

North Yorkshire County Council

14 November 2018

**Transport, Economy and Environment
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Chairman's Statement

1. Since my previous statement the Committee met on 25 October 2018. Cllr John McCartney chaired the meeting in my absence.

Committee – 25 October 2018

Ringway

2. The Committee was provided with the results of the Evaluation Panel held in May 2018. Ringway met 10 out of 12 Primary Performance Indicators and six out of 10 Secondary Performance Indicators in 2017/18. Based on this outcome the term of the contract remains unchanged at nine years, with a contract completion date of 31 March 2021.
3. In most instances where targets were missed it was by a very narrow margin, apart from gullies cleaned within 14 calendar days of programme (66.88% actual achieved against a target of 97%). To be fair, the measure is defined in such a way that means that if gullies are cleaned before 14 calendar days ahead of schedule this is also classed as a fail. However of more concern is that in other instances gullies have been missed completely. We were informed that Ringway and NYCC Highways are working more closely to get back on track and improve performance in this regard, including improving their shared understanding of the precise location of the gullies. Members did query though whether the number of gully-emptying machines needs to be increased in light of the vast road network in our county.
4. We probed the reasons why the target relating to the number of incidents per 1,000,000 hours worked had not been met. Ringway explained that health and safety remains their primary concern and that they have an industry leading record in this regard. There is a separate health and safety governance framework in place between Ringway and NYCC Highways to look at specific instances and to establish where on-site improvements can be made. Last year incidents ranged from minor injuries such as muscle strains to a more serious incident of a member of the workforce being hit by a vehicle driven by a member of the public who had disregarded the road closure signs.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points in North Yorkshire

5. The government's target to ban the sale of new diesel and petrol cars and vans by 2040 might seem a long way off now but such timescales have a habit of creeping up on us. It's clear from the report that we received, which gave a position statement on the number of charging points across the county, that we are a long way off being ready. However we can expect that electric vehicle

battery technology will improve radically in the next few years and new ways of charging up electric vehicles will come about. The Committee agreed with the current approach of waiting to see how the technology progresses before the County Council invests significant amounts from its own budget in lots of charging points across the county. And at the same time the County Council should become more 'bid ready' to exploit any ongoing grant funding opportunities from government to increase the number of charging points in the county. A similar situation applied in the past to broadband and the lessons that we learned from that could help with the roll out of electric vehicle charging, especially in our more rural areas. Members expressed the view at the meeting that because the changeover to electric vehicles is national government policy, the government in partnership with the private sector should be financing the roll-out of charging points rather than it being left to local authorities.

Proposed changes to the charging schedule for the Historic Environment Record

- 6. North Yorkshire County Council maintains the Historic Environment Record (HER). The HER is a database of all archaeological finds, sites and historic buildings across the region and is constantly updated with new information. Heritage Services are seeking to introduce a new charging policy for commercial searches to comply with the County Council's new Information Transparency, Access and Re-use Policy. The reasons for the new policy are linked to changes in the General Data Protection Regulations and new interpretations of the Freedom of Information Act and the Environmental Information Regulations.
- 7. We were informed that without the introduction of the new charging structure there will be a dramatic reduction in income. The new charging structure will allow a similar level of income generation to be maintained as previously. Accordingly the Committee recommended to the Executive Portfolio Holder that the proposed charging regime set out in the report should be adopted.

Vehicle Activated Speed Signs review

- 8. The Committee was pleased to note that the Executive, at its meeting on 25 September 2018, approved in principle our recommendation that parishes should be able to purchase and maintain VAS subject to County Council oversight. Accordingly the Portfolio Executive Member and the Corporate Director of Business and Environmental Services Directorate have been tasked with producing an amended policy. We look forward to the scheme being rolled out next year.

Committee – 24 January 2019

- 9. The following items are planned to be brought to the next committee meeting on 24 January 2019:

YNYER LEP	Annual update on the work of the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership
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Adult Learning and Skills Service	Update on the measures put in place in response to the Ofsted inspection held in June 2017
Rural transport	An update on rural bus services and community transport
Vehicle Activated Signs	The outline policy proposals for the revised VAS policy
Future Delivery of the Highway Service	Strategic options proposals for the new Highways Maintenance Contract

**County Councillor Mike Jordan
Chairman**

Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
County Hall
Northallerton

2 November 2018