



Councillor Steve Shaw-Wright – Chair of Scrutiny Committee

The Scrutiny Committee was due to meet twice since the last update to Council in September 2020.

17 September 2020 – Extraordinary Meeting

Call-In of Executive decision relating to the Review of Car Parking Tariffs

The Committee received the report which asked the Committee to consider the Call In of the decision made in respect of report E/20/9 – Review of Car Parking Tariffs 2020 by the Executive at their meeting on 3 September 2020. Present at the meeting were the Deputy Leader, Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources and the Lead Executive Member for Communities and Development.

Members discussed the call-in and asked a number of questions of Officers and the Executive Members relating to cashless payments, links to regeneration, the local economy and investment in the District's towns, the availability of car parking spaces and parking on residential roads.

The Committee felt that further consideration was required on the matter before them and should be referred to Council for a decision for the following reasons: the Committee were not convinced of the fullness of the report or the meaning behind the description of the 'fragile economy' of Tadcaster; there were concerns around the split between Selby and Tadcaster; there was a lack of consultation with local communities in Selby, Tadcaster and Sherburn, and the report did not mention clearly that cash payments would still be available.

24 September 2020

Work Programme

The committee agreed the work programme as presented.

Corporate Performance Report - Quarter 1 2020/21 (April to June)

Members considered the report and asked Officers to relay the Committee's thanks to all staff that had been working particularly hard during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The report was noted by the Committee.

Financial Results and Budget Exceptions Report to 30th June

The Committee received the report which asked Members to consider and comment on the financial information that covered Quarter 1 of 2020-21. Members had a number of queries about the report in relation to the HRA deficit, the adaptations budget,

budgetary underspends and reasons for these, and the retail and hospitality grants issued by the Council during lockdown.

The report was noted by the Committee.

Treasury Management - Quarterly Update Q1 2020/21

The Committee received the report for Quarter 1 of 2020-21 which reviewed the Council's borrowing and investment activity (Treasury Management) for the period 1 April to 30 June 2020 (Q1) and presented performance against the Prudential Indicators.

The report was noted by the Committee.

Outcome of Housing Centre Review by Task and Finish Group - with recommendations

The Committee considered the report which asked Members to agree the recommendations for subsequent referral to the Executive for consideration and approval.

The recommendations of the Task and Finish Group were set out in the report and summarised by Officers. The Committee agreed that it had been useful to visit all of the Housing Centres in the district in order to inform the recommendations that were to be referred to the Executive.

The Committee agreed that the recommendations set out in the report should be referred the Executive for consideration and approval.

Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles - Selby Annual Review 2019-20 and Verbal Update on Urgent Decision taken during Covid-19 relating to Leisure Services made in May 2020

The Committee received the report which asked Members to consider and comment on the content of the Annual Review 2019-20, and note the information provided by Officers on the urgent decision taken during Covid-19 in May 2020 relating to the waiving of a portion of the management fees for the Leisure Services Contract.

Members asked if Officers were aware of any financial difficulties being experienced by IHL in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Officers advised that there was weekly dialogue between the Council and IHL on this matter, and that in response to the reduced income the management fee had been waived by the Council between April and June 2020. Officers were working with IHL to establish how the service would operate in the future.

The Committee noted the information provided.

Information on Local Government Reorganisation - Discussion Item

The Committee were informed by the Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning that since the discussions at full Council on 22 September 2020, there had been no further developments on the government's proposed local government reorganisation. The Committee agreed that an update should be given at a future Scrutiny Committee meeting when appropriate.

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Reports 2018-2019

The Committee considered the report that asked Members to note the content of the annual reports for the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adult's Boards.

Members discussed the reports and agreed that further scrutiny on the topic in the future could be worthwhile, perhaps as a half or full 'scrutiny in a day' session.

The Committee noted the content of the annual reports.

26 November 2020

Work Programme

Members agreed the work programme as presented and asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Dr Lincoln Sargeant on behalf of the Committee to thank him for his work as Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire, as he was leaving his post in December.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust - Barlow Common Activity Review April 2019 to September 2020 and the Wildlife Habitat Protection Trust - Hambleton Hough Annual Report 2019-20

The Committee received the report as set out in the agenda; in attendance at the meeting remotely were David Craven from Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Martin Blakey from Wildlife Habitat Protection Trust.

Members asked some questions relating to the theft of newly planted trees and some issues experienced at Hambleton Hough.

The Committee noted the report.

Financial Results and Budget Exceptions Report to 30th September 2020

The Committee considered the report which asked them to note the contents and make any comments on the Council's financial results and budget exceptions.

Some questions were asked of Officers about contributions to the Bawtry Road roundabout scheme and the Council's savings targets.

The Committee noted the report.

Treasury Management - Quarterly Update Q2 2020/21

The Committee received the report which asked them to consider the content and make any comments on the Council's treasury management. The Executive Member for Finance and Resources commented on the return on the Council's property fund, which the Committee noted, along with the report.

Council Delivery Plan 2020-23

The Committee were given an overview of the Council's Delivery Plan 2020-23 by the Head of Business Development and Improvement and noted the content of the report.

Update on delivery of the 2018 - 2021 Visitor Economy Strategy

Members were given a comprehensive presentation on the Council's 2018 - 2021 Visitor Economy Strategy by the Head of Community, Partnerships and Customers.

Members thanked Officers for the information and suggested that all Councillors and possibly Parishes should also see the presentation.

The Committee asked questions relating to Welcome to Yorkshire, the Tour de Yorkshire, permissions for advertising events on lampposts and in shop windows on posters and the Hidden Histories project.

The Committee noted the report.

Recommendations from Scrutiny Training on 9 October 2020

The Committee were supportive of the recommendations from the Scrutiny training session on 9 October 2020 and emphasised the importance of ensuring that Ward Members were kept better informed about issues within their areas, i.e. scaffolding and why it had been/would be erected on some properties.

Cross party working was also mentioned, with the work of the Low Carbon Working Group and Housing Centre Working Group sited as prime examples.

Members agreed to take the recommendations forward.

Future Meetings: The next meeting of the Committee will be on 21 January 2021.

Councillor S Shaw-Wright
Chair, Scrutiny Committee