



## **Scrutiny Committee**

## **Annual Report 2021-22**

## Introduction by Councillor Steve Shaw-Wright, Chair of Scrutiny Committee 2021-22



I am pleased to present the Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report 2021-22, which sets out the work undertaken by the Committee over the course of the 2021-22 municipal year.

The Committee met 7 times in 2021-22 and considered a range of different issues, details of which are set out later in Appendix A.

I would like to express my thanks to my fellow members of the Committee for their support and continued hard work.

Many people have contributed to Scrutiny in 2021-22, including officers, external partner organisations and my thanks goes out to all of them.

### The Scrutiny Committee

The Scrutiny Committee membership comprised the following members in 2021-22:

<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Independent</b>
A Lee	S Shaw-Wright (Chair)	J McCartney
N Reader	W Nichols (Vice Chair)	
J Chilvers		
R Sweeting		
K Ellis		
<b>Substitutes</b>		
J Mackman	P Welch	M McCartney
M Jordan	R Packham	
J Cattanach		

## **The Role of the Scrutiny Committee**

Scrutiny was introduced by the Local Government Act 2000.

Selby District Council operates a Leader and Executive model, where the Executive is responsible for most day-to-day decisions. The role of the Scrutiny Committee is to scrutinise decisions and performance and to hold the Leader and Executive to account.

Scrutiny's main roles are:

- To scrutinise the performance of the Council and that of its partner organisations and other agencies delivering services within the Selby District.
- To exercise the Council's statutory obligations and powers in relation to Scrutiny.
- Exercise the right of call-in of decisions and recommendations made, but not yet implemented.
- To issue reports and make recommendations, where appropriate, and in relation to any matters listed above, for consideration by the Council, Executive or the relevant Committee of the Council.

## **2021-22 Work Programme**

A summary of the Committee's work over the last year is set out below.

## **Conclusion and Looking Forward to 2022-23**

The Scrutiny Committee fulfilled its role through its work programme in 2021-22.

Further scrutiny training was provided in February 2022, and a liaison group between the three scrutiny Chairs and the Executive also met during the year.

The 2022-23 year will be an unusual one for both the Committee and the Council, as local government reorganisation and the formation of a single unitary North Yorkshire Council from 1 April 2023 will see the end of Selby District Council as we know it. However, the Scrutiny Committee are determined to carry on undertaking their important work throughout 2022-23, with the work programme looking busy already.

Councillor Steve Shaw-Wright

**Chair of the Scrutiny Committee 2021-22**

Date of Meeting	Topic	Discussion and Decision
<b>17 June 2021 – Single Issue Meeting</b>	Housing Repairs	<p>The Committee received a report and presentation from Officers about housing repairs at the Council from the Head of Operational Services, the Strategic Asset Management and Property Services Manager and the Customer Services Manager.</p> <p>Members debated the report and presentation and asked Officers several questions in relation to staff sickness and the effects of the pandemic, the number of void properties and the refurbishment required in them, the targets for and time taken to undertake repairs and refurbishments and gas checks at properties.</p> <p>Members also asked Officers to investigate if residents that were not Council tenants could join the contract that was used for gas checks, for a fee. Officers were unsure and explained to the Committee that this would have to be checked with the Council's Legal Team.</p> <p>A Member attending the meeting as a guest praised the quick response of the team to a tenant whose carer had raised a request for a repair; the matter was fixed on the same day. Officers were also pleased to report that they had received compliments as to the quality of the kitchen and bathrooms installed in several properties as part of wider refurbishments.</p> <p>The Committee asked whether inspections took place prior to work being done to clarify what was required. Officers confirmed that there were supervisors who occasionally attended properties prior to works being started by tradesmen, particularly if the report or</p>

		<p>request that comes through from the Customer Services Team seems complicated.</p> <p><b>Members noted the presentation and asked Officers investigate if non-Council tenants could join the contract for gas checks; and that an update on the move of the Customer Services Unit be sent to all Councillors by email or as part of the Chief Executive's next bulletin to Members.</b></p>
	Work Programme 2021-22	<p>Officers asked Members to suggest topics for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to cover when he attended the November meeting of the committee; these could be sent to Officers by email.</p> <p>Members were also advised that they could send any other suggestions relating to the rest of the work programme to Officers after the meeting, should they so wish.</p> <p><b>The Committee noted the work programme for 2021-22.</b></p>
<b>1 July 2021</b>	Financial Results and Budget Exceptions Report to 31 March 2021	<p>The Committee received the report from the Head of Finance which asked them to consider the content of the report and make any comments on the Council's financial results and budget exceptions.</p> <p>Members had a number of queries about the report in relation to the HRA and General Fund deficits and the reasons for these, and in terms of the carry forwards, the reason that there was a two-year delay in the station lift project which was not expected to take place until 2022-23 at the earliest. It was further queried when the work to continue the car park improvement programme would recommence, and lastly, what level of savings were being made from recycling.</p>

		<b>The Committee noted the Council's financial results and budget exceptions for Quarter 4, to 31 March 2021.</b>
	Treasury Management - Quarterly Update Q4 2020/21	<p>The Committee received the report of the Head of Finance which asked Members to consider the content of the report and comment on the Council's borrowing and investment activity (Treasury Management) for the period 1 April to 31 March 2021 (Q4). The report also presented performance against the Prudential Indicators.</p> <p><b>Members noted the Treasury Management Quarterly update for Quarter 4 2020-21</b></p>
	Annual Report 2020-21	<p>Officers introduced the Committee's Annual Report for 2020-21; Members were asked to approve the report and make any comments or suggestions as to how the format of the Committee's Annual Report could be improved for future years.</p> <p><b>The Committee approved the Annual Report for 2020-21.</b></p>
	Work Programme	<p>The Committee considered the work programme for 2021-22 as presented to them by the Chairman.</p> <p>One Member commented that he remained concerned with housing repairs and felt it should remain on the work programme.</p> <p>The Chairman explained that a special meeting on housing repairs had been held on 17 June 2021, at which time Members had praised the work of officers in their efforts to find solutions to the issues raised.</p>

		<b>Members agreed the work programme as presented.</b>
<b>28 October 2021</b>	Executive Member Portfolio Review - Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development	<p>The Chair welcomed the Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development, Councillor David Buckle, to the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Buckle gave an overview of ongoing work, projects and updates within his portfolio, including town regeneration projects, Sherburn legacy projects, Heritage Action Zones, the Shining Star Awards, Community Legacy Funds, Safeguarding Partnerships and the Selby Station Gateway.</p> <p>The Committee asked several questions of the Executive Member on various subjects, such as the rollout of electric vehicle charging points. It was explained that the rollout of EV points would be in the back Micklegate, South Street and Porthole Road car parks. Members noted that a few private companies were installing EV charging points at offices.</p> <p>Members asked about the redevelopment of Kellingley Colliery and Eggborough Power Station and whether jobs at these sites would produce a suitable number of jobs in the Selby District and if the potential increase of HGVs relating to the sites had been properly considered and noted that all the Council's industrial units were currently full.</p> <p>Members asked about the cost of the recent Shining Star Awards, the ceremony for which was held at Selby Abbey. The cost of the Places and Movement Consultation was queried by the Committee, as well as what was felt to be by the Mayor of Selby a lack of consultation with residents.</p>

		<p>The Committee also asked about the potential development of the land at Burn Airfield and what progress there had been with that proposal.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Executive Member for attending the meeting and providing the update.</p> <p><b>The Committee noted the information.</b></p>
	Corporate Performance Reports Q4 2020-21 and Q1 2021-22	<p>The Committee received the report of the Head of Business Development and Improvement which asked Members to consider and comment on the performance information presented to them for Quarter 4 2020-21 and Quarter 1 2021-22.</p> <p><b>Members considered and noted the content of the reports.</b></p>
	Financial Results and Budget Exceptions Report Q1 - 2021-22	<p>The Committee received the report of the Chief Finance Officer which asked Members to consider and comment on the Council's financial and budget exceptions for Quarter 1 of the 2021-22 year.</p> <p><b>The Committee considered and noted the report.</b></p>
	Treasury Management - Quarterly Update Q1 - 2021-22	<p>The Committee received the report of the Chief Finance Officer which asked Members to consider and comment on the Council's borrowing and investment activity (Treasury Management) for Quarter 1 and performance against the Prudential Indicators.</p> <p><b>Members considered and noted the content of the report.</b></p>



	<p>North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Reports 2019/2020 and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnerships Independent Scrutineer's Annual Reports 2019/2020</p>	<p>The Committee were presented with a report that accompanied the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019-20 and the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnerships Independent Scrutineers Annual Reports 2019-20. The documents would give Members an insight into Selby District Council's current position in relation to ensuring effective safeguarding practices.</p> <p>Members thanked Officers for the time and effort that had been put into producing the report.</p> <p><b>The Committee note the content of the attached annual reports for the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adult's Board.</b></p>
	<p>Work Programme</p>	<p>The Committee considered the 2021-22 work programme. Officers explained that due to the recently announced North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) by-election, due to be held on 25 November 2021, the next meeting of the committee would have to be cancelled and the business scheduled for consideration moved to another date.</p> <p>It was suggested by the Committee that the attendance of the newly elected PFCC be put back to the meeting in February 2022.</p> <p>Members were pleased to note that the Director of Public Health would be attending the Committee's December 2021 meeting.</p> <p>Lastly, it was proposed by Members that the attendance of the Selby and Ainsty MP, Nigel Adams, be combined with a meeting of North Yorkshire County Council's Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee.</p>

		<p><b>The Committee noted the work programme 2021-22 and agreed that the attendance of the newly elected PFCC be put back to the meeting in February 2022, and that the attendance of the Selby and Ainsty MP, Nigel Adams, be combined with a meeting of North Yorkshire County Council's Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee.</b></p>
<b>16 December 2021</b>	Selby Health Matters - A Population Health Approach to Health and Well-Being in Selby District and North Yorkshire Director of Public Health Annual Report 2021	<p>The Committee welcomed North Yorkshire's Director of Public Health, Louise Wallace, and the Head of Communities, Partnerships and Customers to the meeting.</p> <p>The Committee asked about funding and the need for there to be a fair focus of particular areas such as Selby compared to Tadcaster and Sherburn, particularly due to deprivation and about the lack of available housing and care home spaces, which resulted in bed blocking as there were no homes to send patients home to. Members explained that the Selby District had over 1,200 bungalows that would be suitable for such patients, but that they weren't given to the people that needed them, i.e., the elderly. Many residents did not want one-bedroom bungalows now; two-bedrooms would be much better in order for carers or relatives to stay over to help older people living in them. Half-way housing to bring people out of hospital would also be very beneficial. There was also concern from the Committee about the state of the social care system in general due to the ongoing multitude of vacancies in carer roles.</p> <p>Officers were asked to find out how many people lived in one-bedroom bungalows and how many of these individuals actually needed them, and if the Council could possibly extend them to</p>

		<p>accommodate a second bedroom.</p> <p>The Director of Public Health noted Members' views and confirmed that she would take the matter back to the County Council's health and adult services service area for further investigation.</p> <p>The Committee thanked the Director of Public Health for attending the meeting.</p> <p><b>Members noted the update and information from the Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire, and asked Officers to find out how many people lived in one-bedroom bungalows, how many of these individuals required a single bedroom and if extensions to such properties to accommodate a second bedroom were possible.</b></p>
	Financial Results and Budget Exceptions Report - Q2	<p>The Committee received the report of the Chief Finance Officer which asked Members to consider and comment on the Council's financial and budget exceptions for Quarter 2 of the 2021-22 year.</p> <p><b>The Committee considered and noted the report.</b></p>
	Treasury Management - Quarterly Update Q2 - 2021-22	<p>The Committee received the report of the Chief Finance Officer which asked Members to consider and comment on the Council's borrowing and investment activity (Treasury Management) for Quarter 2 (the period 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021) and presented performance against the Prudential Indicators.</p> <p><b>The Committee considered and noted the content of the report.</b></p>

	Corporate Performance Report - Quarter 2 2021-22	<p>The Committee received the report of the Head of Business Development and Improvement which asked Members to consider and comment on the performance information presented to them for Quarter 2 2021-22.</p> <p><b>The Committee considered and noted the content of the report.</b></p>
	Work Programme	<p>The Committee considered the 2021-22 work programme.</p> <p>Members asked for an update on council house repairs; this would be raised with Officers by Democratic Services.</p> <p>Members discussed the format of Scrutiny Committee meetings and felt strongly that they should revert to remote meetings on Microsoft Teams, on a permanent basis, due to the current Covid-19 situation as well as ease of access for Members and Officers.</p> <p>Officers informed Members that the legal position on this would need to be considered, as the legislation which allowed remote decision making came to an end in May 2021.</p> <p><b>Members noted the work programme 2021-22 and asked that an update on Council housing repairs be given at a future meeting, and that a permanent return to remote meetings by the Committee be considered by Officers.</b></p>
<b>20 January 2022</b>	Executive Member Portfolio Review - Executive Member for Health and Culture	<p>The Chair welcomed the Executive Member for Health and Culture to the meeting. The Executive Member gave an overview of the recent work within his portfolio.</p>

		<p>Members of the Committee welcomed the use of the covert camera to tackle fly tipping and suggested that more were required; the siting of the cameras was important, which the Executive Member agreed with, and as a result he would be asking Officers to contact Bradford Council for best practice, as they had over 50.</p> <p>The Committee asked a number of further questions on various issues including illegal gypsy and traveller camps, the development of arts and culture in the district, jobs, health and wellbeing, covert camera usage, flytipping and environmental crime.</p> <p>The Committee felt that fly tipping and environmental crimes were not taken seriously enough by the police and justice system, and as such, were not dealt with appropriately. More needed to be done to prosecute it, part of which would be involving the police to a greater extent, with ANPR units used more widely.</p> <p><b>The Committee noted the update.</b></p>
	<p>Yorkshire Wildlife Trust - Barlow Common Annual Report 2020-2021 and the Wildlife Habitat Protection Trust - Hambleton Hough Annual Report 2020-2021</p>	<p>The Chair welcomed to the meeting Martin Blakey from the Wildlife Habitat Protection Trust (WHPT) and David Craven from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT). Members were asked to consider the content of the 2020-21 annual reports and make any recommendations. Members suggested a visit by the Committee to both Hambleton Hough and Barlow Common when it was warmer to see the work that was being done at both sites.</p> <p><b>Members noted the annual reports and agreed that a visit to both sites by the Committee should take place later in 2022.</b></p>

	Update on the Contact Centre Move - Verbal Update	<p>The Head of Business Development and Improvement gave an update on the move of the Contact Centre and information about the impact of the pandemic on the original plans.</p> <p>Members discussed the cost of the lease at Market Cross and if it had to be paid while empty, the impact on face-to-face appointments now that the Contact Centre wasn't in the town centre and the safety of the rooms in which face to face appointments took place, i.e., the installation of panic alarms.</p> <p><b>The Committee noted the update.</b></p>
	Housing Revenue Account and Business Plan 2020-2025 (2021/22 Review)	<p>The Committee received the report of the Housing and Environmental Health Service Manager and the Housing Strategy Officer which asked Members to consider the report which set out 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.</p> <p>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 were informed that grass cutting was the responsibility of the Contracts Team and that this would be forwarded to them as a concern.</p>

		<p>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.</p> <p><b>The Committee noted the report and asked Officers to provide the following information after the meeting or at a future 'single issue' meeting of the Committee focused on housing repairs, to which the Executive Member for Housing would be invited:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• figures on the last 3 years of voids, breakdown of repairs progress, how many voids there currently were; and</li> <li>• the lack of direct contact details (i.e., email addresses/telephone numbers) on letters to residents.</li> </ul>
	Work Programme	<p>The Committee considered the 2021-22 work programme.</p> <p><b>The Committee noted the work programme 2021-22 and asked that a single issue meeting on Council housing repairs be arranged in the 2022-23 municipal year, to which the Leader would be invited as Lead Executive Member for Housing; that the attendance of the PFCC at a future meeting of the committee be arranged for earlier than June 2022 if possible, and that the topic of public transport be added to the work programme for consideration at a future meeting.</b></p>

<b>17 February 2022 – Single Issue Meeting</b>	<p>Blue Light Services – Police and Fire Services and Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS)</p>	<p>Guests present at the meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chris Neal, Group Manager for Selby District, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service</li> <li>- Supt. Mark Khan, North Yorkshire Police Service</li> <li>- Rachel Pippin, Deputy Head of Operations, Yorkshire Ambulance Service</li> <li>- Ken Lowe, Area Operations Manager covering Selby, Yorkshire Ambulance Service</li> </ul> <p>Each representative gave an update on the service that they covered.</p> <p>Members asked numerous questions about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the use of fire stations for women fleeing domestic violence</li> <li>- the new priorities for tackling crime</li> <li>- the installation of fixed cameras to monitor speeding</li> <li>- the use of speed vans</li> <li>- neighbourhood policies</li> <li>- weight limits on roads and bridges</li> <li>- anti-social behaviour</li> <li>- cross border crime</li> <li>- parking on footways and fly tipping</li> <li>- off street parking</li> <li>- the number of officers</li> <li>- the provision of defibrillators across the district; and</li> <li>- the pressure on A&amp;E departments</li> </ul> <p>The Committee thanked all attendees for coming to the meeting.</p>
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	Work Programme	<p>The Committee considered the work programme and asked that the Democratic Services Officer write to the attendees for the previous Blue Light Services item to thank them for joining the meeting, that the Ward Members for Barlby be invited to the future education themed meeting, that North Yorkshire Police be invited back to a future meeting of the Committee to present new information on the Neighbourhood Policing model, that an attendee from the Sherburn Dental Practice be invited to the forthcoming single-issue meeting on dentistry provision in the district and finally that, if possible, the single-issue housing and property services item be presented to the Committee as soon as practicable, and that updates on housing be provided on a more regular basis.</p>
<b>1 March 2022 – Call-In/Extraordinary Meeting</b>	Call-In: Update on Leisure Services Provision - Executive Report E/21/45	<p>The Director for Corporate Services and Commissioning presented the report which asked the Committee to consider the Call In of the decision made in respect of report E/21/45 – Update on Leisure Services Provision, which was made by the Executive at their meeting on 3 February 2022.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the report and asked numerous questions on a range of matters of the officers and Members of the Executive present.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Committee agree with the decision made by the Executive and take no further action, but that regular updates on leisure services provision at future meetings of the Committee.</p>