

Minutes

Scrutiny Committee

Venue:	Committee Room - Civic Centre, Doncaster Road, Selby, YO8 9FT
Date:	Thursday, 22 November 2018
Time:	5.00 pm
Present:	Councillors W Nichols (Chair), S Duckett (Vice-Chair), D Buckle, I Chilvers and D Mackay
Others present:	Councillor R Packham
Officers present:	Iain Brown (Economy and Infrastructure Manager), Inspector Rachel Wood (North Yorkshire Police) (for minute item 37), Inspector Yvonne Taylor (North Yorkshire Police) (for minute item 37), Councillor Carl Les (Chair of the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel) (for minute item 37), Diane Parsons (Support Officer to the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel) (for minute item 37), Dr Lincoln Sargeant (Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire (for minute item 37), Angela Crossland (Head of Community, Partnerships and Customers) (for minute item 39), Kathryn Ingold (Public Health Consultant, North Yorkshire County Council) (for minute item 39), Peter Williams (Head of Finance) (for minute items 40 and 41) and Palbinder Mann (Democratic Services Manager)
Public:	0
Press:	0

31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Casling and White.

32 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

33 MINUTES

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2018.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 25 October 2018 for signing by the Chair.

34 CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chair informed the Committee that Councillor Sage had requested that the Committee look again at the contract of the Council's waste services provider, Amey Plc. It was noted that discussions would take place with the Head of Commissioning, Contracts and Procurement about this.

35 WORK PROGRAMME 2018-19 AND FINDINGS FROM THE SCRUTINY TRAINING ON 23 OCTOBER 2018

The Democratic Services Manager introduced the item which asked the Committee to agree items for inclusion on the revised Work Programme 2018-19 and to consider the findings from the scrutiny training held on 23 October 2018.

The Chair noted that the scrutiny training had been useful for Members due to its tailored approach to Selby.

RESOLVED:

To note the work programme and the findings from the scrutiny training.

36 PROGRAMME FOR GROWTH (P4G) - UPDATE ON EXISTING PROGRAMME (S/18/19)

The Chair decided to amend the agenda so that the following item was taken first.

The Economy and Infrastructure Manager introduced the report which outlined quarterly progress on delivering the Programme for Growth, in accordance with the approach agreed by the Executive at their meeting on 3 May 2018.

The Economy and Infrastructure Manager explained 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.

In response to a query concerning what further information had been requested by the Executive, the Economy and Infrastructure Manager explained that further information had been requested concerning specific budgets and clarity on roles and responsibilities.

A query was raised around the Selby 950 project and the finances for this. The Head of Communities, Partnerships and Customers 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.

RESOLVED:

To note the progress on the existing Programme for Growth.

**37 NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE,
FIRE AND CRIME PANEL**

The Chair welcomed Chief Inspector Rachel Wood and Inspector Yvonne Taylor, North Yorkshire Police to discuss operational policing issues in Selby and Councillor Carl Les, Chairman of the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel and Diane Parsons, Support to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel to discuss the work of the Panel.

Chief Inspector Rachel Wood and Inspector Yvonne Taylor provided the following update regarding operational policing in Selby:

- There would be a change to the staffing arrangements for neighbourhood policing in Selby with Inspector Martin Wedgewood replacing Inspector Ian McNiff. Additionally, it was explained that a refresh of the neighbourhood teams was being considered which would look at how policing could be done in a more effective way. The Committee was informed that it was hoped the new arrangements would be in place from February 2019.
- There had been a general increase in crime compared to the previous year and it was explained that was linked to the better recording of crime. In terms of specific crimes, there had been a general increase in dwelling burglary however a burglary co-ordinator had been appointed which had made an impact in addressing this issue.
- There had been numerous operations conducted on inquisitive crime including on cross border crime. It was explained there had also been new rural watch schemes introduced.
- There had been a 20% reduction in anti-social behaviour in the

Selby district. It was noted that there were pockets of anti-social behaviour and work was being done with partners to tackle this issue. The Committee was informed that work was also being done to look at the prevention of crime and to protect those vulnerable from crime.

- Crime updates for the Selby Inner area included work being done to tackle drug dealing in Selby Town and vehicle offences at the three lakes retail park.
- With regard to the Selby North area, there had been a small increase in crime in October and November with this believed to be offenders from the West Yorkshire area and specifically relating to the burglary of shops. The Committee was informed that two people had been identified and arrested.
- In relation to Tadcaster, there had been an increase in crime due to one individual who had mental health issues. The Committee was informed that the local beat officers had completed regular visits in the area and work had been done at looking at the CCTV for the area with the Town Council. Additionally, it was explained that meetings had taken place with rural watch in Appleton Roebuck in terms of working with farmers on joint patrols.
- With regard to Selby South, there had been incidents of anti-social behaviour in Eggborough and a residents meeting had been held to discuss this where residents had been encouraged to report all incidents to the Police. It was noted that 41 young people had been identified as being involved and letters had been sent the parents of these people. The Chief Inspector explained that the Police had attended the last Parish Council meeting where the reduction in incidents and the measures put in place had been received positively. Additionally, it was explained that there had been incidents of gangs on mopeds in Kirk Smeaton however people had been arrested for this.

The following discussion took place by the Committee:

- Discussion took place in relation to CCTV in areas and it was felt this was the responsibility of the District Council rather than Parish or Town Councils. It was noted that in Sherburn, the Town Council had agreed to fund a new CCTV system due to them having their own property in the area.
- Concern was raised that cross border drugs coming into Selby was an issue with people turning up two to three times a day to sell drugs. The Chief Inspector explained that drugs were an issue everywhere and it was important to keep reporting all incidents to the Police.

- Discussion took place on parking problems outside schools. The Chief Inspector stated she would feed this issue to the Parking Co-Ordinator at North Yorkshire County Council.
- Discussion took place on Police resources on duty and the Committee was informed that resources were a challenge however the Police did their best to ensure an effective service was provided.
- In response to a query concerning the 101 service, the Committee was informed that more resources were being invested into the service.

Councillor Carl Less and Diane Parsons provided the following update regarding the work of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel:

- 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 this year which included considering the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) crime plan and with agreeing the precept proposed by the PCC.
- It was explained that 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 Committee was informed that the PCC would be taking over the running of the Fire Service and that the majority of the authorities in North Yorkshire had disagreed with this decision. It was noted that due to the takeover, the Panel had become the Police, Fire and Crime Panel.
- The Panel also dealt with complaints about the Police, Fire and Crime Panel however were not able to consider complaints about operational policing issues but could pass on any views to the PCC.
- In terms of other areas being considered by the Panel, this had included the 101 service, wildlife crime, due to North Yorkshire being the worst area for wildlife crime and the sale of the Police headquarters at Newby Wiske.

The following discussion took place by the Committee:

- A query was raised whether 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. It was noted that she would be assuming operational control of the Fire Service whereas she did not have

operational control of the Police Service.

- The Committee was informed that the PCC would be taking on the responsibility of handling Police complaints and that additional staff would be taken on due to this. It was noted that once the report on this was available, this would be circulated to the Committee.
- A query was raised around the arrangements for custody transport. It was explained that 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 Committee felt the street wardens service which used to be operational in the town centre of Selby had proved to be beneficial in assisting people who were out in the evenings and it was felt that this service should be reintroduced. It was agreed this would be raised by the Panel with the PCC. Additionally, it was noted that some venues had started employing their own night marshalls to assist people who were out in the evenings.

RESOLVED:

To pass on the Committee's comments regarding operational policing and issues for the Police, Fire and Crime Panel to consider as stated above.

38 BACK TO THE FUTURE: THE 2018 DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT FOR NORTH YORKSHIRE (S/18/15)

The Chair welcomed Dr Lincoln Sargeant, Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire to the meeting to present the annual report of the Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire.

Dr Sargeant gave a presentation to the Committee on the report and the following points were highlighted:

- The Committee was shown the areas of depravation in North Yorkshire with the former wards of Selby East and Selby West being highlighted as areas affected in Selby.
- It was noted that the trend was demonstrating an ageing population across the country. The Director of Public Health highlighted statistics on the life expectancy of males and females including the healthy life expectancy of those in North Yorkshire. Additionally, the Committee was presented with the contribution to the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived quintiles in North Yorkshire.

- The Committee was presented with statistics regarding the life expectancy and healthy life expectancy for the highest and lowest areas in Selby.
- With regard to children living in poverty, the Committee was informed that the latest estimates showed more than 21,000 children were living in poverty after housing costs in North Yorkshire.
- In terms of engagement for future priorities for public health, the Director of Public Health explained that consultation had taken place with a number of stakeholders and the public. The key themes arising from the consultation exercise were health inequality, mental health, obesity and our ageing population.
- With regard to inequalities, the Director of Public Health explained that there was inequality between communities in North Yorkshire and that it was further complicated by rurality, housing affordability and fuel poverty.
- In respect of mental health, the Committee was informed that there had been a steep increase in people experiencing mental illness, mental distress and difficulties for these people to access appropriate services. It was also noted that people with mental health problems, also experienced worse physical health when compared to the general population.
- The Director of Public Health explained that the three key recommendations arising out of the engagement would be reduce inequalities, improve public mental health and embed public health. The Director of Public Health outlined to the Committee how he would action the recommendations and this included:
 - In respect of reducing inequalities, improving the understanding of the experience of people who had poorer health outcomes to guide delivery and the planning of services.
 - In respect of mental health, work in partnerships with communities and other agencies to implement initiatives that both promote positive mental health and prevent mental ill health.
 - In respect of embedding a public health approach, ensuring greater joint working between sectors to co-ordinate and maximise use of resources to address population health.

The following discussion took place by the Committee:

- Discussion took place about the budget pressures faced by North Yorkshire County Council and how this was affecting the services provided for young and older people. The Director of Public Health explained that the Council did face budget pressures however had invested £1m into the Stronger Communities programme which had created opportunities for healthy changes in areas of North Yorkshire.
- Concern was raised at the loneliness and isolation faced by some people and it was felt that the removal of some bus services in rural locations had not helped this issue. The Director of Public Health stated that it was important to invest in local community groups such as those similar to the Big Local which could assist in this issue.

The Chair thanked Dr Sargeant for his attendance.

RESOLVED:

To note the report and the comments made by the Committee.

39 THE APPROACH TO HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IN SELBY DISTRICT - ONE YEAR ON (S/18/16)

The Head of Community, Partnerships and Customers introduced the report which asked the Committee to consider the 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 Head of Community, Partnerships and Customers. Kathryn Ingold, Public Health Consultant, North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) was also attendance for this item.

The Head of Community, Partnerships and Customers explained that a successful health conference had been held in 2017 with over 70 key partners present to bring ideas together on health and well-being in Selby District. Additionally, it was explained that a partnership action plan for public health had been created to be actioned over three years.

The Committee was taken through the achievements so far in the action plan, these included a closer working relationship being established with North Yorkshire County Council Public Health partners, a local mental health forum being established which was sector led and a commencement of the review of Community Engagement Forums.

The Head of Community, Partnerships and Customers explained some of the next steps to be taken which included an initiative entitled 'Selby Health Matters' led by NYCC Public Health which identified new and current initiatives aligned with the influence of the District Council and a three year focus group identifying NYCC, Selby District Council, third sector and joint delivery roles.

Concern was raised around the lack of provision to assist people with mental health problems. The Head of Community, Partnerships and Customers explained that it was important to understand what the community awareness around the issue was.

Concern was raised that the Yorkshire Ambulance Service had changed the criteria for those needing transport to hospitals and that they were now making further referrals to volunteer drivers who lacked the medical skills that staff in ambulances had. The Public Health Consultant, NYCC explained that the Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) were aware of this issue and were also looking at issues such as extending GP hours.

It was agreed that the Vale of York CCG should be invited to a future meeting along with the Yorkshire Ambulance Service to discuss this issue.

RESOLVED:

- i) To note the update on the work being done on health and well-being in the district.**
- ii) To invite the Vale of York CCG and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service to a future meeting of the Committee to discuss the issues raised above.**

40 FINANCIAL RESULTS AND BUDGET EXCEPTIONS REPORT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2018 (S/18/17)

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 was informed that at the end of quarter two, the General Fund was indicating an outturn deficit of £26k which compared to a deficit of £30k in quarter one. It was explained that there were a number of variances against the deficit which includes a shortfall on planning savings, additional investment interest and a shortfall in the housing benefit admin grant.

With regard to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), the Head of Finance explained that this was indicating a surplus of £348k, which was mainly driven by lower external borrowing requirements and housing rents which were anticipated to be lower than the target.

The Committee was informed that the Capital Programme was forecasting an underspend both in the General Fund and the HRA. It was noted that this was due to a number of factors including a significant underspend for Disabled Facilities Grants, slippage on the pointing and roofing schemes and the empty homes programme being unlikely to be fully committed this year.

In response to a query concerning the delay to the empty homes programme, it was acknowledged that obtaining compulsory purchase orders involved a legal process which had to be strictly followed.

An update on the current Programme for Growth was the subject of a separate report on the agenda.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

**41 TREASURY MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY UPDATE Q2 - 2018/19
(S/18/18)**

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.

The Committee was informed that the Council's investment over the quarter had an average rate of 0.37% compared to 0.49% in quarter one. 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.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

The meeting closed at 7.18 pm.