

North Yorkshire County Council

15 May 2019

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

Chairman's Statement

1. Since the previous statement the Committee met on 17 April 2019.

Committee – 17 April 2019

SEND Home to School Transport 2018 Policy Change

2. The Committee received an update report and feedback from the Area Constituency Committees on the implementation and impacts of the Home to School Transport Policy adopted May 2018. This included the impact of the removal of the free transport statement for SEND Post-16 to 18 year old students; recognising SEND Post-19 students as adults in education and identifying unmet transport need in line with HAS social care assessment; and promoting the parental transport allowance to SEND sole-occupancy provision with a realistic enhancement to reflect the young person transport need.
3. A positive aspect of the removal of the free transport statement for SEND post 16 to 18 year olds has been that a number of young people who are capable of doing so now travel to their place of education on mainstream college/public transport. This is helping them to build up their independence. We were keen to establish though if the policy changes had impacted upon education attendance levels; we were informed that the changes had not. Additionally, families have been put in touch with the welfare benefits assessment department to check that they are getting the full range of benefits that they are entitled to and are also making use of any bursaries in colleges.
4. Existing transport users have been reluctant to take up the parental transport offer although new applicants have done so. We were interested to establish the extent to which the scheme has been promoted to existing parents and were informed that parents have been contacted to take up the offer. It will be interesting to see if there remains a steady take-up of the parental transport offer as more new parents come on board.

Scarborough Park and Ride

5. The Committee considered the range of options relating to changing the level of service provision of Park and Ride in Scarborough at the Filey Road and Seamer Road sites. As Members will be aware, the consultation is in response to the continuing fall in customers using either site especially outside of the peak-season. The Committee recommended to the Executive that option 3 should be adopted (ceasing the park and ride out of season) rather than closing the sites completely. The Committee recommended that rather than stipulating that the park and ride sites and services be closed from the second Sunday in November until the second Sunday before Easter, a specific opening date of 1 April should

operate unless Easter occurs earlier than 1 April within a given year. This is in view of the timing of Easter varying from year to year.

DEFRA/HM Treasury Consultations on Elements of the Resources and Waste Strategy

6. The Committee was invited to comment on the draft response on behalf of the County Council to be sent to DEFRA and the HM Treasury.
7. The government's Resources and Waste Strategy is a game-changer in the way that we will deal with disposing of and recycling waste not just from a local government perspective but also for society as a whole. The consultation focuses on four areas: consistency in household and business recycling collections in England; reforming the UK packaging producer responsibility system; introducing a Deposit Return Scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland; and plastic tax consultation.
8. The Committee agreed that in theory, in respect of consistency in household and business recycling collections in England, the proposal nationally to collect a core set of materials in household and business recycling collections makes sense. However clarity is needed as to how government will ensure additional resource is given to meet any new costs resulting from collecting and reprocessing of the core dry recycling materials including financial costs to the County Council's long term contracts. Separate collection and treatment of food waste would have a significant impact upon the compositional make-up and amount of waste recovered by our long term waste contract for Allerton Waste Recovery Park. The introduction of free garden waste collections to all households would not be practicable and would also discourage home composting. The introduction or not of minimum fortnightly refuse collection frequency should be determined by local councils rather than by national government.
9. The idea of reforming the UK packaging producer responsibility is to put the full net costs of managing packaging waste on those businesses who use packaging and who are best placed to influence better design. The principle of Extended Producer Responsibility is to be welcomed including the producer pays principle and the commitment to covering local authority costs and how it will incentivise producers to design better (i.e. more recyclable) products. We agreed though that the proposal needs more clarity in a number of areas. This includes whether local authorities have to meet the minimum service standards for the household waste collection service to access the producer funding; whether the definition of minimum service standards either includes or excludes garden and food waste collection standards; and the minimum frequencies of refuse collection for household waste collection.
10. The Committee noted that the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) duplicates elements of the separate proposals to reform the packaging producer responsibility scheme, which should have much greater impact than DRS. We agreed with the officer's draft response that DRS should only be introduced if the Extended Producer Responsibility fails to deliver the anticipated outcomes for these materials. If DRS is introduced it should be focussed on tackling litter and be a UK wide 'on-the-go' scheme rather than an all in approach. There is also

concern about the infrastructure that is needed to operate a DRS system, especially in a rural area.

11. The government is planning to tax plastic packaging that contains less than 30% recycled material to stimulate end markets for plastic and promote better design of packaging. Most of the questions in this part of the consultation are of a technical nature but we agreed that the County Council should support the principle of the plastic packaging tax but is not best placed to respond to many of the questions which are largely matters for industry.

Committee – 15 July 2019

12. The following items are planned to be brought to the next committee meeting on 15 July 2019:

Highways Maintenance Contract	To receive the annual report on actions being put in place by the highways maintenance & highways improvement contractor (Ringway) to improve performance and communications
Highways England	Annual update
Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	Update on the implementation of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy including flood risk/coastal erosion alleviation measures put in place/scheduled to be put in place.
Home to School transport policy for statutory aged pupils	To discuss the results of the current consultation on home to school transport policy for statutory aged children and agree recommendations to the Executive thereof.
North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership	Update report

Other future planned work: 20 mph speed limit task group review

20 mph speed limits

13. Further to the publication of the long-awaited national research project commissioned by the DfT examining 20 mph speed limits, the Committee approved the scope of its review and appointed Members to the task group, at its meeting on 17 April 2019. The task group will meet later this month to look at the County Council’s current policy regarding the introduction of 20 mph speed limits and the existing DfT guidance on the same. The subsequent meetings will involve external stakeholders including 95 Alive, North Yorkshire Police and the ‘20s Plenty’ campaign group. The Committee hopes to report its findings and recommendations to the Executive in the autumn.

County Councillor Stanley Lumley
Chairman

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

1 May 2019