



Minutes

Scrutiny Committee

Venue:	Meeting Room 8
Date:	Friday 26 February 2016
Time:	2.00 p.m.
Present:	Councillors Mrs W Nichols (Chair), D Buckle, I Chilvers, Mrs J Chilvers (substitute for D Mackay), and Mrs D White.
Apologies for Absence:	Councillors J Crawford and D Mackay.
Officers Present:	Janine Jenkinson - Democratic Services Officer.
Also in Attendance:	Councillor M Jordan, Nigel Adams (MP Selby and Ainsty), and Sarah Rudeforth (Caseworker, Office of Nigel Adams MP)
Press:	0
Public	0

36. MINUTES

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2016.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 26 January 2016, for signature by the Chair.

37. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

38. CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There was no address from the Chair.

39. SELBY AND AINSTY MP

Councillors were given the opportunity to ask questions of Nigel Adams, MP for Selby and Ainsty.

The following discussion took place:

- In response to a question regarding the European Union (EU) Referendum, Mr Adams stated that he believed Britain would be better off outside the EU. Explaining his position, Mr Adams said that EU rules had sped up the closure of Kellingley Colliery and several power stations across the country and EU directives continued to threaten jobs in the Selby and Ainsty constituency. He said that other countries would continue to trade with Britain and the country would continue to negotiate trade agreements around the world. He said ultimately the decision to leave or remain in the EU was for voters to decide.
- It was queried why unemployment in Yorkshire had risen to over 6%. In reply, Mr Adams queried the source of the figure and said that unemployment was down locally in Selby and across Yorkshire. He said that over 70% of new jobs created in the area were full time jobs. He stated that in Selby 1.5 % of the working age population were unemployed, which represented a huge improvement on past levels of unemployment. He said the creation of decent jobs would continue to be a priority focus of his work.
- Mr Adams was asked for his opinion on Sunday trading. In reply, Mr Adams said that he personally preferred to have shorter Sunday trading hours; however, he anticipated that as part of the devolution process, trading hours would be determined locally.
- There was some discussion about the retention of Business Rates. Mr Adams said the 100% retention of Business Rates would benefit the Selby District and he welcomed the proposals.
- It was queried whether Mr Adams would be in favour of a Yorkshire Parliament. Mr Adams explained that he would be in favour of some powers being devolved, but not to the extent of creating a Yorkshire Parliament and an additional layer of politicians.
- There was some discussion in relation to the population growth of Sherburn-in-Elmet. Mr Adams was asked if he thought the village would benefit becoming a town. Mr Adams explained that the village

would have to officially apply to become a town. He said he felt that Sherburn needed more facilities and in particular leisure provision. Mr Adams encouraged local councillors to work towards attracting more facilities into the area.

- Mr Adams was asked whether he thought the Council should apply fixed fines for offences such as dog fouling, littering, and fly tipping, as many other local authorities had done. Mr Adams explained that often enforcement and gathering enough evidence to prosecute offenders was difficult.
- Concern was raised in relation to the withdrawal of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding and Mr Adams was asked to provide some further information. Mr Adams said he would look into this and provide the Committee with further details.
- Concern was raised in relation to litter and fly tipping, particularly along the A64.
- There was some discussion about the merger of Brayton High School and Selby High School. Mr Adams explained to the Committee that he was opposed to the merger, and he was not convinced that merging the schools would solve the issues. He highlighted that there were no 'outstanding' schools within his constituency and he was keen for schools judged by Ofsted as 'good' to attain 'outstanding' status.

The Chair thanked Nigel Adams MP for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 2.50 p.m.