



Councillor Wendy Nichols – Chair of Scrutiny Committee

The Scrutiny Committee has been busy, having met three times since the last update to Council in September. There was also been some scrutiny training on 23 October 2018 which was well received and a number of Members from the Scrutiny, Policy Review and Audit and Governance Committees attended.

27 September 2018

The main items of business on the agenda for this meeting were the Leisure Annual Review, Corporate Performance for Quarter 1, Financial Results and Budget Exceptions for Quarter 1, an update on the Programme for Growth, Treasury Management for Quarter 1 and the Committee's Work Plan for 2018-19.

The Leader of the Council was also in attendance at the meeting.

Work Plan 2018-19

- Members noted that an item on empty homes (including voids) should be added to the work programme for 2019-20 in order for Scrutiny Committee to look at this in detail, following consideration by the Executive.
- The Committee also discussed the provision of mental health support, including dementia and Alzheimer's, in Selby and across the county. The Democratic Services Officer was asked to gather further information on other scrutiny work on the matter currently taking place in other authorities by contacting the North Yorkshire Scrutiny Officer's Network.

Leisure Annual Review

- The Committee were pleased to note that 2017-18 had been a year of progress; more schools were using the pool at the leisure centre in Selby and the recent Selby Sportiv had gone very well. Outreach work by Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles (IHL) had continued, with the 'Move It or Lose It' campaign expanding over the last 18 months.
- Members noted that there had been some discussion at the Executive meeting around users with membership cards, and those who actually utilised them. There was a discrepancy between the two figures of around 3 to 4%, but performance against targets was still good.

Corporate Performance for Quarter 1

- In relation to re-letting empty properties, Members acknowledged that a higher than expected number of void properties had come forward, many of which had not had previous 'decent homes' work done to them and therefore required a lot of work to

bring them up to standard. There were also difficulties in recruiting to trades positions which was slowing down repair work and general maintenance jobs at council properties.

- Members expressed concerns about waste collections being hindered by problem car parking, and public waste bins not being emptied regularly in Tadcaster.
- How to communicate when missed bins would be collected was also discussed; officers confirmed that messages were put on the Council's website and on social media to let residents know when they would be collected.
- The Committee suggested other methods of communicating with residents could be a leaflet in annual billing, or a sticker on the bins to explain that by default missed bins were usually collected the next day.

Financial Results and Budget Exceptions Quarter 1

- The Committee expressed concerns relating to the delays still being experienced in the planning service, despite it now being fully staffed, and the problems in recruiting to trades jobs.
- Members discussed the proposed move of the contact centre staff at Market Cross to the Civic Centre, and the potential to let the space out to another tenant due to the years left on the lease of the property. Officers acknowledged the concerns raised by Members regarding the convenience and accessibility of the Civic Centre for customers, and recognised it was a process that would need managing properly if it went ahead.

Programme for Growth – Update on Existing Programme

- The Committee noted that a great deal of the work so far on the Programme for Growth had been around project planning and organising of expenditure; some of the projects detailed in the report would last for a few months, some for a number of years.
- Members discussed future potential uses for the recently purchased former Natwest bank premises in Selby and Tadcaster; officers confirmed that a number of uses were being considered, including retail, residential and commercial space.
- The Committee were pleased to note that Selby District Council had recently won 'Local Authority of the Year' at the Business Insider Property Awards, and acknowledged the importance of the Council being able to keep delivering successful projects and maximising the potential of the District.

Treasury Management Quarterly Update Quarter 1

- Members asked questions of the officer on issues including property funds and investment returns.

25 October 2018

The main items of business on the agenda for this meeting were the Committee's Work Plan 2018-19, Transport Matters, Street Cleansing and an Olympia Park Update. The Executive Lead Member for Housing, Health and Culture was also in attendance at the meeting.

Work Plan 2018-19

The Chair spoke about the recent Scrutiny training that had taken place on 23 October 2018, which had been better tailored to the arrangements in Selby and as such had been well received by Members.

Part of the discussions at the training had been around work programming; as a result of these discussions a topic identified for consideration by the committee was the provision of a suitable temporary traveller site in the District. It was felt that the matter required further scrutiny and a practical way forward needed to be found in dealing with the issue. The work of other Councils could be explored and a line of communication established with the traveller community.

Transport Matters

In attendance at the meeting to talk to Members were representatives from Arriva, Northern Rail, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Transpennine Express/First Group and NYCC.

The Committee had lengthy and positive discussions about a number of issues around transport in the District; the main issues that were highlighted by the committee are set out below:

- Employment transport provision, especially around Sherburn, including bus services.
- Investment and improvements required at Selby station (and other stations across Selby District), particularly disabled/accessible access and installation of a lift.
- The Council's influence on the wider rail and transport agenda in the District and the region, including HS2 and Transport for the North.
- The links between transport provision and Selby's Local Plan, its economic future and development.
- The need for improved transport in the District to provide for the projected population growth.
- Capacity on the railways and electrification of the TransPennine route.
- Integration between train and bus services for better connections.

Street Cleansing

The Committee received a report that asked them to consider street cleansing provision in the District. The main points discussed were:

- Cleanliness of major roads such as the A64; some sections were difficult to clean because to do so would require temporary traffic measures or road closures, which were expensive and disruptive. The Council continued to work with partners at NYCC and Highways England in order to ensure the work was done but with as little disruption as possible.
- Missed bin collections due to collection vehicles being unable to access certain streets due to parked cars, particularly recycling collections. Officers explained that the recycling vehicles were wider than the refuse wagons and as such could not access narrow roads which had been made narrower by parked cars.

- What the worst streets for detritus were; it was explained by Officers that it tended to be those with cars parked on them on a regular basis, as street sweepers couldn't access whole sections. Local people were given notice that cars should be moved in order for a road to be cleaned, but this message was not always heeded.

Olympia Park Update

The Committee were pleased to receive an update on Olympia Park and noted the following points:

- Since the last update on Olympia Park considered by the Committee in March 2018, £8.78 million of grant funding had been approved by Homes England's Housing Infrastructure Investment Board in the first week of October. This funding had to be spent by 31 March 2021, so in order to achieve this deadline the Council would be working collaboratively with all of the landowners to prepare the necessary legal agreements from them to commit to the design of a comprehensive, integrated scheme for the whole site.
- It was anticipated that a planning application would be submitted in March 2019, with a view to work on the infrastructure later that year. This date was slightly later than reported to the Committee in March 2018, mainly due to the complex discussions with the Environment Agency on mitigating flood and Homes England delaying the confirmation of the Housing Infrastructure Fund investment.
- The Housing Infrastructure Funding could potentially be supplemented by additional investment from the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP. Up to £1.2 million of investment had been agreed in principle, subject to a detailed business case which was submitted on 26 October 2018. It was anticipated that this would be considered by the LEP's Infrastructure Board for approval in December 2018.
- Members were pleased to hear that there would be further pre-application public consultation on the site, once further flood modelling work had been completed.

22 November 2018

The main items of business on this rather busy agenda were the Committee's Work Plan 2018-19, North Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel, the 2017-18 annual report of the Director for Public Health for North Yorkshire, the Approach to Health and Wellbeing in Selby District, Programme for Growth Update on the Existing Programme, Financial Results and Budget Exceptions for Quarter 2 and Treasury Management Monitoring for Quarter 2.

The Chair informed the Committee that the Committee had been asked to look again at the contract with the Council's waste services provider, Amey Plc. Discussions about further work would take place with the Head of Commissioning, Contracts and Procurement on the matter.

Work Plan 2018-19 and Findings from Scrutiny Training on 23 October 2018

Members were pleased to note that the scrutiny training on 23 October 2018 had been useful for Members due to its tailored approach to Selby.

Programme for Growth (P4G) – Update on Existing Programme

Members noted that the update had been presented to the Executive earlier in the month along with an update on progress with the Economic Development Framework (EDF). The Committee was informed that a key part of the EDF report related to staffing for projects in the Programme for Growth and that following a request from the Executive for further information, an updated report on the EDF would be brought back to the Executive in January 2019.

It was acknowledged that further information had been requested by the Executive concerning specific budgets and clarity on roles and responsibilities.

A query was raised around the Selby 950 project and the funding for this; it was explained that £150k had been allocated for the Tour de Yorkshire with the remaining allocation to be used on projects where match funding could be obtained along with possible resources from businesses.

North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

In attendance for this item and to speak to the Committee were Chief Inspector Rachel Wood, Inspector Yvonne Taylor, Councillor Carl Les, Chair of North Yorkshire's Police, Fire and Crime Panel and Diane Parsons, Support Officer for the Police, Fire and Crime Panel.

The Committee enjoyed a wide ranging and informative discussion on a number of policing and crime matters, including:

- Changes in staffing arrangements for neighbourhood policing in Selby.
- The general increase in crime compared to the previous year, including dwelling burglary; however, it was explained that this could be linked to better recording of crime.
- Cross border and rural crime.
- Reductions in anti-social behaviour in Selby, crime updates and work to tackle drug dealing and vehicle offences.
- Crimes caused by offenders from outside of the area, i.e. West Yorkshire, specifically the burglary of shops.
- Tadcaster crime had increased but mainly due to one individual with mental health issues, and there had been reports of anti-social behaviour in Eggborough and Kirk Smeaton, about which a residents' meeting had been held and some arrests had been made.
- CCTV provision and coverage was also discussed, as well as cross-border drug dealing into Selby, parking outside of schools, police resources and the 101 service.
- The Chair of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel explained the make-up of the Panel and outlined some of the work carried out by the Panel, including considering the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) crime plan and agreeing the precept proposed by the PCC.
- The Panel had approved the appointment of a new Chief Constable and new Director of Finance which would be shared between the Police and Fire Service.

- The PCC would be taking over the running of the Fire Service, but the majority of authorities in North Yorkshire had disagreed with this decision; due to the takeover, the Panel would be known as the Police, Fire and Crime Panel.
- The Panel also dealt with complaints but were not able to consider complaints about operational policing issues but could pass on any views to the PCC.
- Other areas considered by the Panel had included the 101 service, wildlife crime and the sale of the Police headquarters at Newby Wiske.
- Members queried if the PCC would be getting more staff now that she had assumed control of the Fire Service. The Chair of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel stated that the PCC had expressed that she did not need any more staff despite taking on additional responsibility. She would be assuming operational control of the Fire Service, whereas she did not have operational control of the Police Service.
- The PCC would be taking on the responsibility of handling Police complaints and additional staff would be taken for this; once the report on this was available it would be circulated to the Scrutiny Committee.
- A query was raised around the arrangements for custody transport; due to the closures of local stations, officers had to transport offenders to other stations for custody arrangements which then took resources away from local areas. Discussion took place on whether stations with custody arrangements could meet officers half way on the route when transporting people. It was agreed the issue of custody arrangements would be raised by the Panel with the PCC.
- The provision of street wardens, a service which used to be operational in the town centre of Selby, was also discussed. Members felt it had proved to be beneficial in assisting people who were out in the evenings and should be reintroduced. This would be raised by the Panel with the PCC. It was also noted that some venues had started employing their own night marshalls to assist people who were out in the evenings.

Back to the Future: The 2018 Director of Public Health Report for North Yorkshire

In attendance for this item was Dr Lincoln Sargeant, Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire. Dr Sargeant gave a presentation to the Committee on the report and the following points were highlighted:

- Areas of deprivation in Selby were identified to the Committee, as well details of life expectancy, healthy life expectancy and the trend towards an ageing population in North Yorkshire.
- Members noted that 21,000 children were estimated to be living in poverty across North Yorkshire.
- Future priorities for public health had been identified through consultation with stakeholders and the public; the priorities were health inequality, mental health, obesity and ageing population.
- Inequality between communities in North Yorkshire had been identified which were further complicated by rurality, housing affordability and fuel poverty. There had been a steep increase in people experiencing mental illness, mental distress and difficulties; people with mental health problems also experienced worse physical health compared to the general population.
- The Director of Public Health explained to Members that he would action the three main recommendations of the report (reduce inequalities, improve mental health and embed public health) by improving the understanding of the experience of people who had poorer health outcomes, working with partnerships, communities

and other agencies to implement initiatives to promote positive mental health and prevent mental ill health, and ensure greater joint working between sectors to co-ordinate and maximise the use of resources to address population health.

- The Committee discussed budget pressures experienced by North Yorkshire County Council and the effect this had on services provided for young and older people, and raised concerns around loneliness and isolation faced by some people, especially in rural locations.

The Approach to Health and Well-Being in Selby District – One Year On

The Committee considered a report and accompanying presentation which updated them on progress made since a joint presentation to the Policy Review and Scrutiny Committees in February 2017 by the Director of Public Health, North Yorkshire County Council and the Selby District Council Head of Service for Community, Partnerships and Customers. Kathryn Ingold, Public Health Consultant from North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) was also attendance for this item.

- A successful health conference had been held in 2017 with a number of key partners to bring together ideas on health and wellbeing in Selby District; an action plan had been created to be actioned over 3 years.
- Closer working relationships had been established with North Yorkshire CC Public Health, a mental health forum had been established and a review of the Community Engagement Forums had commenced.
- The next steps to be taken included the ‘Selby Health Matters’ initiative, led by NYCC Public Health.
- The provision of mental health assistance was cause for concern amongst Members; the importance of community awareness around the issue was emphasised.
- The Committee were also concerned that the criteria used by Yorkshire Ambulance Service for patient transport to hospital had changed, with more referrals to volunteer drivers who lacked medical skills. The Vale of York CCG had been made aware of the issue, and was also looking at matters such as extending GP hours.
- Members were keen for the Vale of York CCG and Yorkshire Ambulance Service to be invited to a future meeting of the Committee.

Financial Results and Budget Exceptions Report to 30 September 2018 - Quarter 2

The Head of Finance introduced the report which asked the Committee to consider and make any comments on the Council’s financial results and budget exceptions to 30 September 2018.

The Committee queried the delay to the empty homes programmes; it was explained by Officers that obtaining compulsory purchase orders involved a legal process which had to be strictly followed.

Treasury Management Monitoring Quarterly Update Q2 – 2018-19

The Head of Finance introduced the report which asked the Committee to consider the contents of the report and make any comments on the Council’s borrowing and investment activity for the period 1 April to 30 September 2018.

With regard to investments, members queried what would be the use of the former NatWest banks in Tadcaster and Selby that the Council had purchased. This query has been forwarded to Officers and response obtained and circulated to the Committee after the meeting.

Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Committee will be on **Friday 25 January 2019**. This meeting is being held on a Friday instead of a Thursday as we are hoping to have Nigel Adams MP in attendance.

Councillor W Nichols
Chair, Scrutiny Committee