

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**19 July 2017****CORPORATE AND PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The Corporate and Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee last met on 19 June 2017. At that meeting, there was a strong focus on the work that is underway through the 2020 Council programme to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our services. This included:

- An update on progress with the roll out of digital self-service, with particular attention to what measures have been put in place to ensure that people who are unable to access ICT are still able to get access to the services that they need
- A review of the HR annual plan, with a strong focus on how the impact of a series of organisational restructures has been managed and whether there have been any unintended consequences
- An overview of the operation of County Councillor Locality Budgets in the second year of the pilot (financial year 2016/17), specifically looking at the projects and activities supported, feedback from Councillors and an assessment of the impact of the funding spent.

A common theme throughout these discussions has been the ability of the Council and its staff to adapt to change, to cope with re-organisations and uncertainty and to readily adopt new ways of working. The committee will continue to scrutinise the 2020 Council programme over the next months. In addition, the committee will be looking more closely at finances and income generation, specifically the 'fairer funding' model for local government and the work of our traded services.

Members will be aware that the committee also has the role of the Crime and Disorder Committee for the Council. In this role at the meeting in June, the committee looked at the Youth Justice Plan, data on offending and reoffending and proposals for new ways of working, in particular around prevention and early intervention.

I was pleased to see national and local data showing large and sustained reductions in the number of young people in the youth justice system. From 2007 to 2017, there has been a 79% reduction. Whilst some of this reduction has inevitably been a result of changes in recording and charging practices by the Police, a large part has been down to improved ways of working within the Youth Justice Service.

By contrast, reoffending rates amongst children and young people remain relatively high, when compared to areas similar to North Yorkshire. In response to this, I have asked that members of the committee be allowed to meet with young people from North Yorkshire, who are in custody at a Young Offenders' Institute, to ask them what would work in helping them to stop offending.

Over the next months, the committee will continue to scrutinise key aspects of community safety service planning and delivery in the county, including the local delivery of the national Prevent programme, the work of the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership and the proposals for more formal collaboration between North Yorkshire Constabulary and North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Cllr Derek Bastiman

Chairman - Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5 July 2017