

North Yorkshire County Council

Executive

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Northallerton on Tuesday, 26 September 2017 commencing at 11.00 am.

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

Officers present: Richard Flinton, Stuart Carlton, David Bowe, Gary Fielding, Barry Khan, Josie O'Dowd, Dr Lincoln Sargeant and Georgina Wilkinson.

Also present - one media representative - Radio York.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

54. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 August 2017, having been printed and circulated, are taken as read and are confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

55. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to note.

56. Exclusion of the Public

Resolved –

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of each of the items of business listed in column 1 of the following table on the grounds that each involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006 as defined in column 2.

Item on the Agenda	Paragraph No
10	3

57. Questions and Statements from members of the public

There were no questions or statements from members of the public.

58. Feedback from Area Committees

Considered –

A report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) relating to meetings of the:-

- ◆ Richmondshire Area Committee - 30 August 2017
- ◆ County Area Committee for the Harrogate District - 31 August 2017

County Councillor David Chance summarised the recommendations from the Area Committees. County Councillor Caroline Dickinson commented that a health representative had been present at both Richmondshire and Hambleton Area Committees, responding to the Friarage concerns.

Regarding the request from Richmondshire Area Committee concerning Matrix Boards (vehicle activated signs) County Councillor Don Mackenzie advised that this policy is presently due for review and it is scheduled for consideration by Transport Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He stated that the Policy has served the County Council well for many years, and whilst acknowledging that it is appropriate to undertake periodic reviews, he urged a caution as the criteria are in place for good reason. County Councillor Gareth Dadd stressed the importance of an evidenced based approach and County Councillor Janet Sanderson recalled the big debate which took place on the last occasion the policy was reviewed – commenting that the main criteria for installation should not be which Parish Councils can afford to pay for the service.

Resolved –

- (a) That the report is noted.
- (b) That the comments from Richmondshire Area Committee regarding Matrix Boards(vehicle activated signs) policy are referred to the Transport Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration during the forthcoming review.
- (c) That it is noted that Richmondshire Area Committee strongly oppose proposals to close two Mental Health Wards at the Friarage Hospital and these views will be passed to the Scrutiny of Health Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board at the appropriate time.

59. NYCC Sexual Health Out of Area Cross Charging Policy

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Health and Adult Services seeking approval of the NYCC Sexual Health Out of Area Cross Charging Policy as appended to the report.

County Councillor Caroline Dickinson advised that the Public Health team are responsible for commissioning services for residents including those attending facilities out of area. She advised that the issue of out of area cross charging has not been resolved since 2013, when the responsibility for Public Health transferred to the County Council. She noted that both local authorities and providers have interpreted the charging policy very differently to date. A review has been conducted via the regional group of the Yorkshire

and Humber Directors of Public Health and a regional approach has been agreed. It was noted that approval for this charging policy needs to be approved by County Council and County Councillor Caroline Dickinson explained the benefits of being able to evidence a fair and transparent position in the event of legal challenge. A recent challenge by a London Trust to Councils in the region was highlighted, reiterating the need for a robust charging framework.

Dr Lincoln Sargeant, North Yorkshire Director of Public Health, advised that the financial risks associated with this are in the region of £300,000 per annum, this being the cost of residents accessing services out of area but excluding the City of York where a bilateral arrangement was in place. He spoke of the work being undertaken to reduce the number of residents accessing services in neighbouring authorities to the North, explaining that positive results have been achieved with halving of numbers. The impetus for the new approach is to provide a solid base to enable the Council to apply an equitable policy for all providers and better manage the financial risks.

County Councillor David Chance was supportive of the policy stressing the need to be able to challenge cross charging from further afield in a transparent way.

County Councillor Michael Harrison highlighted the exclusions shown at page 40 of the report which are helpful in terms of the wider regional basis for charging as it allowed the Council to enter into agreement where there was mutual benefit.

County Councillor Gareth Dadd welcomed the approach whilst recognising the sensitivity for service users accessing the service in smaller rural communities with respect to confidentiality compared to larger urban areas. Georgina Wilkinson, Health Improvement Manager, confirmed that those accessing services are only asked for a partial postcode to confirm that they are a North Yorkshire resident. The delicate balance to be achieved between conducting appropriate checks and balances, whilst encouraging people to access the service was acknowledged.

Resolved –

That the NYCC Sexual Health Out of Area Cross Charging Policy is approved.

60. Annual Report of the North Yorkshire Pension Board

Considered –

A report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) asking the Executive to consider the Annual Report of the North Yorkshire Pension Board.

Gary Fielding, Corporate Director - Strategic Resources, advised that this is the inaugural Annual Report of the Pension Board, it will proceed to County Council on 9 November.

County Councillor Carl Les queried the implications of pooling and Gary Fielding confirmed that these are very significant, the Pension Board seek to ensure that the Pension Fund Committee have good oversight of the arrangements. He noted the very practical approach of Pension Board Members commending the report produced.

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan acknowledged the doubts he had had at the outset regarding the need for a Pension Board, commenting that he is very impressed by the commitment of the Chairman David Portlock, stating that the work undertaken by the Board is taken very seriously.

There was discussion of who would present the report at County Council, this is to be confirmed nearer the time.

Resolved –

That the Annual Report of the Pension Board for 2016/17 is recommended to full Council, as Administering Authority for the North Yorkshire Pension Board, for noting.

61. Accelerated roll-out of LED Street Lights

Considered –

A report of the Corporate Director - Business and Environmental Services and the Corporate Director - Strategic Resources seeking approval to replace 7,000 of North Yorkshire County Council's existing street lights with new energy efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) lanterns during the remainder of 2017/18; seeking approval for Capital investment of £2,042,303 to fund the replacement of the 7,000 LED lanterns during the remainder of 2017/18 and seeking approval of the procurement of the initial 7,000 LED lanterns through an existing PBO (Public Buying Organisation) framework and to offer the installation of these lanterns to Ringway to be undertaken within the framework of the existing Highways Maintenance Contract by the end of 2017/2018.

County Councillor Don Mackenzie advised that the recommendations seek approval to use capital reserves to reduce revenue payments year on year. Across the county there are 50,400 County Council owned street lights plus others owned by the District Councils. 6,000 have been converted on an ad hoc basis, with 44,000 still to be done. Approval is sought to undertake Stage 1 of the accelerated programme and replace a further 7,000 yellow sodium lights. To do so will achieve savings in both energy consumption and ongoing maintenance. Adopting this approach will repay the capital invested within ten years - the equivalent of a 10% rate of return on the initial investment, far better than the rate of return presently achievable via the banks. On this basis he commended the financial benefits to Members.

Commenting on the impact of street lights on the public, County Councillor Don Mackenzie noted that they are very much in the frontline and as such residents may have very different views about what they want. Prior to installation some Harrogate residents had commented to him that they thought they would prefer a warmer soft yellow light, and they felt less inclined to LED lights, whilst recognising that LEDs are more effective at lighting an area. Following an emergency replacement of certain cast lamps in Harrogate, they were fitted with LEDs. County Councillor Don Mackenzie was pleased to report that the installations had been praised and seem popular with most people - residents acknowledging that LEDs direct the light downwards and away from upstairs bedroom windows. Concluding he stated that he hoped that the remaining 37,000 sodium street lights would be replaced on an accelerated basis in future years.

David Bowe, Corporate Director - Business and Environmental Services, advised that whilst this changeover is being pursued as programmed work, there are significant financial benefits in accelerating the programme. Without acceleration, only 1,100 street lights will be changed per year.

County Councillor Janet Sanderson noted the complexities of the issue and she mentioned the localised problem in Ryedale District Council where street lighting is the subject of percept for Parish Councils. She wished to know if there if any economies of

scale could be afforded to the District Councils and Parish Councils to enable them share the benefits. David Bowe advised that joint work is already underway - where a Parish or District Council are prepared to fund the upgrade of a street light to the County Council's standard, then the County Council is prepared to take on the subsequent on-going maintenance. Alternatively the County will work with Parish Councils and maintain street lights for them on the basis of County Council contract rates.

County Councillor Gareth Dadd expressed his support for the proposals particularly given the equivalent of a 10% rate of return. He looked forward to the continued acceleration of the programme over future years, noting that this issue would be revisited during budget setting in the February 2018.

There was general support for the proposal particularly in view of the anticipated increase in energy prices next year. The approach proposed was one which County Councillor Patrick Mulligan wished to see applied in other areas.

Resolved –

- (a) That the recommended option to replace 7,000 of North Yorkshire County Council's existing street lights with new energy efficient LED lanterns during the remainder of 2017/18 is approved.
- (b) That the Capital investment of £2,042,303 to fund the replacement of the initial 7,000 LED lanterns during the remainder of 2017/18 is approved. Approval for the capital investment for the financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20 will be sought via the annual budget report to the Executive in February 2018 subject to availability of corporate funding.
- (c) That procurement of the 7,000 lanterns through an existing PBO (Public Buying Organisation) framework such as YPO then offer the installation of these lanterns to Ringway to be undertaken within the framework of the existing Highways Maintenance Contract is approved.

62. Forward Work Programme

The Forward Plan for period 1 September 2017 to 30 September 2018 was presented.

Resolved –

The forward work programme is noted.

**The following item was considered in private and the public have no right of access.
Minute No. 63 is a public summary of business conducted in private.**

63. Private Minutes of Executive Meeting held on 15 August 2017

Resolved -

That the Private Minutes of the meeting held on 15 August 2017, having been printed and circulated, are taken as read and are confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The meeting concluded at 11.35 am.

JOD/JR