



Councillor Mark Crane

Leader of the Council

Report to Council on 13 April 2021

This report covers the period from the Council meeting on 18 February 2021. During this period, I have attended virtual Executive meetings and represented the Council at local, regional and national virtual meetings. I have attended meetings of the COVID outbreak planning board and a number of District Council Network events. The meetings include North Yorkshire Outbreak Management Advisory Board 26/2, LEP Infrastructure and Joint Assets Board 4/3, LGNYY 5/3, LEP Board 15/3, Yorkshire and Humber Regional Pay briefing and the Yorkshire Leaders Board.

DCN

I have led the District Council Network response on New Homes Bonus, in particular the government is looking at the split between districts and county which is currently 80% district, it is unfair to give the counties any more given that the districts determine the planning applications and where appropriate give the planning permissions. Also NHB only pays once .4% of new homes have been built (based on existing housing numbers), suggestion that this could be higher, I have suggested resisting this and also removing the .4% entirely. There is the suggestion that only authorities with a local plan would get NHB again I would strongly resist this.

Council Performance

Executive considered the quarter 3 Corporate Performance Report in March. I continue to monitor performance during the period. Executive have noted positive work regarding green spaces and the visitor economy and the sixth consecutive quarterly fall in staff sickness absence .Housing repairs continue to be difficult due to Covid and some aspects of the digital strategy have also had to be paused due to the relevant staff being deployed to work on areas such as Covid grants.

COVID

The work relating to the COVID pandemic continues to be a priority to keep our residents and businesses safe. We have been working hard to reduce the number of cases in the Selby District and the numbers are now going down.

Local Government Reorganisation

The consultation on local government reorganisation in York and North Yorkshire is open and closes on the 19 April. There is time to have your say <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/governance-reform-and-democracy/northyorkshire/>

Local Government meetings

On the 25 March 2021 I received a letter from the Minister of State for Regional Growth and Local Government, Luke Hall MP, informing me that the regulations which allow meetings to be held virtually will not be extended after the 7 May 2021. The guidance about the safe use of council buildings have been updated. It is recognised that there may be concern about holding meetings face to face and it is for individual local authorities to apply the Covid-19 guidance to ensure meetings take place safely. The options available include using existing powers to delegate decision making. Local Authorities are encouraged to continue to provide remote access to meetings to minimise the need for the public to attend physically until at least the 21 June. Our Annual Council meeting will be held virtually on the 27 April.

Finally as we have recognised the extraordinary efforts our communities have faced over the last year I would like to express my thanks to the Members and Officers of Selby District Council for all that they continue to do for our residents and businesses throughout this pandemic.

Mark Crane
Leader of the Council