



Minutes

Scrutiny Committee

Venue:	Committee Room
Date:	Tuesday 26 January 2016
Time:	5.00 p.m.
Present:	Councillors J Crawford (Chair), D Buckle, I Chilvers, D Mackay and D White.
Apologies for Absence:	Councillor Mrs W Nichols.
Officers Present:	Jonathan Lund – Deputy Chief Executive, and Janine Jenkinson - Democratic Services Officer.
Also in Attendance:	Councillor Mel Hobson - Selby District Council representative on the Police and Crime Panel (North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC)), Dr Lincoln Sargeant – Director of Public Health (NYCC), Julia Mulligan – Police Crime and Commissioner (North Yorkshire), Councillor Carl Les, Chair, Police and Crime Panel (NYCC), Ray Busby – Panel Support Officer, Police and Crime Panel (NYCC), Inspector Michelle Falkingham and temporary Chief Inspector Charlotte Bloxham – North Yorkshire Police.
Press:	0
Public:	3

28. MINUTES

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2015.

The Deputy Chief Executive provided the Committee with an update on the Great Heck situation. He reported that the final phase of the operation was under way and was scheduled to be completed by the end of January 2016. The final phase involved separating the piles of waste and ensuring the site complied with planning and fire safety requirements.

In relation to page 4 of the minutes, Councillor Buckle reported that a visit to Telford and Wrekin Council had been scheduled in January 2016, but unfortunately due to the flooding incidents in Selby District, the Lead Officer – Community Support had been unavailable to attend. Councillor Buckle advised the Committee that the visit was being rescheduled in March 2016 and he would report back to the Scrutiny Committee after arrangements had been made.

RESOLVED:

- i. To note the update provided.**
- ii. To approve the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 24 November 2015, for signature by the Chair.**

29. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

30. CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chair reminded the Committee that a Scrutiny training session would be held on Wednesday 3 February 2016.

31. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The Director of Public Health, (NYCC) presented the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2015 – The Health of our Children: Growing up healthy in North Yorkshire.

The Director of Public Health (NYCC) explained that throughout 2015 his work had focused on the health of children and young people in North Yorkshire and he had explored the theme of resilience. The Annual Report adopted a thematic approach to the issues and as part of producing the report, children and young people had been asked what being healthy meant to them.

The Committee was provided with key health information in relation to the following areas:

- Pregnancy and birth;
- early years;
- primary school years;
- secondary school; and

- late adolescence and early adulthood.

In response to a question regarding binge drinking in late adolescence, the Director of Public Health (NYCC) advised the Committee that alcohol misuse was a health and cultural issue. He reported that the North Yorkshire Joint Alcohol Strategy aimed to galvanise partner agencies within North Yorkshire to collectively reduce harms associated with alcohol.

A query was raised regarding the location of fast food outlets and if there was any planning legislation that could be used to prevent fast food outlets being located near to venues children and young people regularly visited, such as schools and colleges. The Director of Public Health (NYCC) advised that there was currently no legislation that could be used to restrict planning permission on public health grounds.

Some concern was raised regarding young peoples use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). The Director of Public Health (NYCC) said there was currently little official health information available about the use of NPS. With regard to monitoring and enforcement, the Committee was informed that Trading Standards often carried out test purchases and reported back to the Police if there were any issues.

Responding to a question about childhood obesity, the Director of Public Health (NYCC) reported that the weight of young people was monitored in reception class and years 5/6.

In concluding his presentation, the Director of Public Health (NYCC) drew Councillors' attention to the key recommendations set out in the report, in relation to the following:

- Child Poverty
- 0-5 Healthy Child Programme
- Parenting Programmes
- Childhood obesity
- PSHE in Schools
- Maximise opportunities for Future in Mind

The Chair thanked the Director of Public Health (NYCC) for providing the Committee with an update on his work.

RESOLVED:

To note the report and presentation provided at the meeting.

32. POLICE CRIME COMMISSIONER – NORTH YORKSHIRE

Julia Mulligan, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), North Yorkshire provided the Committee with an overview of her role and an update on her recent work.

In relation to Government funding, the PCC informed the Committee that the Chancellor had in November 2015 pledged there would be no reduction to Police budgets. Councillors were advised that the PCC had responsibility for the Police budget, which comprised a combination of central government grants and money from the local police precept. The PCC stated that she planned to increase the precept by 1.99% for 2015/16; and there would continue to be pressure to ensure the Police service was financially efficient and made savings to invest in front line services.

The PCC reported there was an increasing demand on the Police service in relation to crimes in connection with domestic abuse, on-line grooming, and child sexual exploitation, and these crimes were often complex and involved specialist skills.

In addition, the PCC reported there was an increasing demand on the Police service in relation to crimes associated with mental health issues. The PCC estimated between 20 – 40% of all calls to the Police related to mental health issues and in order to address this, a trained mental health nurse had been appointed to work at the Police call control room, to provide assistance to callers.

In response to a question, the PCC confirmed there were proposals for Selby Police staff to be relocated to the Civic Centre. The proposals were currently subject to planning and parking issues being resolved. The PCC said the move would provide financial savings, operational benefits and improve partnership working.

Councillors expressed some concern in relation to rumoured proposals to close some rural Police Stations. In response, the PCC reassured the Committee that there would be no Police Station closures and confirmed that the level of neighbourhood policing would not be reduced.

The PCC informed Councillors that a review of how the public contacted the Police in a non-emergency would be undertaken and as part of the review, Station opening hours and ways of improving public access to the Police would be explored.

There was some discussion about a voluntary Speed Watch Scheme that would be rolled out across North Yorkshire. The PCC informed the Committee that the Scheme would be co-ordinated by a paid officer and operated by voluntary members of the public.

The Chair thanked the PCC for attending and providing the Committee with an update on her work.

RESOLVED:

To note the update provided at the meeting.

33. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL UPDATE

Councillor Carl Les, Chair of the Police and Crime Panel (NYCC), Councillor Mel Hobson, Selby District Council representative on the Police and Crime Panel and Ray Busby, Panel Support Officer (NYCC) provided an update on the work of the North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel.

The Panel Support Officer (NYCC) informed the Committee that the main role of the Police and Crime Panel was to scrutinise and hold to account the actions of the elected Police and Crime Commissioner.

Councillors were informed that the role of the Panel also included the following:

- Reviewing the PCC's precept proposals, including the power to veto these proposals if it considered the amount to be inappropriate;
- Considering the PCC's Police and Crime Plan and Annual Report;
- Considering the PCC's proposals for the appointment of a new Chief Constable; and
- Investigating complaints about the PCC.

The Committee was informed that the Police and Crime Panel comprised of one elected representative from each of the district authorities; one from the County Council and two from the City of York. In addition, two Independent 'Community' Members had been appointed.

The Chair thanked the Police and Crime Panel representatives for attending and providing the Committee with an update.

RESOLVED:

To note the report and update provided at the meeting.

34. WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16

The Committee considered the current Work Programme.

Councillors suggested that Great Heck be included in the Work Programme for 2016/17.

The Committee noted that items for the Work Programme 2016/17 would be considered at the meeting scheduled to be held in March 2016.

RESOLVED:

- i. To note the Work Programme 2015/16.**
- ii. To include Great Heck in the Work Programme 2016/17 at the March 2016 meeting.**

35. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan, February – May 2016.

RESOLVED:

To note the Forward Plan February – May 2016.

The meeting closed at 6.30 p.m.