

County Council Meeting

Wednesday 14 November 2018

Leader's Statement

There but not there

As we all know this year marks the 10th anniversary of the end of The First World War, the “war to end all wars” that involved every country in Europe, most countries throughout the rest of the world, and touched the lives of nearly every family in the British Isles.

We participated in the nationwide commemorative campaign of life size silhouettes, and our 10 “Tommys” were positioned at various locations throughout the County.

As Armistice Day falls on Remembrance Sunday this year we were unable to hold our own silence at 1100, so the Chairman was asked to lay a wreath on the Council's behalf, accompanied by Group Leaders, on the Friday afternoon immediately preceding Armistice Day.

Area Constituency Committees

The first proper round of ACCs have now been held, and Members were able to have good engagement with our MPs on a range of issues, especially Adult Social Care, which they were able to feed into the political process in Westminster.

Budget

The budget has produced some very welcome additional funds for Adult Social Care, Children's Services and road repairs. Although this is one-off money, I'm optimistic that if these financial pressures having been identified and accepted now, (because of the work we have done with our MPs above, and through our involvement with the County Councils Network), then these same pressures may be recognised in the overall government Spending Review to take place next year. We expect to receive the draft Local Government Settlement in early December.

Wider Partnership Conference

Last month we held our annual Wider Partnership Conference, where we get together to build on the good work we do with our essential partners from the voluntary sector. This was the 15th such event, which is valued by our partners, and this year's theme was combatting loneliness and isolation. The highlight of the morning is always the presentation by the Council Chairman of awards and the recognition of numerous volunteers, individuals as well as groups.

North Yorkshire is a much better place for all their varied efforts.

Local Enterprise Partnership

There is a nationwide review of LEPs going on at the moment, in particular a review of boundaries with a view to removing overlaps. Our LEP is one of the strongest and best performing in the country, having had strong leadership from the private sector, notably through the previous Chair, Barry Dodd, and the present Chair, David Kerfoot. The position of our LEP along with many others is that overlaps can work well in many cases and we would want to see an “as is” position going forward. The Chair has been invited to meet with the relevant Minister.

Fire & Rescue

The Statutory Instrument handling governance of F&R to the PCC is making its way through Parliament. We anticipate it will meet the intended transfer date of 15th November. Following that confirmation the Police and Crime Panel will discuss how it becomes the Police, Crime and Fire panel, and the new duties that entails.

The final (informal) meeting of the Fire & Rescue Authority will take place this afternoon, after this Council meeting. I would like to record our thanks to all Members of the FRA, present and past, for the work they have done in looking after interests of our communities.

Yorkshire Local Councils Association

The YLCA is an excellent source of advice and guidance to our local parish councils, and I would urge members to endorse YLCA to the parish councils in their divisions, to sign up to their services. In my experience the fees charged are usually covered the first time the Clerk has to get serious advice.

Carl Les, Leader

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