

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**8 November 2017**

**CORPORATE AND PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –  
STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

Since my last statement to Council, the Corporate and Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee last met on two occasions, the 31 July 2017 and 11 September 2017.

The meeting on 31 July 2017 was specially convened to enable the scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposals for changes to the governance of the Fire and Rescue Service. The committee heard evidence from the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Chairman of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and County Councillors. After a good debate, which enabled all aspects of the arguments put forward to be considered, the committee concluded that an incremental approach to any changes in governance was the preferred way forward and so the Representation Model was recommended to Executive and not the Governance Model as had been proposed by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The public consultation has closed and the Police and Crime Commissioner is considering what submission will be made to the Home Office. Clearly, the committee will have a key role to play in scrutinising any changes to governance to help ensure that any new arrangements are effective, efficient and benefit the people of North Yorkshire.

The meeting on 11 September 2017 had a strong focus on the work that the Council does in partnership and the leadership role that it has to play. This included:

- An update on progress with North Yorkshire Refugee Resettlement Programme and the package of housing, education, health and employment services that is coordinated by the Council.
- An overview of the work of the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership, with a focus on the challenges it faces and what actions are being put in place to overcome them.
- A review of the Council's Equality Objectives 2016 - 2020, with an outline of the work that is underway across all departments to promote equality and diversity and of the move towards greater co-design, drawing upon people's experiences to enable more informed decisions to be made about service development.

Throughout these discussions, members were particularly interested to understand the breadth of activity, how roles and responsibilities were demarcated and how the impact of all the actions and interventions was assessed.

I was pleased to note that the Council continues to play a key role in protecting some of the most vulnerable people in the community, promoting their rights and enabling greater understanding of the issues that they face upon a daily basis. In particular, how positive action by the Council in response to concerns raised by scrutiny had led

to changes in policy and practice that had contributed to the high ranking in the Stonewall Education Equality Index 2017. The Council had come second, out of the 39 Local Authorities who submitted evidence.

Members will be aware that the committee also has the role of the Crime and Disorder Committee for the Council. In this role, the political spokespersons and I visited HMYOI Wetherby on 31 October 2017 to meet with young people from North Yorkshire who are in custody there and to better understand, from their perspective, how services could be improved to reduce re-offending rates. This followed on from previous scrutiny of both the Youth Justice Service, the Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company.

Over the next months, the committee will continue to scrutinise key aspects of the Council's work and also partnerships that are delivering community safety programmes and interventions. Topics include: the Prevent programme and work with individuals who may be vulnerable to extremism; the development of the Council's commercial partnerships and traded services; and the ongoing scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner's plans to take on the governance of the Fire and Rescue Service.

Cllr Derek Bastiman  
Chairman - Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
16 October 2017