

North Yorkshire County Council
Executive
30 January 2018
Feedback from the Area Committees

1.0 Purpose of the Report

To bring to the attention of the Executive specific issues considered at the recent meeting of the County Council's:-

◆ **Hambleton Area Committee - 4 December 2017**

2.0 Hambleton Area Committee - 4 December 2017

2.1 North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Safety Update

Members welcomed Station Manager Michael Dale to the meeting, instead of Group Manager David Pitt who would no longer be attending Area Committee as he was leaving to take up the post of Protection and Prevention Manager.

Station Manager Michael Dale highlighted the following issues:-

- ◆ Details of community safety initiatives conducted from 1 April to 30 September 2017.
- ◆ Prevention activity - road safety, fire safety, school's education, supporting vulnerable people with dementia, arson reduction, multi-agency problem solving and vulnerable persons intervention activities.
- ◆ Six Local Intervention Fire Education (LIFE) Schemes were planned to take place during the remaining part of the financial year. These had been made possible due to a successful grant application to the Police and Crime Commissioner "Community Fund".
- ◆ Response activity - a chemical exercise had taken place at the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton with crews from Richmond, Northallerton, Bedale and Colburn attending the incident. The exercise was aimed at testing the NYFRS capability in dealing with a chemical-type incident and the scenario was surrounding an unknown chemical gas leak inside a building. The exercise involved the use of the Hazardous Material and Environmental Protection Officer (HMEPO) and chemical identification equipment.
- ◆ Group Manager David Pitt had passed on his personal thanks to Members of the Area Committee for their support during the 4 and a half years in which he had served the District of Hambleton

2.2 North Yorkshire Police Update

The following issues were noted in the report of Inspector David Murray:-

- ◆ Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) - crime continued to remain stable with an overall 0.8% reduction to date, burglary overall was showing an increase (190 crimes), but remained well below 2015/16 levels (223 crimes). Following a recent spike in burglary, additional targeted patrols had been deployed including support from other specialist units utilising additional

ANPR technology to identify, locate and subsequently bring offenders to justice.

- ◆ Residential burglary offences remained rare occurrences with the majority being commercial buildings as well as sheds and garages, but there were no real areas for concern at this current time.
- ◆ Rural Watch Patrols - secured funding continued to maintain the very successful Rural Watch Patrols ensuring volunteer sector were supported by dedicated officers securing the borders from travelling criminals and the impact of rural crime. Operation 'Checkpoint' - a regional deployment of six Forces targeting cross border crime would be operating later in December 2017.
- ◆ ASB remained slightly up on the same period last year, however this was on the back of significant reductions over the previous five to six years.
- ◆ Counter Terrorism - recent events in the Northallerton area made national news relating to the arrest and subsequent charge of two local 14 year old boys. The boys remained on remand pending a future Court date. The incident was now very much in the recovery phase with primacy being handed from North Yorkshire Police to North Yorkshire County Council. The focus was now on reassurance and the safeguarding of the local community as well that of Northallerton College. The local neighbourhood team continued to work closely with the College and deliver daily support.
- ◆ Northallerton Custody Suite closure pilot - the custody closure pilot had now been finalised with analysis work presented to the Chief Constable and the PCC. The decision, in light of demand data, was taken not to re-open Northallerton Custody Suite.
- ◆ Recruitment - recruitment for Police Constables and PCSOs continued with further officers and detectives being interviewed as part of a national officer transferee advertisement. Two new Police Officer intakes were currently in training.
- ◆ North Yorkshire Police Transport - the North Yorkshire Police Transport Management and workshops had now all moved to Station Road, Thirsk which was a shared facility with NYFRS, with Vale House remaining as a Specialist Operations Base.
- ◆ HQ 17 Alverton Court - in order to forge closer neighbour relationships with residents near Alverton Court, a community meeting was held in November to engage and listen to concerns regarding increased parking on residential streets. North Yorkshire Police had explained that it would only act within the law in addressing unlawful parking, but equally that it would not and could not direct staff not to park in areas that any other member of the public would be able to do, lawfully. There remained around 100 spaces available for staff at Alverton Court as well as reserved parking for disabled drivers and visitors. The migration of staff from Newby Wiske was now complete with all operational staff from the High Street building now working out of Alverton Court.

2.3 Rural Task Force - Annual Update

Inspector Jon Grange attended the meeting and highlighted the following issues:-

- ◆ Between 31 July 2016 and 31 July 2017 1,500 incidents of poaching had been identified and it was a significant issue, however, the Task Force was now just starting to see a downturn in incidents which were actively prosecuted and vehicles and dogs seized.
- ◆ Rural Watch continued to be very successful. Previously a number of Watch Schemes had worked in different ways, but Hambleton always had a consistent approach and was led by PCSOs and volunteers. Those volunteers were now called Police Support Volunteers and were now covered by Police insurance, which had not been the case previously.

- ◆ Proactivity – numerous activities undertaken by the Rural Task Force including public engagement, proactive prevention advice given, Horse Watch and Heritage Watch schemes, together with various targeted Operations being undertaken and Wildlife crime tackled.

2.4 Refocussing of Area Committees

Each Hambleton Area Committee Member was asked for their individual comments and all welcomed and were broadly supportive of the proposals for reviewing the structure and function of Area Committees.

The following comments were made:-

- ◆ The proposals appeared to focus on ‘geography’ rather than ‘powers’.
- ◆ Six equal size Committees would be a huge advantage and would give opportunity to give a wider view.
- ◆ Not so keen for alignment with the MPs Constituencies, but did see a deal of synergy with our District Councils going forward.
- ◆ Equality of representation welcomed and looking forward to implementing the process next year.
- ◆ Common sense way forward.
- ◆ Welcome the proposals and the Committee getting more powers.
- ◆ “Underwhelmed” by the proposed re-naming as “Constituency Committees” - would prefer to remain known as a North Yorkshire County Council Area Committee.
- ◆ Concerns about asking Hambleton District Councillors to stand down as Members of the Area Committee and also concern that several individual County Council Members who were currently part of Hambleton Area Committee would potentially have to go to be Members of other Area Committees ie. Richmond and Thirsk & Malton - extremely concerned about the effect of that.
- ◆ Side benefit to having MPs - statutory services, especially mandated from Central Government - MPs becoming more acutely aware of the effect on their and Government’s decisions made down in Westminster, on areas of local interest/concern here in North Yorkshire
- ◆ Parish Councillors should still be on Area Committees as they bring a different perspective to the meetings.
- ◆ Don’t really want to be more ‘strategic’ - as County Councillors we look at the County as a whole and the Area Committee was currently the only place we can all look at our own patches and our own Districts - we should be going more ‘Parochial’, instead of becoming more ‘strategic’.

2.5 Highways Issues - Update

The Area Highways Manager, Nigel Smith highlighted the current position on the following issues:-

- ◆ Capital Programme.
- ◆ Routine Maintenance Work
- ◆ Winter Maintenance
- ◆ Thirsk Area Highways Office – staffing

2.6 Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

Janet Probert highlighted the current position on the following issues:-

- ◆ Mental Health Consultation
- ◆ The Friarage Hospital, Northallerton – public engagement exercise
- ◆ Closure of the Lambert Hospital, Thirsk

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 That the report be noted.

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22 January 2018

Background Documents: the published agendas and reports for each of the meetings identified in the headings in this report.