



Councillor Steve Shaw-Wright – Chair of Scrutiny Committee

The Scrutiny Committee has met once since the update given at the last meeting of the Council in April 2022; the meeting took place on 30 June 2022.

The following items were on the agenda for the June meeting.

North Yorkshire Police and Fire Commissioner – Zoe Metcalfe

Zoe Metcalfe was welcomed to the meeting. The Committee discussed numerous issues with the PFCC, who gave updates on her recent work such as the development of the strategic Police and Crime Plan and Fire Plans and her focus on tackling the root causes of crime, precept consultations, a new victims centre in York, road safety, violence against women and girls and child protection.

Members asked the PFCC questions about the provision of fire services in Selby, dealing with gypsies and travellers, neighbourhood policing, speed limits throughout the district, cross border drug dealing 'county lines', the provision of night marshalls in Selby town and the waiting times and efficiency of both the 999 and 101 phone services.

The PFCC made a note of the issues raised by the Committee and thanked them for inviting her to the meeting.

Update on Leisure Services Provision (Verbal Update)

Following a verbal update from Officers, Members asked questions on several issues, including health and fitness memberships, the use of the leisure centre, fitness class attendance, fee levels and income, the effect of inflation and increased energy prices, staff pay and training for safety roles such as lifeguards.

Officers provided information on the use of the leisure centres and memberships, improvements in income levels, repayment of the subsidy given due to the pandemic, footfall, the effects of inflation and increases in energy costs, issues with recruitment of staff and lastly public confidence in leisure services.

Financial Results and Budget Exceptions Quarter 4 – 2021-22

Alongside Officers also in attendance at the meeting was the Executive Member for Finance and Resources.

Officers presented the report to the Committee who queried the budget carry forward amounts and the reasons for them, including why such sums were not being spent, particularly on Council projects that had not yet been delivered or were delayed.

Officers explained the need for contingency planning and carry forwards when it came to budgets, particularly with the ongoing issue of the pandemic which had not gone away.

Members were very keen for numerous projects, such as the Transforming Cities Fund works in Selby, to be delivered before the end of March 2023 when the Council would no longer exist due to local government reorganisation and the district's amalgamation into the new North Yorkshire Council.

Officers noted and acknowledged Members' concerns and reassured the committee that every effort was being made to deliver the projects identified.

Treasury Management Quarterly Update Q4 – 2021-22

Again, alongside Officers, in attendance was the Executive Member for Finance and Resources.

Members commented on the changes to the Council's finances relating to property investment and were pleased that results of the Council's treasury management were encouraging.

Officers explained that further investment in property was not being considered at that time, and that such decisions would be for the new North Yorkshire Council to make.

Annual Report 2021-22

Members considered the annual report which covered the business the Committee had undertaken during the 2021-22 municipal year.

The Committee had met on 7 occasions and looked at a range of issues throughout the year.

These included housing repairs, quarterly finance, treasury management and corporate performance reports, Executive Member portfolio reviews, North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Reports 2019/2020 and Safeguarding Children Partnerships Independent Scrutineer's Annual Reports 2019/2020, Director of Public Health Annual Report 2021, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Barlow Common Annual Report 2020-2021 and the Wildlife Habitat Protection Trust Hambleton Hough Annual Report 2020-2021, Update on the Contact Centre Move, Housing Revenue Account and Business Plan 2020-2025 (2021/22 Review) and Blue Light Services (Police and Fire Services and Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS)).

There was also a Call-In meeting on an update on Leisure Services Provision, specifically Executive Report E/21/45.

Work Programme 2022-23

Members suggested that the impact Covid-19 in the district should be added to the work programme, as well as the issue of housing voids.

Future Meetings: The next meeting of the Committee will be on 29 September 2022.

Councillor Steve Shaw-Wright, Chair - Scrutiny Committee