

North Yorkshire County Council

Executive

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Northallerton on Tuesday, 27 November 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 Derek Bastiman, Jim Clark, John Ennis, Caroline Goodrick, Paul Haslam, Janet Jefferson and Stanley Lumley.

Officers present: David Bowe, Justine Brooksbank, Stuart Carlton, Richard Flinton, Daniel Harry, Barry Khan, John Lee, Steve Loach, Nick Morgan, Dale Owens and Richard Webb.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

229. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2018, having been printed and circulated, are taken as read and are confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

230. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to note.

231. Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved –

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Minute Nos. 236 - Proposed Development of Extra Care Housing Scheme in Helmsley (Appendix C only) and 237 - Private Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2018, on the grounds that they each involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006.

232. Questions and Statements from members of the public

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

233. Quarterly Performance and Budget Monitoring Report

Considered -

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

County Councillor David Chance introduced the performance report for Quarter 2, confirming that the Council continued to demonstrate good performance across all four of its ambitions.

He noted that the in-depth focus for the Quarter 2 performance report was, "every adult has a longer healthier and independent life". He also stated that the Quarter 3 report would focus on the Council Plan ambition "every child and young person had the best possible start in life".

Healthier and Independent Living

County Councillor Chance outlined the following:-

- ◆ Customer satisfaction for Living Well had been maintained at above 95%.
- ◆ 91.1% of people receiving a re-ablement service had not returned for a subsequent permanent service within 90 days of the completion of their package in the first half of the year.
- ◆ Admissions to permanent and residential nursing placements were lower than last year.
- ◆ Work on delayed transfers of care had resulted in the rate of social care bed days reducing by 53% against the baseline.
- ◆ Phase 1 of the strength-based reassessment project achieved savings of £4m in line with its savings target.
- ◆ Actual referral numbers against reduced staff numbers continued to show a disproportionate increase with contacts up 2% and referral numbers up 4% year on year.
- ◆ The rate of increase in placements above approved budget rates for older people had slowed but was still running at 43% across the county, reaching 68% in Harrogate and Craven.
- ◆ Health-related delayed transfers of care continued to show slow improvement.
- ◆ The rate of increase in the average cost of personal budget had slowed in-year at £13.7k for Quarter 2, representing an 11% increase over the past 12 months - £3.1m per annum.

Best Start to Life

County Councillor Chance outlined the following:-

- ◆ The number of re-referrals to Children's Social Care had increased to 18.4% compared to 15.7% in Quarter 1.
- ◆ Referrals to Children's Social Care were up 20% year on year feeding through to rising rates of Looked After Children rates.
- ◆ A 10% increase in Education, Health and Care Plans since Quarter 2 last year had emerged for children and young people with SEND.

Modern Council/Growth

County Councillor Chance highlighted the following:-

- ◆ The performance of the Customer Service Centre and the reduction in high risk problems.
- ◆ The publication of the Stronger Community Team's Annual Report and details relating to grants provided, projects evaluated, volunteers supporting County Council services (including libraries) and benchmarking taking place.
- ◆ The development of the Community Safety Strategy 2018-2021 and the priority areas for development.
- ◆ Challenges to the County Council in terms of increasing demands and falling budgets.

In-depth Focus for Quarter 2 - Every Adult has a Longer, Healthier and Independent Life

County Councillor Michael Harrison provided highlights from the in-depth report as follows:-

- ◆ The success of the Living Well Service which was assisting people to remain independently in their communities, and was better for the individuals concerned and in terms of the use of resources.
- ◆ The re-ablement service was enabling people to return to independent living and remain there, with a much lower return to that service than previously, indicating that the strategy was working appropriately.
- ◆ There were fewer people having to remain in hospital because of delayed transfers of care due to the strategy.
- ◆ He recognised the challenge outlined earlier, in relation to the rate of increase of placements above approved budget rates for older people, which had slowed, but was still running at 43% across the county and reaching 68% in Harrogate and Craven. He noted that this was of real concern to the Service and would need to be addressed going forward.

The Corporate Director, Health and Adult Services, Richard Webb, highlighted the achievements detailed within the report and noted that the changes in practice were effective, but would take a number of years to have full effect to produce the outcomes

and savings required. He emphasised that there had been good achievements so far, but there was more to do, going forward.

The following issues were raised in relation to the report:-

- ◆ County Councillor Derek Bastiman highlighted the issues around delays in transfer in the Scarborough area and asked what was being done to improve the situation. In response County Councillor Michael Harrison highlighted the issues that were challenging the response to delays in transfer noting that the County Council were only able to respond to issues relating to social care. He, and the Corporate Director, outlined that there was currently an issue relating to provision of home care packages due to a short term shortage of available staff to deliver care packages. A major recruitment campaign was taking place both within the private and Council sectors to address the situation, with the benefits of working in the care sector being detailed.
- ◆ County Councillor John Ennis asked whether the rising levels of customer demand would ease or whether these would become more substantial moving into the winter period. The Corporate Director highlighted the challenges that were affecting that demand and how that was impacting on the services provided. He noted that more work was being carried out within hospitals to reduce delays in re-ablement and expected those levels of service to continue to have a high level of demand.
- ◆ In relation to the forthcoming winter period, County Councillor Jim Clark asked if services were better prepared than in previous years, in terms of the likely increased impact on health care services during the winter months noting that the issue would be considered at the forthcoming Scrutiny of Health Committee. In response the Corporate Director emphasised that the position was unpredictable but County Council staff would make every effort to ensure that those requiring services had their needs fully met. He outlined that plans were in place to take account of the potential increase in demand during the winter months and emphasised the plans were continually reviewed throughout the year to determine appropriate capacity levels through the winter in an attempt to prevent significant issues from arising. County Councillor Clark welcomed the assurances provided, noting that he was confident that County Council staff would be well equipped to deal with situations as they arose, but wondered whether the Hospital Trusts were in a similarly position. The Corporate Director emphasised that plans were also in place for each of the Hospital Trusts but noted that North Yorkshire was in a unique position in having five different Health Care providers in the region which, in the main, were brought together to co-ordinate services through the County Council.
- ◆ County Councillor Bastiman noted the complaints that had been detailed within the report, during the Quarter, and asked what these related to and how they were being addressed. In response County Councillor Harrison stated that a Complaints and Compliments Team had been established in Health and Adult Services and this was utilised to address such occurrences. In respect of the complaints there was no specific trends in terms of issues coming through. The Corporate Director noted that the majority of complaints related to financial assessment and contributions, etc in relation to the provision of care packages. In response to County Councillor Ennis's question around whether there were many complaints in respect of the quality of services provided, the Corporate Director acknowledged there were some, but the majority resulted from those entering the support

process. County Councillor Harrison emphasised that the nature of complaints was carefully monitored and issues arising were considered and addressed via the relevant services.

Quarter 3 Focus - "Every Child and Young Person has the Best Possible Start in Life"

County Councillor Janet Jefferson raised the following issues in relation to this Council Plan ambition:-

- ◆ She stated that the issue of the budget going forward, would be considered at the forthcoming Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 December.
- ◆ She sought details of the reasons for the increase in referrals to Children's Social Care and how the increase was being dealt with.
- ◆ She raised concerns regarding the red indicator within the report around self-harming incidents.
- ◆ She noted that there was still an element of under-performance in respect of Key Stage 2 Maths.
- ◆ She noted the increase in the recruitment of Social Workers.
- ◆ Her major concern, however, was the increase in the number of exclusions throughout North Yorkshire and the changes to the high needs allocation, currently under consultation, which had been highlighted at the recent County Council meeting in terms of potential changes to the Pupil Referral Unit provision. She recognised the difficulties faced in relation to this matter, but had concerns in respect of safeguarding and ensuring children remain in education.

In response County Councillor Patrick Mulligan acknowledged the concerns raised in relation to exclusions, which were shared by all involved. He emphasised that there was no doubt about the quality of provision from the Pupil Referral Units, however, despite working extensively alongside schools the Units had not been able to prevent exclusions from rising substantially. It was being proposed, therefore, that an alternative process be developed to better target preventative measures in each specific area of the county. It was expected that this would assist in addressing the situation with regards to exclusion and assist young people in staying in school, rather than suffering the difficulties that exclusion brought.

The Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, Stuart Carlton, highlighted the following in relation to the issues raised:-

- ◆ In respect of the high needs situation he noted that the current provision had been substantially over budget and there was a need to address that situation, whilst bearing in mind the issues around exclusions and children with SEND. He noted that, currently, exclusions were not above the national average, however, pupils within the Pupil Referral Units were funded at a level above the national average. The consultation taking place, with regards to funding levels, proposed that costs per pupil would be around the national average and that the work with the Pupil Referral Units, to prevent exclusions, continued.

- ◆ In terms of the Maths strategy for Key Stage 2 pupils, the Service was working hard with the Teaching Schools' Alliances, and individual schools, to address that dip in performance, in the subject, at that level.
- ◆ The increase in the number of referrals to Children's Social Care mirrored the position nationally and resulted from a mixture of social issues. A raised awareness of those issues was also a factor.
- ◆ There had been a substantial recruitment programme in terms of Social Workers which had bolstered the provision, with the east coast service detailed as an example, and the additional personnel were having a significant positive impact in that area.
- ◆ County Councillor Jefferson noted that a restructure of the Prevention Service was currently taking place and asked whether details could be provided to Scrutiny in relation to that. The Corporate Director outlined the purpose behind the restructure with a view to more closely aligning the early help prevention work to service provision and stated that he was willing to attend Scrutiny to discuss that matter.

Modern Council - Putting Customers at the Heart of Everything we Do

County Councillor Derek Bastiman asked how issues regarding call answering times in the Customer Service Centre were being addressed. In response County Councillor Greg White emphasised that the call answering times were improving and were being dealt with quickly. He noted that social care calls were prioritised, with the majority answered within a minute. He highlighted that more effort was being made to divert people away from ringing in directly, with more reliance on the website being promoted, as the service via that medium was more effective and efficient. County Councillor Bastiman raised concerns that not everyone was able to easily access websites, and a number of user groups had particular difficulty in using that approach. County Councillor White emphasised that those groups were given priority in terms of Customer Service Centre attention.

Growth

There were no issues raised in relation to this County Council ambition.

Revenue Budget 2018/19

County Councillor Gareth Dadd introduced the revenue budget report, highlighting the following issues:-

- ◆ There had been an improvement on the overall budget since Quarter 1 with a projected net underspend of £80k compared to a forecast overspend of £2306k detailed at the end of Quarter 1.
- ◆ There continued to be significant financial pressures on Children and Young People's Service, however, the overspend position had improved since Quarter 1.
- ◆ Savings within Central Services, Business and Environmental Services and Corporate Miscellaneous Budgets assisted with the overspend position, however, not all these were recurring savings.

- ◆ Recent additional funding for adult social care from Central Government was assumed to be fully used and therefore did not impact on the bottom line position.
- ◆ Services continued to not only look at baseline figures, but consider sub-budgets, to ensure that all savings opportunities were identified
- ◆ Details of the current working balance and unallocated reserves were provided.

Annual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators

County Councillor Dadd highlighted the following:-

- ◆ In the case of cash invested the average interest rate achieved exceeded the seven day benchmark rate - the County Council continued to investigate alternative investments to ensure that benchmarks were exceeded.
- ◆ The performance of investments was dependent upon the economic outlook and the need for stability in relation to that was emphasised.
- ◆ The general position of the County Council's overall debt had improved.

Capital Plan

County Councillor Dadd outlined the following:-

- ◆ He noted that the unallocated sum within the Capital Plan would remain as such and be kept in reserve.

Resolved -

- (a) That the contents of the performance report, together with the updates and issues raised be noted and action undertaken accordingly, where appropriate.
- (b) That the latest position for the County Council's 2018/19 revenue budget as summarised in paragraph 2.1.2 be noted.
- (c) That the position on the GWB, paragraphs 2.4.1 to 2.4.3, be noted.
- (d) That the position on the "strategic capacity - unallocated" reserve, paragraphs 2.4.4 to 2.4.6, be noted.
- (e) That the position on the County Council's Treasury Management activities during the first quarter of 2018/19 be noted.
- (f) That the Treasury Management report be referred to the Audit Committee for their consideration as part of the overall monitoring arrangements for Treasury Management.
- (g) That the updated Capital Plan, summarised at Appendix E, which incorporates a number of specific refinements reported in paragraph 4.7, be approved.
- (h) That it be agreed that no action be taken at this stage to allocate any additional capital resources, paragraph 4.1.1.

234. Approval to Publish Statutory Notices - Moorside Infant School

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service outlining the outcome of the public consultation carried out by the Service on the proposals to amalgamate Moorside Infants School and Moorside Junior School to create a single 3-11 primary school on the junior school site, and create satellite specialist provision from Mowbray School on the Moorside Infant School site.

The Executive were asked to consider responses to the consultation, to authorise the publication of statutory proposals and to schedule taking a final decision on the proposals on 19 February 2019.

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan presented the report emphasising that this was a positive solution to the provision of Special Educational Needs in the Ripon area, together with a positive outcome for Moorside Infant and Junior Schools.

He highlighted the consultation process that had taken place and the two public meetings which had been, in the main, positive.

The main issues raised in response to the proposals had been as follows:-

- ◆ The impact of the reduction of pupil places across both schools and increased housing in the area.
- ◆ Concerns about increased traffic and parking around the schools.
- ◆ Lack of secondary specialist provision in Ripon given that the proposed Mowbray satellite provision was for primary aged pupils.

Responses to the concerns were set out in the report.

The proposals to amalgamate Moorside Infant School and Moorside Junior School would provide a single site for the two schools, thereby reducing overheads in terms of running costs. The creation of a satellite specialist provision for Mowbray School on the infant school site would provide a much needed specialist provision in Ripon.

He noted that, should approval be given by the Executive, then a statutory notice would be published on 11 January 2019 proposing to amalgamate Moorside Infant School and Moorside Junior School and create satellite provision from Mowbray School on the Moorside Infant School site, with a final decision on the proposals being undertaken by the Executive on 19 February 2019.

County Councillor Janet Sanderson supported the proposals emphasising that Mowbray School had an excellent reputation and that this was good news for the provision of Special Educational Needs in Ripon.

Resolved -

- (i) That statutory proposals and a statutory notice be published on 11 January 2019 proposing to amalgamate Moorside Infant School and Moorside Junior School, to

create a single 3-11 primary school on the junior school site, and create satellite provision from Mowbray School on the Moorside Infant School site; and

- (ii) That the Executive schedule taking a final decision on these proposals on 19 February 2019.

235. Forward Plan

Considered -

The Forward Plan for the period 15 November 2018 to 30 November 2019.

Resolved -

That the Forward Plan be noted.

Appendix C to Minute No. 236 and Minute No. 237 were considered in private and the public have no right of access to this section of the Minutes.

236. Proposed Development of Extra Care Housing Scheme in Helmsley

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Health and Adult Services, seeking approval to award the funding required from the Council to support the development of a new extra care housing scheme in Helmsley. County Councillor Michael Harrison introduced the report highlighting the need for the development in Helmsley, which would be undertaken by Housing and Care 21, and the benefits that this would bring to the area. He noted that the scheme would provide housing, care and support services in line with the Council's objectives and ambitions and noted that the report provided full details of the scheme proposal.

The Assistant Director, Care and Support Services, Dale Owens, stated that the development was expected to be completed in January 2019 and had been submitted to the Executive to ensure compliance with State Aid and procurement rules.

County Councillor Greg White requested details on the nominations and allocations scheme that would accompany the development. In response it was stated that as a condition of the planning permission granted, a Section 106 Agreement, by the North York Moors National Park Authority, ensured that the scheme could only be occupied by persons where at least one member of the household was aged 55 or above and their partner was aged 50 or above. Continued occupation by surviving partners, where under 55 years of age, would not breach the clause provided they remained as the sole occupant. The nominations and allocations would be managed jointly between Housing and Care 21, Ryedale District Council and North Yorkshire County Council via an Allocations Panel as per the nominations agreement, which was part of the Section 106 Agreement. The nominations agreement would initially consider Helmsley residents, followed by residents from local villages, those located within the Ryedale District and then from wider North Yorkshire. It was noted that the condition would be in perpetuity and was put in place to safeguard the people of North Yorkshire, with a growing number of people retiring into the region.

Resolved -

That the Executive delegates the decision to approve the level of funding, as detailed in Appendix C of the report, to the Corporate Director - Strategic Resources.

237. Private Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 October 2018

Resolved -

That the Private Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2018, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the addition of "Dadd" after County Councillor in paragraph 6 of the Minutes.

The meeting concluded at 12 noon.

SL/JR