

North Yorkshire County Council

Harrogate & Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee – 10 June 2021

Initial Approach to Economic Recovery Following the Pandemic

1.0 Purpose of the Report

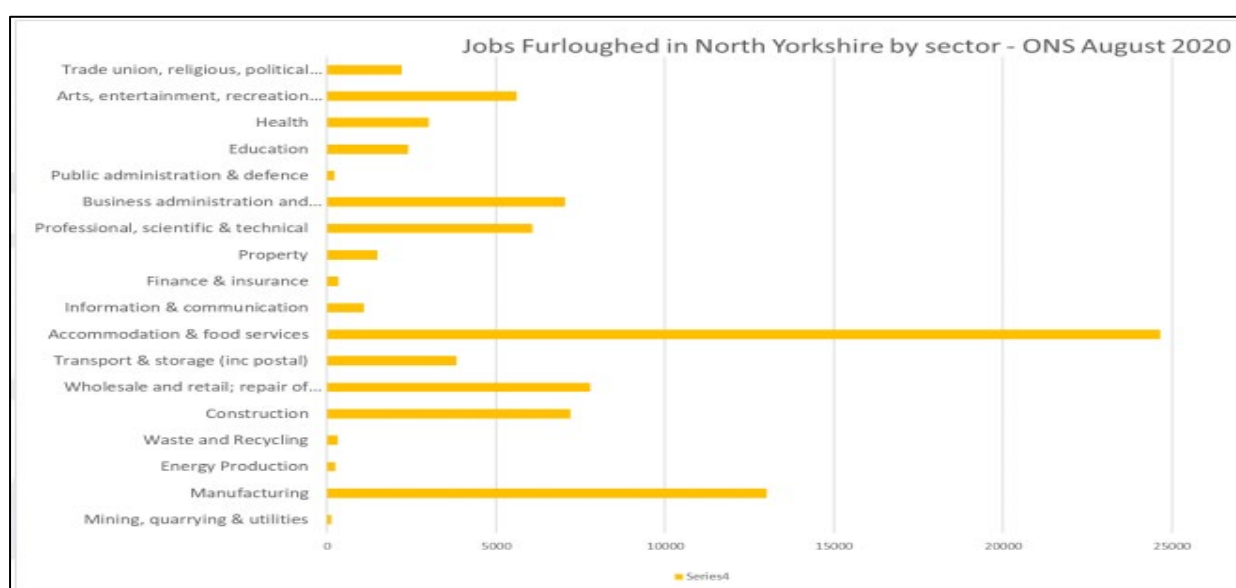
- 1.1 To provide an update on the initial approach to economic recovery following the pandemic.

2.0 Recap

- 2.1 Prior to the Covid-19 crisis North Yorkshire benefitted from a prosperous and diverse economy, with good quality of life, excellent North / South transport links, high levels of employment and, for the most part, excellent provision of both primary and secondary education and social care.
- 2.2 The sectorial make-up of the County broadly reflects the national picture, however, manufacturing and hospitality based industries have significantly higher proportion of employment than Great Britain as a whole. This is also reflected in productivity (GVA) and reflects those sectors of the economy, which have been shown to be most at risk from the economic impacts of Covid-19.
- 2.3 Some sectors which have been most affected by the Furlough significantly affect North Yorkshire Districts. Ryedale and Selby have high proportion of employment in manufacturing whilst accommodation and food accounts for a significant proportion of employment in Harrogate, Richmondshire, Scarborough and Craven.

3.0 Furlough Job Retention Scheme

- 3.1 At the height of Furlough we were able to report the number of jobs furloughed in North Yorkshire by Sector



- 3.2 The latest provisional figures up to March show a sharp recovery in terms of furlough take up in the Districts. There is still a high number in those areas identified with a dependence in the hospitality sector such as Harrogate and Richmondshire.

	Last Reported in July 2020	February 21	March 21 (Provisional)
North Yorkshire	88,200	45,700	40,900
Craven	8,400	4,500	4,000
Hambleton	11,400	5,700	5,200
Harrogate	23,500	12,400	11,100
Richmondshire	6,400	3,600	3,200
Ryedale	7,800	4,100	3,400
Scarborough	17,200	9,200	8,400
Selby	13,500	6,200	5,600

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4.0 Response to Economic Recovery

- 4.1 The YNYER LEP has worked with NYCC and all Districts to develop the Covid 19 Plan to reshape our economy.
- 4.2 The plan is set around the 4 pillars of the Local Industrial Strategy: Environment, Business and Innovation, Place and Infrastructure and People and communities. All districts and NYCC have contributed to the plan, which includes individual organisational pages showing organisational recovery actions carried out to date and intended actions and measures. For example, the NYCC page includes the funding secured through the Active Travel fund and the Buy Local Directory initiative. It also includes the continued roll out of the 5G Mobile Access North Yorkshire (MANY) Project.

5.0 NYCC Economic Growth Response

- 5.1 A Local Economy Workstream continues to gather business intelligence in North Yorkshire covering all sectors. This is a two way conversation with businesses, Chamber of Commerce, FSB, W2Y, etc. which informs collective action. NYCC sign post resources for business on a dedicated webpage and have set up the Buy Local directory, where local people can see what businesses and services are near them, to support local businesses and North Yorkshire residents.
- 5.2 The North Yorkshire Plan for Economic Growth 2021 – 2024 has been refreshed. The seven enablers have been updated to reflect the focus on net zero carbon targets across the districts. The refreshed plan also incorporates the LEP's plan above and the NYCC Economic Recovery framework.
- 5.3 The Economic Growth Plan acknowledges the challenges and the agility required to take advantage of the changing opportunities as they come forward. For example the Community Renewal Fun and Levelling up funds.
- 5.4 An Action Plan is being developed in partnership with the districts that will include the development and delivery of key projects across the County. For example, the roll out of Town Centre Wi-Fi and the development of NY Market Town masterplans to develop the pipeline of projects that will enable NYCC and partners to take advantage of funding within the tight timescales often prescribed.

6.0 NYCC Public Health Support of Businesses

- 6.1 A dedicated team, led by public health, has been managing Covid 19 in workplaces, which has designed an operating model which created a tiered approach and response ranging from prevention to managing outbreaks.
- 6.2 Since June 2020 the team has successfully managed over 33 outbreaks in workplace settings since June 2020 and supported over 200 workplaces since October 2020 with two or more confirmed cases.
- 6.3 The team has developed a suite of resources based on learning during the pandemic to support businesses in their prevention and management of Covid in the workplace. These include frequently asked questions; action cards; good practice factsheets covering issues such as car sharing, hand hygiene, smoking shelters, welfare facilities.

7.0 NYCC Trading Standards Support of Businesses.

- 7.1 Throughout the pandemic Trading Standards have been offering free business advice to North Yorkshire businesses in an effort to aid growth and ensure legislative compliance during these difficult times. The provision of free business advice will continue until 01 October 2021.
- 7.2 In 2020/21, officers responded to 327 complaints from members of the public and undertook 948 compliance checks at retail premises; at times to check that all non-essential businesses were closed, and as restrictions lifted, to ensure businesses were trading safely and in accordance with government regulations.
- 7.3 In total 273 none compliances were identified and addressed, with officers often reinforcing the importance of contact tracing procedures and requiring the use of face masks.
- 7.4 Trading Standards continue to assist key partners in the Covid response, most recently in May 2021 by helping to distribute stickers to over 300 takeaways, which ask customers to remain vigilant in maintaining standards of cleanliness and social distancing.

<h2>8.0 Recommendations</h2>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8.1 To note the contents of the report. |
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MATT O'NEILL

Assistant Director, Growth Planning and Trading Standards
Business and Environmental Services

Author of the Report: Michael Reynolds, Senior Policy Officer (Infrastructure)