

# North Yorkshire County Council

## Executive

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Northallerton on Tuesday, 12 June 2018 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.

Also in attendance: County Councillors Jim Clark, Mike Jordan and Karin Sedgwick

Officers present: Richard Flinton, Jane Le Sage, David Bowe, Steve Evans, Gary Fielding, Daniel Harry, Barry Khan, Richard Webb and Lincoln Sargeant.

Apologies: County Councillors John Ennis and Janet Jefferson.

Stuart Minting, Local Democracy Reporter attended.

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### Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

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County Councillor Carl Les welcomed the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs and the Older People's Champion to the meeting. He also welcomed Stuart Minting of the press and a work experience student, Jake Foster.

County Councillor Carl Les informed Executive that the former Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Service at the Council, Pete Dwyer, had recently been awarded a CBE in the Queen's Honours List.

#### 164. Minutes

##### Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2018, having been printed and circulated, are taken as read and are confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### 165. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to note.

#### 166. 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

8 - Appendix 1

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#### **167. Questions and Statements from members of the public**

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

#### **168. Quarterly Performance and Budget Monitoring Report**

Considered –

A joint report of the Chief Executive and Corporate Director - Strategic Resources, bringing together key aspects of the County Council's performance on a Quarterly basis.

##### Public Health

County Councillor David Chance introduced the Quarter 4 report, highlighting the following key points:

- ◆ The Director of Public Health Annual Report 2017 has been shortlisted, among top 6 nationally for 3rd year running
- ◆ We now have over 18,000 customers registered for the customer portal and the number of services they can now access through it has increased to 13
- ◆ Adult social care DTOC levels are down year on year. We are making good progress against the NHSE target
- ◆ Allerton Waste Recovery Park commissioning has been completed and the plant is operating effectively for this point in its development
- ◆ Overall the percentage of pupils attending a good or outstanding school remains very high
- ◆ Successfully transferred all possible Statements of SEN to EHC Plans by Government deadline
- ◆ Consistently high rates of Children & Families assessments being completed within 45 Working Days.

County Councillor Caroline Dickinson introduced the Public Health report for Quarter 4 and identified that there were four key themes being addressed through Public Health commissioning and service provision that were in line with the County Council's ambitions. These are: healthy ageing, health protection, start well, and live well and age well.

Lincoln Sargeant, Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire County Council, said that Public Health had recently been through a peer review, the outcome of which had been positive. He noted that the Annual Public Health Report had a key role to play in terms of setting the tone and direction of public health interventions across the county. Lincoln Sargeant said that it encouraged debate and generated public interest in public health issues, particularly how a wide range of organisations and people can work together on the prevention agenda.

Lincoln Sargeant gave the example of flu vaccinations as being a cheap and simple way of helping to protect older people's health and reduce their dependence on health and

social care services. He said that GP practices are the provider of flu vaccinations but some GP practices required additional support to enable them to fulfil this role. Lincoln Sargeant said that there were challenges regarding engaging GPs in a wider public health and prevention agenda at a time when they themselves are experiencing considerable financial and service pressures.

Lincoln Sargeant stated that the Local Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment has recently been completed. This was a big piece of work that helped inform how pharmaceutical services will be commissioned by NHS England over the next few years. In summary, the needs assessment had shown that there was good coverage by community pharmacies across the county.

Lincoln Sargeant said that whilst overall smoking prevalence in the county was falling there remained areas of the county and occupational groups where smoking prevalence was high. This included manual workers, people with diagnosed mental health problems and some of the more deprived areas of Scarborough.

Lincoln Sargeant emphasised the need to focus on prevention and early intervention and to work with district and borough council colleagues on this broader agenda. Lincoln Sargeant also referred to work that Public Health was doing around work place wellbeing and the development with Trading Standards of a charter.

County Councillor Carl Les thanked Lincoln Sargeant for the report and all of the data information analysis contained in it and then asked those present whether there were any questions.

County Councillor Don Mackenzie noted that the Annual Report was of a very high standard but remarked that there still remained significant differences in life expectancy across the county.

In response, Lincoln Sargeant said that the gap in life expectancy between the richest and poorest areas of the county was reducing. However, a more significant indicator was that of disease free life expectancy, which suggested that the differential could be as great as 20 years. This had significant implications for the quality of people's lives and also the demand for health and social care services and care. As such, this was a key issue that needed to be addressed by the Council.

County Councillor Jim Clark emphasised the leadership role that Public Health had to play and highlighted a need for Public Health to continue to engage with GPs.

County Councillor Mike Jordan highlighted his concerns that the public health agenda was extremely broad and that there were perhaps too many priorities for public health to address successfully all at the same time.

In response, Lincoln Sargeant acknowledged the scale of the task that Public Health faced and emphasised that the focus was upon primary care, schools and the work place.

### Modern Council

County Councillor David Chance introduced this section of the report outlining the progress that had been made across the key areas of the Council's activity, including:

- ◆ 59% of transactions for those services that have been launched on the Customer Portal are now on line

- ◆ An Excellent rating has been given by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services for ease of access to Council adult social care services
- ◆ Soctim has awarded a 4 Star Rating in their Better Connected programme for the content of the Council's household waste recycling centre web page
- ◆ There was a 325% increase in web-site hits during the "Beast from the East" however only a 15% increase in visits to the "contact us" pages
- ◆ 2,000 members of staff were enabled to work remotely during the "Beast from the East".

Gary Fielding, Corporate Director - Strategic Resources, noted that whilst there was a general fit with the priority of Modern Council and the activities delivered by the Central Services Directorate, there were some significant differences as Modern Council addressed a wide range of cross cutting issues.

County Councillor Greg White noted that more and more people were using online services at the Council to access the information that they needed. This was encouraging and the aim was to look at 100+ services being accessed primarily through online routes in the future. He remarked that this is good news for the Council and customers as it increases speed and efficiency. He noted however that some partners were lagging behind the Council and as such some information sharing was difficult and often incompatible. He cited the example of faxes being used for some referrals into the Council.

County Councillor Mike Jordan queried the extent to which the County Council website was being used by the public to access services and so how far channel shift had occurred.

In response County Councillor Greg White referred to the data in the main report at page 22.

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan commented on how staff had been able to adapt to the adverse weather conditions in March and work away from their office base. He noted that this had been enabled by the ICT services at the Council but also the broadband infrastructure that is in place across the county.

County Councillor Carl Les asked Members of Executive whether there were any questions regarding those other aspects of the Quarterly Performance Report that were not intended for focused discussion today.

There were no further questions.

### Revenue

County Councillor Gareth Dadd introduced the revenue budget report and said that there were no significant differences to what has been reported over the past three Quarters and what had been agreed through the annual budget. He noted that whilst there was a surplus identified this had been largely through unexpected windfalls and he reminded Members that there was a significant recurring deficit moving forward.

Gary Fielding stated that although the revenue budget remained broadly in line with forecasts and expectations there were some changes made in the final quarter to do with a funding transfer. Further details of this are included in the report and the recommendations at the end of the section. He noted that it was likely that there would

be additional pressures on the Adult Social Care budget and almost certain that there would be additional pressures on the Children's Social Care budget as the year progressed.

County Councillor Michael Harrison said that the Government had given £2bn nationally for all Councils to share to support Adult Social Care service provision. In the case of North Yorkshire County Council this was a total of £19m over three years. Whilst this funding had been welcomed, there would be an additional financial pressure upon Adult Social Care services at the end of that three year period as that gap in funding was in effect created.

County Councillor Carl Les asked Members to consider the recommendations on page 74 as one. County Councillor Gareth Dadd moved the motion and County Councillor Michael Harrison seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote in favour.

#### Treasury Management

County Councillor Gareth Dadd introduced this section of the report and highlighted that there had been a good rate of return on deposits, it being 0.49%. He said that the Council was looking to increase returns as and where this was possible.

County Councillor Carl Les referred Members to the recommendation on page 100 of the report. There was a unanimous vote in favour.

#### Capital Expenditure Outturn and Financing

County Councillor Gareth Dadd introduced the report on Capital Expenditure Outturn and Financing.

Gary Fielding noted that there had been some underspends at the year-end but that this was nearly always the case with capital expenditure. The two areas that had been particularly identified as underspent were schools and the Local Enterprise Partnership. Gary Fielding confirmed that the Local Enterprise Partnership funding would roll through to the next year and not be lost.

County Councillor Mike Jordan queried whether Local Enterprise Partnerships had effective audit and governance measures in place.

In response, County Councillor Carl Les said that the Local Enterprise Partnership for York, North Yorkshire and East Riding operated on a transparent and open basis.

Gary Fielding stated that the Local Enterprise Partnership had recently undergone an assurance review and the outcome of that had been an 'Exceptional' rating for financial management. He noted that North Yorkshire County Council is the accountable body for the Local Enterprise Partnership and that strong governance arrangements are in place.

County Councillor Don Mackenzie said that there remained robust political scrutiny of Local Enterprise Partnership funding and how it was spent in the county.

County Councillor Gareth Dadd said that in North Yorkshire there was the right balance between having a strong private sector lead for the Local Enterprise Partnership whilst also having the County Council providing strong and robust governance and oversight as the accountable body.

County Councillor Carl Les asked Members to consider the recommendation on page 110 in the report. These were moved by County Councillor Gareth Dadd and seconded by County Councillor David Chance. There was a unanimous vote in favour.

County Councillor Carl Les noted that the recommendation at the end of the report on page 118 had all been picked up as the Members had worked through the report section by section and as such no further action was required.

**Resolved –**

- (a) That it be noted that the County Council continues to perform well and demonstrate improvements in its services.
- (b) The latest position for the County Council's 2017/18 Revenue budget as summarised in paragraph 2.1.2 of the report be noted.
- (c) That the proposals for the use of the additional Adult Social Care funding as set out in paragraphs 2.3.1 to 2.3.8 of the report be endorsed that the proposed seek to limit exposure to recurrent financial risk for these schemes to a maximum of £3.4m, which reflects the value of the final year's grant allocation be noted.
- (d) That the position of the GWB as set out in paragraphs 2.5.1 to 2.5.3 of the report be noted.
- (e) That the position on 'Strategic Capacity - Unallocated' reserve as set out in paragraphs 2.5.4 to 2.5.6 be noted.
- (f) That it be recommended to County Council the proposed carry forward of £1,003k earmarked for BES development initiatives detailed in paragraphs 2.2.9 of the report.
- (g) That the performance of the Treasury Management operation during 2017/18 and the outturn position on Prudent Indicators be noted.
- (h) That the position on capital outturn as detailed in Appendices A to E of the report be noted.
- (i) That it be recommended to the County Council, the proposed carry forward to 2018/19 of the net capital underspend totalling £4.0m as set out in paragraph 5.9 of the report.
- (j) The financing of capital expenditure as detailed in paragraph 5.11 and Appendix F of the report be approved.

## **169. Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies**

Considered –

A report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) to enable any appointments to Committees or major outside bodies to be considered for approval.

County Councillor Carl Les introduced the report and asked Members to consider the recommendations. There was a unanimous vote in favour of the recommendations.

**Resolved –**

- (a) That the appointment of County Councillor Carl Les as the North Yorkshire representative on the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board and County Councillor Andrew Lee as the substitute be approved.
- (b) That County Councillor Carl Les be appointed as North Yorkshire County Council representative on the Leeds City Region Partnership Committee and County Councillor Gareth Dadd as a substitute.

## **170. Forward Work Programme**

The Forward Plan for period 31 May 2018 to 31 May 2019 was presented.

County Councillor Carl Les drew Members' attention to the Forward Plan and noted that the Executive meeting that had been scheduled for 24 July 2018 was still going ahead, despite being marked in the programme as cancelled, as there had been a number of items of business brought forward.

**Resolved –**

The forward work programme is noted.

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**Appendices A to the following report were considered in private and the public have no right of access to this section of Minute No. 171**

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## **171. Commercial Property Investment**

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Strategic Resources on Commercial Property Investment

It was agreed that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of this item on the grounds that the reports contained exempt information as defined in the paragraph(s) specified in column 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to information)(Variation) Order 2006.

The recommendation that Executive approve the proposed commercial property investment was unanimously agreed.

The meeting concluded at 12:20

DH/JR

DRAFT