

Scrutiny Committee

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Venue: | Committee Room |
| Date: | Monday 24 February 2014 |
| Present: | Councillors J Crawford (Chair), L Casling, I Chilvers, M Dyson, M Hobson, J McCartney and D Peart. |
| Also Present: | Nigel Adams MP |
| Apologies for Absence: | Councillors D Mackay and Mrs W Nichols. |
| Officers Present: | Karen Iveson – Executive Director (s151), and Palbinder Mann, Democratic Services Officer. |
| Press: | None |

34. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

To **APPROVE** the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 21 January 2014 and they be signed by the Chair.

35. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

36. CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There was no address by the Chair.

37. CALL IN

No items were called in.

38. NIGEL ADAMS MP

Mr Adams provided an overview of his work in his role as an MP for the Selby and Ainsty constituency. The following update was provided:

- There were a number of big issues currently affecting the district including issues relating to the future of Eggborough Power Station and the conversion to biomass affecting the two power stations in the district.
- The overall economic situation in the district was encouraging with now over 70% of the jobs in the district being full time. The number of people claiming job seekers allowance had also fallen by 35%.

Councillors were presented with an opportunity to ask questions of Mr Adams. The following questions and discussion took place:

- A query was regarding whether Mr Adams agreed with the process of dredging the tidal rivers in Selby. Mr Adams explained that he was in favour of dredging however the water flows also needed to be managed correctly. Concern was also raised at the lack of money, the Environment Agency spent on flood alleviation.
- Discussion took place regarding representations on drainage boards. Mr Adams stated that he understood there had been a change in the structure of drainage boards with there now being more Council representatives.
- A query was raised regarding North Yorkshire cuts to travel provisions affecting children's ability to go to school and college. Mr Adams explained that York would be undertaking a trial where the government will work with the local authority to help deliver services that had been affected. With regard to the cuts imposed, Mr Adams stated that he had not received many letters from constituents on this however his colleague, the Scarborough MP was the minister for buses and he would be speaking with him about this issue.
- Discussion took place on the issues affecting Eggborough Power Station. Mr Adams explained that the Power Station had been bidding for money along with other businesses. The fund being bid for had then been split into three strands at the last minute and out of ten successful bidders, Eggborough had come 11th. Mr Adams claimed that Eggborough Power Station employed a significant number of employees and work was being done behind the scenes to ensure the station remained open and the jobs safeguarded.
- A query was raised regarding the new HS2 rail link. Mr Adams explained that he thought the principal of HS2 was correct however the route was currently flawed. He stated that it may be a better idea for the route to go straight through to York instead of stopping at Leeds then having a branch through Selby. The Committee were informed that the Department for Transport's consultation on the route had now finished and they would be making a final submission regarding the route at the end of the year.

In response to a query concerning the effect on people's houses, Mr Adams explained that there was a hardship scheme available for people to apply to and currently there had been applications submitted for this from two people.

- Discussion took place on the condition of the Selby bypass. Mr Adams explained that he had held a meeting with the Chief Executive of North Yorkshire County Council who was looking into the issues.
- In response to a query concerning funding to improve the state of the roads in the County, Mr Adams explained that the County Council had received additional funding for improvements however the Cabinet Member for Transport at the County Council had stated that he would be making representations to Government to request that they match fund the £5m allocated from the County Council.
- Discussion took place on the state of the Selby High Street. Mr Adams explained that Selby had been allocated £10,000 for improvements however this was now with the Chamber of Commerce. Mr Adams also explained that Selby had a better occupancy rate than York and it was important to make parking easier to encourage investment.

The Chair thanked Mr Adams for his attendance.

39. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2014-15

The Committee considered the Work Programme for 2014-15.

RESOLVED:

- i) To approve the Work Programme for 2014-15.**

The meeting closed at 6.04pm