

North Yorkshire County Council

Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 June 2018 at 10.30 am at The Street, 12 Lower Clark Street, Scarborough.

Present:-

County Councillors Derek Bastiman, Eric Broadbent, David Chance, Liz Colling, Janet Jefferson, Andrew Jenkinson, Clive Pearson, Joe Plant, Tony Randerson, Roberta Swiers and Callam Walsh.

Also in Attendance: County Councillor Carl Les (Leader of the Council); County Council Officers: Kate Arscott, Daniel Harry and Alice Gill (Legal and Democratic Services)

Apologies for absence: County Councillor David Jeffels

1. Appointment of Chairman

Resolved -

That County Councillor Joe Plant be appointed Chairman of the Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee until the first meeting of the Committee following the Annual Meeting of the County Council in May 2019.

County Councillor Joe Plant in the Chair

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

2. Minutes of the meeting of the Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee held on 21 March 2018

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the previous Area Committee be noted.

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Resolved -

That County Councillor Clive Pearson be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee until the first meeting following the Annual Meeting of the County Council in May 2019.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Public Questions or Statements

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

6. Area Constituency Committee - A Suggested Way Forward

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) outlining how the new committee could work and asking Members to review the report and decide what approaches best fit the Area Constituency Committee. A guide to the new Committees was appended to the report.

Daniel Harry, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, introduced the report. He explained that the Area Constituency Committees provided a fresh start and a new way of working, different to the former Area Committees. The report provided details as to how their operation would vary and this meeting was an opportunity for Members to ask questions about that.

He noted that, with four scheduled meetings per year, Area Constituency Committees did not have a substantial time to consider the minutiae of issues within the local area and it was expected that a scrutiny review approach would be adopted, giving consideration to one or two in-depth issues at each meeting, enabling a more strategic approach to be taken to significant matters within the constituency area.

The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager presented a number of key issues for members to consider:

- **Co-option**

The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager advised members that the previous system of co-opted members adopted by Area Committees tended to work better for thematic committees. He suggested that it would be a better use of people's time to seek relevant specialist input and expertise to meetings relevant to the issues being reviewed.

Members were concerned that those members previously co-opted to the Area Committee would feel that their input was no longer valued. They were reminded that Parish and Town Councillors would still be able to raise issues with the Committee through the normal public speaking arrangements, and Parish and Town Councils would continue to be notified of all meetings of Area Constituency Committees and of their entitlement to raise issues through the public speaking arrangements.

- **Regular Updates**

Members were asked whether they wished to continue to receive regular updates on local issues from the Fire and Police, or whether these could be better managed through an annual session on 'place', possibly including highways, public health and stronger communities as well as wider community safety issues. This would leave more time to focus on strategic issues and in depth reviews.

The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager proposed that regular summary reports from Police and Fire be provided for noting only, with Members able to raise any issues of urgent concern with the Chair for appropriate follow up.

Members welcomed the idea of an annual session on 'place' being programmed for the Area Constituency Committee, and requested that this incorporate a focus on future plans.

- **Highways**
The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Team Manager referred to highways issues often being localised. Whilst not underestimating their importance to local Members, there were other routes that could be utilised. The new Area Constituency Committees would undertake a more strategic consideration of highways matters, with local issues dealt with directly through the established referral routes.

Members agreed that the regular meetings with the Area 3 Highways team provided a suitable route to raise ongoing highways matters outside of the Committee arena.

- **Standard and timed agenda**
The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Team Manager asked Members to consider adopting a standard and timed Agenda on the basis that this would ensure a consistent approach to dealing with local issues and concerns whilst also enabling time to be reserved for focussed reviews or scrutiny of issues identified in the Work Programme.
- **Links with Overview and Scrutiny**
It was noted that the County Council's Overview and Scrutiny function would develop a closer working relationship with the Area Constituency Committees, enabling the in-depth topics considered by the Committees to feed into scrutiny reviews, providing a local input into those. It was also expected that Area Constituency Committees could identify local issues that may be worthy of consideration at overarching scrutiny level.

Scrutiny issues that were predominantly local to a specific area could also be considered more in-depth by the Area Constituency Committee than the overarching Scrutiny Committee, which would be then able to develop overall scrutiny more strategically on county-wide matters.

Support would be provided via Scrutiny Officers and Democratic Services Officers to ensure that appropriate dialogue was taking place to prevent duplication of scrutiny issues.

Resolved -

- (i) That the report and comments made be noted.
- (ii) That there be no co-options to the Area Constituency Committee
- (iii) That updates from Police and the Fire and Rescue Service be provided for information only. Where a Committee Member has highlighted an issue to the Democratic Services Officer or to the Chairman ahead of the meeting that needs to be addressed, the Chairman will decide how best to respond either outside of the meeting or at the meeting itself.
- (iv) That an annual session on 'place' be programmed for the Area Constituency Committee, incorporating a focus on future plans

- (v) That representatives of Highways do not routinely attend the Area Constituency Committee
- (vi) That the proposed standard and timed agenda approach be adopted

7. Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee Area Profile

Considered –

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) providing an overview of some of the key issues in the area covered by the Area Constituency Committee.

The report was introduced by the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Team Manager who advised that the area profile had been produced to assist Members to identify issues that may be worth further consideration by the Committee. He highlighted:

- Top line statistics and key topics.
- Map of area highlighting areas of interest.
- Local insight report containing key social and economic indicators.
- Education data for the past three years.

Headlines within the report included:-

- An ageing population with a greater proportion over 65 years of age and a smaller proportion under 15 years of age
- Higher levels of incapacity benefits being claimed
- Higher levels of people claiming out of work benefits
- Higher levels of people claiming Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance
- Potentially higher levels of in-work benefits
- Higher levels of deprivation
- Higher levels of children in poverty
- Query about the quality of housing for children and the impact that has on health and wellbeing
- Higher levels of people claiming mental health benefits
- Higher levels of residency being a flat in a converted property
- Higher numbers of second homes ownership
- Higher levels of private sector rented property
- Significantly lower house prices
- Higher numbers of vacant dwellings and houses without central heating
- Higher levels of crime, particularly ASB
- Higher levels of coronary heart disease and stroke
- Higher levels of self-employment and lower levels of people in professional occupations
- Key occupations are hotels and catering, retail industry and agriculture all of which can have low wages, be seasonal and insecure and have limited career options
- Low broadband speeds
- Strong sense of community and community engagement
- Low levels of Big Lottery funding secured locally
- Lower levels of attainment at school at all levels and lower numbers of Ofsted rated 'good or outstanding schools'

Committee members expressed strong concerns that some of the data was out of date and therefore the profile did not provide a true picture of the area. Members noted that the Scarborough Borough Local Plan contained good up to date local data.

It was acknowledged however, that the profile report had been pulled together from existing readily available data with the sole purpose of providing a prompt to the Committee in considering and identifying key areas for its forthcoming work programme. It was agreed to add a note to this effect on the published report, in order to clarify its limited purpose to the wider public.

Issues particularly highlighted by members in discussion of the report included green space, weekly household income, educational attainment, life expectancy and the occurrence of limiting illness.

Resolved -

That the report be noted and that a note be added to the published report to clarify its limited purpose as a prompt to discussion on the Committee's forward work programme.

8. Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee Draft Work Programme

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) asking Members to review the draft Work Programme, taking into account the outcome of discussions on previous agenda items and any other developments taking place across the area.

Members identified the following issues as potential forward work programme items:

- Buses in rural areas
- Rail infrastructure
- Life expectancy
- Funding opportunities
- Educational attainment
- Coastal Growth Plan
- Suicide prevention

Members noted that MPs were to be invited to the next round of Area Constituency Committee meetings, and agreed that a theme of health and adult social care should be adopted for this meeting. It was noted that the date of the meeting was subject to confirmation with the MP.

Resolved -

That the above items be incorporated into the Committee's work programme

The meeting concluded at 10.35am

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