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North Yorkshire County Council

Executive

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Tuesday, 22nd June, 2021 commencing at 11.00 am.

County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. plus County Councillors Gareth Dadd, David Chance, Caroline Dickinson, Michael Harrison, Andrew Lee, Patrick Mulligan, Janet Sanderson and Greg White.

In attendance: County Councillors Paul Haslam.

Officers present: Stuart Carlton, Gary Fielding, Barry Khan, Richard Webb, Melanie Carr, Daniel Harry, Neil Irving, Michael Leah and John Lee.

Apologies: County Councillor Don Mackenzie, and officers Karl Battersby and Richard Flinton.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

598 Introductions

Members of the Executive and Corporate Management Team introduced themselves, followed by other Councillors present at the meeting.

599 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 June 2021

Resolved –

Having considered the draft Minutes of the informal meeting of Executive members held on 8 June 2021, which had been printed and circulated, members of the Executive Members agreed to note them as a correct record.

600 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

601 Exclusion of the public from the meeting during consideration of each of the items of business listed in Column 1 of the following table on the grounds that they each involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph(s) specified in column 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to information)(Variation) Order 2006:-

Resolved –

That on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public was excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 10.

There were no public questions or statements.

603 Equality and Diversity Policy Statement

Considered – A report of the Chief Executive presenting the responses to a recent consultation on the draft refreshed Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy Statement, for Executive members consideration and recommendation to the Chief Executive Officer that using his emergency delegated powers, he recommend the revised statement to full Council for approval.

County Councillor David Chance introduced the report and outlined the proposed changes as detailed in the report. Neil Irving drew attention to the consultation process undertaken, as detailed in the report and the proposed addition of the word 'Inclusion' in the title of the Policy Statement.

As members had no questions, they agreed to note the report and it was

Resolved: That it be proposed to the Chief Executive that he recommend the revised Policy Statement to full Council.

604 Proposal to change the category of Danby CE Primary School from voluntary controlled to voluntary aided from 16th September 2021

Considered – Report by the Corporate Director for Children and Young People's Service seeking determination of a proposal published by the Governing Body of Danby CE Primary School to change the category of Danby CE Primary School from voluntary controlled to voluntary aided with effect from 16 September 2021.

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan introduced the report confirming the School had recently formed a federation with Egdon CE voluntary aided Primary School and now wished to better align themselves with Egdon, particularly the rules around staffing, and create a more formal link with the Diocese. Attention was drawn to the appropriate process undertaken, as detailed in paragraph 9 of the report.

Having noted the information provided in the report and at the meeting, Executive Members agreed with the proposal in the report and

Resolved:

That the proposal to change the category of Danby CE Primary School from voluntary controlled to voluntary aided with effect from 16 September 2021 be recommended to the Chief Executive Officer for his approval.

605 Grant of leases to NY Highways Ltd.

Considered – A report of the Corporate Director for Strategic Resources, seeking approval to grant the leases for four depot sites listed to NY Highways Ltd.

County Councillor Gareth Dadd introduced the report confirming that the four depots in question all had rental levels above that which officers could approve under delegated authority powers. He also noted that the proposed rental levels had been independently assessed and agreed to avoid any challenge.

Having considered the report and the information provided at the meeting, Executive

Members

Resolved:

That it be recommended to the Chief Executive Officer that he approve the grant of leases to NY Highways Ltd for the four sites listed in the report, on terms to be agreed by the Corporate Director for Strategic Resources.

606 National Bus Strategy

Considered – A report of the Corporate Director for Business and Environmental Services updating Executive Members on the National Bus Strategy and actions Local Transport Authorities were expected to take, and presenting the options and a recommendation in relation to the council's response.

County Councillor Andrew Lee presented the report, confirming the new national strategy was aimed at transforming bus services to deliver a more a more innovative demand-led service that was reliable, easier to understand, with improved frequency and more evening and weekend buses, which would be beneficial to a large rural county like North Yorkshire.

He drew attention to the funding provided by Government for bus service support during the pandemic. He also detailed the requirement of the new National Bus Strategy, which would enable Local Transport Authorities to continue to access the proposed £3b Fund for bus services, subject to signing up to one of three options, as detailed in the report.

It was noted that the preferred option for NYCC was an Enhanced Partnership i.e. an agreement with local bus operators to work together to improve bus services, which would require engagement with operators to understand what services are needed.

It was also noted that early engagement had already taken place with stakeholders, in support of developing the required Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), aimed at enhancing bus services across North Yorkshire, promoting healthier travel choices and lowering emissions through reduced car travel, which needed to be ready for submission by the end of October 2021.

Michael Leah, Assistant Director for Travel & Environment, Waste and Countryside Service confirmed the vision articulated in the report was only draft at this stage and would be further developed as the consultation and engagement progressed.

Executive Members agreed the National Bus Strategy had the potential to be really exciting for the County, bringing particular benefits for the more rural areas and were looking forward to the results from the demand-responsive pilot currently underway.

County Councillor Paul Haslem suggested the wording of the Vision should include reference to the BSIP forming part of the County Council's Integrated de-carbonisation Strategy.

County Councillor Gareth Dadd welcomed the report but noted a word of caution around raising expectations, and suggested the Authority needed to be mindful of any potentially unsustainable cost legacy that might arise in the longer term, from a service with limited passenger use.

Having considered the report and the information provided at the meeting, Executive Members

Resolved:

To recommend to the Chief Executive Officer that using his emergency delegated powers he approve:

- i. The option of Enhanced Partnership as the preferred option and agree the draft notice attached at Annex 1 can be published. Noting that a further decision on the council's final option position could be taken In October 2021 when details of the Enhanced Partnership work with operators, information on what the North Yorkshire BSIP would contain, any new details on funding and future funding available at that time.
- ii. The objectives set out in section 6.4 for inclusion in the council's Bus Service Improvement Plan.

At this stage in the meeting, the Chair decided to bring forward the remaining non-confidential items of business, so that the public meeting could be concluded before the Executive Members moved to meeting in private to consider confidential agenda item 10.

607 Area Constituency Committee Feedback Report

Considered – A report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Democratic Services) providing an overview of the key issues considered at a recent meeting of the Skipton & Ripon Area Constituency Committee.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

608 Forward Plan

Considered – An extract from the Forward Plan listing the forthcoming Executive items of business for the period 14 June 2021 to 30 June 2022.

Resolved:

That the update be noted.

609 Filey Road Park and Ride, Scarborough - Option agreement.

Agenda item 10 was considered in private and the public have no right of access to Minute No. 609.

The meeting concluded at 11.28 am.