



### **Councillor Steve Shaw-Wright – Chair of Scrutiny Committee**

The Scrutiny Committee has met twice, in January 2022 and February 2022, since the update given at the last meeting of the Council in December 2021.

20 January 2022

### **Executive Member Portfolio Review - Executive Member for Health and Culture**

The Executive Member was in attendance and gave an update on current matters within his portfolio, including contract succession for waste management and succession following LGR, fly-tipping and use of covert cameras, hydro-treated vegetable oil trials as fuel, Covid-19 levels in the district, gypsy and traveller encampments, the Culture and Visitor Economy Board and public artwork as part of the Transforming Cities Fund displayed in Selby Abbey.

Members asked a number of questions on the matters above, as well as health and wellbeing in the district and the plan for jobs.

The Committee thanked the Executive Member for attending.

### **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust - Barlow Common Annual Report 2020-2021 and the Wildlife Habitat Protection Trust - Hambleton Hough Annual Report 2020-2021**

The Chair welcomed to the meeting representatives from the Wildlife Habitat Protection Trust (WHPT) and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT). Members were asked to consider the content of the 2020-21 annual reports and make any recommendations.

The reports gave updates on the leases for both sites, as well as the management plans. The Committee suggested a site visit to both Hambleton Hough and Barlow Common later in the year.

The Chair thanked the representatives from WHPT and YWT for attending.

### **Update on the Contact Centre Move - Verbal Update**

The Head of Business Development and Improvement gave an update on the move of the Contact Centre and information about the various delays and issues there had been due to the pandemic. Other matters included in the update were the changing ways in which the public were contacting the Council (i.e., online), the upcoming launch of the online housing portal, the move of the Contact Centre to the Council Offices, recommencement of face-to-face appointments and the expiry of the Market Cross lease.

### **Housing Revenue Account and Business Plan 2020-2025**

The Committee had a lengthy discussion with Officers on the HRA Business Plan 2020-2025 and reflected the revised cost and income profiles in the budget proposals for 22/23 - 24/25. The HRA Business Plan report had been considered by the Executive at its meeting on 6 January 2022. Updates were also given on housing repairs.

Members considered the report and repairs update and asked numerous questions on matters including the possibility of earlier and more specific appointment times for working residents, external painting, repairs to paths and fences, misting in double glazed windows, thermostat installation and their availability in Council properties, repairs turnaround for empty and void properties, contact details on letters to residents, grass cutting and properties with remaining solid fuel systems. Members noted that grass cutting was the responsibility of the Contracts Team and that this would be forwarded to them as a concern.

Officers answered Members' questions and went on to explain more about the new housing system, planned works to fencing and paths, replacement of double-glazed units, the three void property types and the targets for undertaking work on them, issues around the shortage of some tradesmen and the variety of heating systems across the Council's homes.

Members acknowledged that they had asked Officers for a significant range of information and data; the Committee agreed that a single-issue meeting on housing repairs should be arranged in the next few months in order to give Officers time to collate answers, and to give the Committee the opportunity to focus on what was clearly an important topic. The Executive Member for Housing would also be invited to the single-issue meeting.

### **Work Programme**

Members asked that the Leader be invited to the single-issue meeting on housing repairs, and that Officers try to arrange the PFCC's attendance at committee earlier than June 2022. The Executive Member for Health and Culture offered to contact the PFCC's office regarding the matter as he was a member of the North Yorkshire Police and Crime Board.

Members discussed other future topics and suggested public transport provision in the area, i.e., buses and trains, plans and potential cuts to services; representatives from companies such as Arriva could be invited.

### 17 February 2022

Verbal update at Council by the Chair of the Committee; single issue meeting, theme of which was Blue Light Services with the following guests in attendance:

- Chris Neale, Group Manager Selby District, NY Fire and Rescue Service
- Supt. Mark Khan, NY Police Service
- Rachel Pippin, Deputy Head of Operations, YAS
- Ken Lowe, Area Operations Manager covering Selby, YAS

**Future Meetings:** The next meeting of the Committee will be on 31 March 2022.

**Councillor S Shaw-Wright - Chair, Scrutiny Committee**