support for each other with this, and contact with those eligible was being made through the NHS. Information on the vaccination programme for each area was available on the County Council's website alongside other

useful information relating to the response to the pandemic. Members discussed the current COVID rates in the area, noting that despite them still being high, there appeared to be a downward trend, and it was asked whether it was expected that this trend was set to continue. In response Councillor Dickinson noted that there had been fluctuations in levels recently but there appeared to be a slow downward trend, and hoped that would continue to be the case. She emphasised the need for everyone to continue to take care to ensure the downward trend continued.

Resolved –

That the Leader and Executive Members be thanked for their update the details of which be noted.

81. County Council Budget proposals – 2021/22

Gary Fielding (Corporate Director Strategic Resources) gave a presentation detailing the budget proposals for 2021/22 in respect of the overall County Council, and on a Constituency area basis, and invited Members comments. The presentation highlighted the following:-

a) NYCC Budget Headlines

£82m cash shortfall projected over next 3 years

£30m recurring shortfall at end of MTFS (BUT.....)

So many moving parts = big health warnings on all forecasts

No Spending Review beyond 2021/22 – further austerity to follow?

Covid duration and legacy?

LGR

2021/22 balanced mostly through one-off Government funding and Reserves

Council Tax consideration

2022/23 can be balanced through Reserves should that be required but not sustainable so will need STRONG & CREDIBLE PLAN

- Latest Forecast
- Funding
- Net Service Pressures
- Investments
- Council Tax
- Adult Social Care Precept options
- Band D Council Tax Increase Illustration – 2021/22
- Risk/Issues (County Council's Plan)
- Next Steps

Members raised the following issues in relation to the initial part of the presentation:-

- A Member referred to the Government's "Levelling Up Fund" and asked whether the budget would be enhanced by that. In response The Corporate Director stated that a number of projects were being identified, with the LEP involved, to ensure that the funding could be readily utilised when that funding was made available, to take full advantage of the opportunities provided.

b) Selby and Ainsty Constituency Area – Financial Issues

Schools in financial difficulty – Constituency area

HAS budget issues

HAS referrals
Care Market
Other Market issues
Highways and transport schemes

Members raised the following issues in relation to this part of the presentation:-

- A Member suggested that any available funding should be utilised to improve the roundabout at the Junction of the M62/A19 at Whitley, as it was currently not fit for purpose, and improvements would lead to attracting better quality employment opportunities to the area. A Member, whilst supporting the suggestion, noted that the issue was a matter for Highways England, and a strong business case would need to be presented to them to get funding for this.

Resolved –

That Gary Fielding be thanked for his presentation and updates in respect of the budget position 2021/22, the contents of which be noted.

82. Schools educational achievement, finance and sustainability

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director Children and Young People's Services updating Members on the local educational landscape, educational achievement and the financial challenges which affect schools in the Selby and Ainsty Constituency Committee area. Andrew Dixon (Strategic Planning Manager, Education and Skills); Julie Pattison (Principal Education Adviser); Chris Reynolds (Head of SEND Strategic Planning and Resources, Inclusion); Howard Emmett (Assistant Director, Strategic Resources); Sally Dunn (Head of Finance – Schools and Early Years) attended the Meeting to assist Members with their consideration of this item. The report detailed the following:-

School Finance

Schools in Financial Difficulty – the countywide position

School Projections - Based on May 2020/21 Start budgets

Funding

Schools in Financial Difficulty – Selby and Ainsty

Local educational landscape

Summary of schools' status – October 2020

School standards

School Ofsted judgements

Attainment overall

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

Key Stage 2
Key Stage 4
Key Stage 5

Not in education, employment or training

Fixed-term and Permanent Exclusions

Fixed-term exclusion incidents

Permanent exclusions

Special Education Needs and Disabilities

Reshaping of SEN Provision in Richmond over the 2019/20 Academic Year

Targeted Mainstream Provision

SEN Statistics for Constituency Area

Planning school places

School sustainability

Collaborative working

Pupil rolls – current and future

Planning Areas and forecast surplus/shortfall school places

The following issues and points were raised during a discussion of the report:-

- A Member raised the issue of additional costs for schools in trying to provide pupils with appropriate hardware to access on-line classes during the lockdown, and the potential financial impact of that. In response it was noted that the DfE were operating a scheme which was directly attempting to address this matter. Locally Drax Power were also donating laptops for use by local children. The co-opted Member highlighted that the BBC were also operating a scheme and Hands of Hope, Selby were also providing laptops for local schoolchildren to use, therefore, there were both local and national schemes in operation. It was suggested that those with spare laptops consider providing these to one of the schemes highlighted.
- A Member asked when the three new classrooms required at Barlby School were to be provided. In response it was stated that the provision of the classrooms had been held up in respect of the school being a PFI, but every effort was being made to address this, and it was hoped that a solution would be provided in the short term.

Resolved –

That the officers be thanked for their report, the contents of which be noted, together with the issues raised during the discussion.

83. A19 Rebuild and Repair – Update

James Malcolm (Area Highways Manager) and Sharon Fox (Area Highways) provided an update regarding the current situation in relation to the rebuild and repair of the A19 following extensive damage to the road resulting from flooding earlier in the year. The following issues were highlighted:-

- The project had now moved into the contractor phases.
- Material has been brought in to try and protect the lower levels from further flooding while the rebuilding work is taking place.
- The embankment is also being built up and extra protection added to try and prevent further flooding.
- Details of the recent work that had taken place were outlined and it was stated that progress was good with no major loss of time to date.
- The contractor expected to increase the amount of work being undertaken on the project as daylight hours increased. The estimated date of completion remained June but it was hoped that this would be brought forward should progress continue as of present.
- Details of the community work and involvement of the contractor, in the area of work, to assist relationships with the local community, were outlined.
- Further updates would be provided to Members as these details emerged.

Following the initial update the following issues and points were raised during a discussion with Members:-

- A Member expressed his disappointment, and that of the local community, of the expected completion date. He stated that promises had been made that extra work would be carried out on the site to move the completion date forward but this had not happened. He noted that there had been a shut-down of the site over Christmas and felt that work could have continued for some of that period. He noted that the river levels by the site were continuing to rise and considered that further flooding in that area would push back the completion date, therefore, all the available time should be utilised. He emphasised the importance of the road, not only to the surrounding local communities, but as a strategic route in and out of the County. The importance of having the route open as quickly as possible was emphasised by other Members of the Committee.

The Area Highways Manager stated, in response, that he acknowledged the issues raised and the importance of the route, and every effort was being made to increase working opportunities on the site. He noted that supply issues had prevented additional week-end work from taking place. In terms of Christmas, he noted that there had been an agreement with the contractor that a holiday period would be provided.

Members emphasised the need for the route to be opened as soon as possible and urged that every effort be made to expand the working hours on the site.

Resolved-

That the Area Highways Manager be thanked for the update, the contents of which be noted, and updates on the project continue to be fed back to Members directly and via the various communication channels available.

84. Work Programme

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) providing details of the Work Programme for the Area Constituency Committee to consider, develop and adopt.

It was noted that the Work Programme had altered significantly due to the COVID 19 pandemic and Members were asked to provide details of any issues that they may wish to be added to the Work Programme, going forward, and were advised that they could also provide details of issues they wished to consider outside of the meeting. It was expected that issues related to the pandemic would feature in forthcoming meetings.

It was confirmed that Nigel Adams MP was expected to attend the next meeting of the Committee.

It was suggested that updates on the situation regarding COVID be made a standing item on the agenda until further notice.

Resolved -

- (i) That the development of the Work Programme be undertaken;
- (ii) That an update on the COVID situation be included on agendas until further notice
- (ii) That the contents of the report be noted.

85. Future Meetings

Resolved -

That the next meeting of the Committee be held on Friday 9th April 2021 at 10am. It was likely that this would be a virtual meeting held on the Microsoft Teams platform.

The meeting concluded at 11.15am.

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