

North Yorkshire County Council Meeting**Wednesday 19 July 2017****Leader's Statement****PCC / Fire & Rescue**

I had hoped that we could debate the proposal of the Police & Crime Commissioner at this meeting, but unfortunately the Local Bid document could not be released to us, even under embargo, until the start of the public consultation on 17th July. Clearly this would not allow adequate time to study the lengthy proposal document today with any due diligence. I have considered holding special Council meeting, but have decided against that partly on the grounds of cost, but mainly because any single date chosen may not be convenient for all members to attend. Consequently I have asked Corporate Overview & Scrutiny to look at this proposal, in the first instance, and give a recommendation to Executive which will form the view of the Council made to the Home Office. All Members are entitled to attend one or both of these meetings to make their opinions known. I understand the PCC will be invited to the O&S meeting to present her proposals, and the Fire & Rescue Authority will also be invited to put any counter proposal.

Both ourselves and City of York Council are the statutory consultees to the process. However I understand that District and Borough Councils will also be taking discussions to their more frequent council meetings during the 10 week consultation period.

If the proposals find favour, the decision rests with the Minister for Police & Fire. If there is no agreement, the proposal is sent to an independent adjudicator for evaluation.

It is important that our communities take part in the consultation.

North Yorkshire MP's

All our MP's retained their seats in the recent General Election, most with increased majorities. All of them have positions within the government:-

Nigel Adams joins the Whips Office

Julian Smith becomes Deputy Chief Whip

Rishi Sunak becomes a PPS in the Business Department

Kevin Hollinrake becomes PPS to Michael Gove, the DEFRA Secretary of State

Robert Goodwill becomes Minister for Children & Families

Andrew Jones moves from Transport to Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury

We work closely with our MP's in serving our communities, and these new responsibilities will be helpful to us in understanding the Government's position on the many issues that face us, and the impact and opportunities around Brexit in particular.

There is some speculation that austerity is at an end, but the reality is that we will still be expected to make savings and efficiencies. It is important that clarity is provided urgently by the Government on issues such as the future funding of adult social care and funding for schools, as well as dealing with the important decisions of Brexit.

Crisis management

I have been asked by a few Members about how well we would cope if faced with a crisis on a scale such as that facing Kensington & Chelsea. We have a very efficient Emergency Planning team, and well trained officers in all Directorates. We are a major part of the Resilience Forum, chaired by our own Chief Executive. We work well with our partners in other bodies, district and borough councils, and especially the blue light services. We can call for assistance from the green and blue Armed Forces based in North Yorkshire, much more easily than in the past. Over the years we have dealt with numerous crises, flooding and Arctic winters, tidal surge, a train crash, large scale fires, Foot & Mouth, to illustrate a few. In each case we have learnt lessons to better cope with the next. We prepare in anticipation of the next one in the hope it never happens. To reassure Members about our preparedness, I have asked that we consider this at an early opportunity in our seminar programme and to also focus on the role of the local member.

A 64

Improving East – West connections remains a priority for us, and I am pleased we are a key part of the A64 Growth Partnership which was launched last week. Although a Highways England road we will continue to press for improvements, and welcome the redirection of the Hopgrove Roundabout finances into more dualling of the A64 between York and Malton. And before anybody says it, we will not forget the other improvements needed to the strategic and principal road networks.

2019 World Cycling Championships

I am delighted that the 2019 World Cycling Championships will be coming to Yorkshire and specifically will be hosted by Harrogate. The announced start and finish destinations will showcase much of this glorious county and add to the vibrant culture and outdoor sports image that we are working hard with our partners to promote for North Yorkshire, whilst providing a spectacle enjoyed by many of our residents.