

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**21 February 2018****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 formally met on 11 December 2017.

At that meeting, the focus was upon the work that the Council does to provide and support community infrastructure and resilience and to enable communities to take on a greater role in providing services for themselves. This included:

- A review of the first 6 months of the reconfigured library services and the 33 Council run libraries that were transitioned to varying levels of community responsibility as of April 2017
- Scrutiny of the first 100 days of the Parish Portal, identifying progress made and areas for improvement. This included a review of the data, information and analysis that County Councillors are able to access at a local level in their wards
- An update on the work of the Strong Communities Programme, with a particular focus on its new investment plan 'Inspire, Achieve, Innovate'
- Scrutiny of the strategic themes and ambitions in the County Council Plan.

There was also feedback from a visit to HM YOI Wetherby, which took place on 31 October 2017. The visit was undertaken as part of an ongoing investigation by the Committee into reoffending rates in the county and what is being done to reduce them. Members will be aware that the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee is also the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee.

An area that we will be following up is the Council's use of volunteers to help deliver and support some services and what is in place to ensure that we are able to recruit and retain them. This is in the context of an increasing number of public sector organisations seeking to use volunteers and the demands being made upon volunteers themselves increasing.

At the Mid Cycle Briefing that was held on 22 January 2018, we focussed solely on the scrutiny of access to counter-based banking services and an assessment of the impact of bank branch closures, particularly upon: older people; people living in rural areas; and small businesses. At the next Mid Cycle Briefing we will be continuing this line of enquiry by looking into Post Offices coverage and planned closures.

At the next meeting of the committee on 12 March 2018, we will be focussing upon community safety, scrutinising issues such as:

- Plans for enhanced collaboration between the Police and the Fire and Rescue Service
- Progress with the implementation of the new model of youth justice practice and the impact this is having upon reoffending rates

- The work of the Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company locally to reduce adult reoffending rates and an in-depth review of the data that is provided by the Ministry of Justice
- The proposal by the Ministry of Justice to close Northallerton Magistrates Court.

The committee will also be scrutinising the Council's implementation plan for the General Data Protection Regulation, which will come into force as of May 2018.

Finally, an area of ongoing interest for the committee is the development of the Council's traded services and the governance arrangements that are in place to support them.

Cllr Derek Bastiman

Chairman - Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee2

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