

Minutes

Scrutiny Committee

Venue:	Committee Room - Civic Centre, Doncaster Road, Selby, YO8 9FT
Date:	Friday, 25 January 2019
Time:	5.00 pm
Present:	Councillors W Nichols (Chair), S Duckett (Vice-Chair), D Buckle, I Chilvers, D Mackay and D White
Officers present:	Julian Rudd, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration, Fraser Neasham, Interim Development Surveyor, Michelle Dinsdale, Senior Policy and Performance Officer, Suzanne Sweeting, Partnerships Manager and Victoria Foreman, Democratic Services Officer
Others present:	Nigel Adams MP for Selby and Ainsty, Councillor P Welch, Member for Selby East
Public:	0
Press:	0

42 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L Casling.

43 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

44 MINUTES

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2018.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee

meeting held on 22 November 2018 for signing by the Chair.

45 CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chair welcomed Nigel Adams MP to the meeting.

46 WORK PROGRAMME 2018-19 AND PLANNING FOR 2019-20

Members considered the work programme for 2018-19 and the draft programme for 2019-20.

Members queried when the review of Council-funded community centres would be considered and asked the Democratic Services Officer to enquire about the matter further.

RESOLVED:

- i. To note the work programmes for 2018-19 and 2019-20.**
- ii. To ask the Democratic Services Officer to enquire when the review of Council-funded community centres would be considered by the Committee.**

47 NIGEL ADAMS MP

The Committee welcomed Nigel Adams MP to the meeting.

Mr Adams updated the Committee on his recent ministerial roles in government in housing (focusing on homelessness and rough sleeping) and health (mainly looking at mental health); he was currently a minister in the Wales Office.

Members noted that Brexit and the complicated arrangements for leaving the EU were taking up a lot of time and resources in government, but that the preparations were progressing steadily.

Mr Adams explained that his constituency casework continued as usual, and that he enjoyed working closely with Selby District Council to resolve issues for constituents.

Members asked Mr Adams a number of questions on varying topics, as detailed below:

- In response to a query about the availability of land for social housing, Mr Adams agreed that all kinds of homes needed to be built, including council housing. Mr Adams explained that there were some challenging rules for Councils to adhere to in relation to borrowing to build new homes, and emphasised the importance of meaningful engagement with local communities about where future homes would be built.

- Mr Adams asked that Members provide further information to him regarding the retention of the Green Energy payments which the Council received from Drax; once he had this information he would do what he could to support the Council continuing to receive the payments following the upcoming government review of business rates.
- In relation to the campaign by WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality), Mr Adams acknowledged the difficulty of the situation for the women affected, but that it would be difficult to resolve due to the large costs involved; it was hoped that a compromise could be reached. Members emphasised the effect the changes were having on not only the WASPI women themselves in Selby District, but also their families, who may be relying on them for support once they had retired.
- In response to a question about the economic future of the country and Selby district in the light of Brexit, Mr Adams was of the opinion that after leaving the EU, Britain would have the opportunity to be more global in its approach to trade, but that a good deal with Europe was essential.
- Mr Adams expressed his support for NYCC maintaining the PRU (Pupil Referral Unit) in Selby, and explained that whilst he felt it was better to keep children in the mainstream system, there needed to be an alternative option for those pupils that were particularly disruptive. It was essential that all children were given the best start in life, and that the public's views about the importance of well-funded education be acknowledged by the government. Mr Adams was pleased to inform Members that Liz Truss MP, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, was currently visiting North Yorkshire County Council to talk about their 'No Wrong Door' approach to providing support to young people on the edge of the care system.
- The Committee asked Mr Adams about the causes of homelessness and the impacts of the government's changes to social housing waiting lists on current homelessness rates. Mr Adams explained that there were a number of factors contributing to homelessness and rough sleeping, and that the differences between the two needed to be taken into consideration. Mr Adams explained that the main reason rough sleeping figures went up in cities was due to the operation of begging gangs and the associated problems these gangs brought with them.
- Members raised the issue of new homes and developments being built with inadequate off street parking, and the subsequent problems that this was causing. Mr Adams encouraged Councils to think carefully about the provision of parking when considering new housing schemes, as well as commercial developments that often

also required adequate parking for employees.

- The Committee asked Mr Adams whether he believed there was a link between the increased use of foodbanks and the implementation of Universal Credit. Mr Adams explained that the ability to refer people to food banks and issue vouchers for its use had been widened, but he was not sure that the implementation of Universal Credit was solely to blame for the increase in use. Members noted that whilst it was inevitable that there would be some issues with the switch over to Universal Credit, the new arrangements would simplify the current complicated system. In addition, Mr Adams explained that support had been put in place should there be delays with payments, and as such, no recipient should have to go without money for any period of time.

The Committee thanked Mr Adams for attending the meeting, and indicated that he would be invited to come back to talk to the Committee in a year's time.

48 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 2 - 2018/19 (JULY TO SEPTEMBER) (S/18/20)

The Committee received the report of the Head of Business Development and Improvement which asked the Committee to consider the contents and make any comments on the Council's performance.

The quarterly performance report provided a progress update on delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-20 as measured by a combination of progress against priority projects/high level actions and performance against KPIs.

Members noted that performance had improved or exceeded targets in relation to emergency and urgent repairs to Council-owned properties, empty homes, dealing with complaints, processing of major planning applications and sundry debt collection.

However, performance in relation to the re-letting of vacant Council homes, missed bins, staff sick days and health and safety incidents was not as positive.

The Committee were pleased that the number of empty homes brought back into use through direct action had increased, and felt that the target could be revised upwards; the Senior Policy and Performance Officer confirmed that KPIs were due for review and this revision would be considered.

Members again expressed their concern at the time taken to re-let Council properties, but acknowledged that some properties were in a dire state and required a lot of remedial work to bring them up to standard. The difficulty in recruiting to trade jobs for the Council was also causing delays.

Officers were asked to look into missed recycling collections in Selby which were exacerbated by the continuing problem of parked cars down some roads, making it difficult for the recycling vehicles to get down the road to collect the refuse.

RESOLVED:

To note the Council's performance for Quarter 2 (July to September 2018).

**49 SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FRAMEWORK 2017 - 2022: ONE YEAR REVIEW AND DELIVERY
PLAN 2019 AND 2020 (S/18/21)**

The Committee received the report of the Head of Economic Development and Regeneration, and were asked to consider the contents and make any comments on the Council's Economic Development Framework (EDF) 2017-2022.

The report provided further information requested by the Executive on 8 November 2018 in relation to the proposed EDF Delivery Plan 2019 and 2020, and the associated progress review and budgetary transfers.

The information was comprised of feedback from Members, external partners and stakeholders regarding the proposed delivery plan, details of the business case for recruitment and staffing measures and proposed key performance indicators to monitor progress of the delivery plan and framework.

The report also provided an update regarding opportunities and challenges that had become clearer since the priorities for 2019 and 2020 were last considered in early November 2018.

Members considered the report and asked questions on a number of issues, including public realm works on New Lane in Selby, the future plans for the banks in Tadcaster and Selby that had been purchased by the Council, train and bus transport in Selby and Sherburn and subsequent connectivity for employment purposes, and traffic management issues in Selby.

Officers were keen to involve Members and draw upon their previous experience and local knowledge in order to further improve the EDF and its projects, and would continue to keep the Scrutiny Committee up to date with its progress.

RESOLVED:

To note the Selby District Economic Development Framework 2017-2022 – Year One Review and Delivery Plan 2019 and 2020.

**50 NORTH YORKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD AND
NORTH YORKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL
REPORTS 2017-2018 (S/18/22)**

Members received the report of the Partnerships Manager and were asked to note the annual reports for the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adult's Boards.

The Committee noted that the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Boards had a statutory duty to publish annual reports, accounting for the activities of the Boards for the previous year. The reports covered 2017/18 activity and also provided evidence of the key areas of focus for the current year.

Both reports set out the governance arrangements across North Yorkshire and outlined the activity and partnership working in the Selby District. The priority areas for the boards remained the same as those shared in the 2017 report to Scrutiny Committee.

The Adults Board continued to prioritise awareness and empowerment, prevention of harm, protection and proportionality and partnership effectiveness. The Children's Board prioritised the coordination of the activities of the board and ensuring its effectiveness.

Members noted that in 2017-18 the overall demand for child protection services remained high, with a 22% increase across the County in referrals to Children's Social Services compared to 2016-17; repeat referrals was at 15.8% which indicated that cases remained open until the risk of harm was removed and significant progress had been made.

The report also outlined the 2017-18 audit completed by Selby District Council under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004; the following issues for practitioners had been highlighted across North Yorkshire:

- Awareness of internal policies and procedures, as well as multi-agency procedures when recognising and reporting children safeguarding concerns to avoid delays in addressing those concerns should safeguarding leads be unavailable; and
- Information sharing needed to be considered, ensuring partners knew the need to share information, what could be shared, and when.

The Committee acknowledged that there was a crossover between Safeguarding and Community Safety work, with Selby District Council carrying out activities in both of these realms. At a local level the Council sat on the Selby Children's Safeguarding Strategy Group which focused on e-safety, along with reducing teenage pregnancy. The 2018-19 priorities included developing and integrating teenage pregnancy services, substance misuse and its impact on safeguarding, improving access to Emotional Health and Wellbeing services and maintaining close links to the Domestic Abuse Forum to ensure an integrated approach to the issue.

Officers anticipated that following the review of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)' some changes would be implemented to strengthen work in multi-agency approaches to safeguarding.

It was explained to Members that the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NYSAB) report informed of the June 2018 appointment of Dr Sue Proctor as the Independent Chair, and the ambition to develop closer relationships with the Children's Safeguarding Board and the Community Safety Partnerships.

2017-18 had seen an independent review of the safeguarding function in North Yorkshire. Key learning points were outlined in the NYSAB report, with the overall the focus around the following:

- Having a clear vision and stronger arrangements for learning lessons and facilitating change;
- Continual improvement of recording, measuring and monitoring information;
- Improvement of sharing information and learning; and
- Ongoing training for the workforce, with a focus on partners working together to develop staff.

The Committee learned that overall the number of adult safeguarding concerns had reduced during the year; it was thought that some of this was due to improved processes, especially how North Yorkshire Police and Yorkshire Ambulance Service provided the information.

Officers explained that the report also set out partner and district achievements over the period of 2017 18 within Appendix 1. Selby District Council had supported safeguarding through providing training, being active in the planning and the delivery of local events during Safeguarding Awareness Week, promoting safeguarding alongside priority areas such as PREVENT and co-ordinating and being an active member of local partnership groups, with a focus on protecting and supporting vulnerable members of the community.

Members noted that the priorities and areas of focus remained the same for 2018-2019. Changes were expected in 2019-20 as new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures were to be implemented. The NYSAB was also expected to agree new strategic priorities, which would be used to develop the Strategic and Local Delivery Plans.

The Committee asked questions of Officers around current teenage pregnancy rates, the number of residential care homes in North Yorkshire and if the demographics of the county as described in the report were accurate, i.e. rural upbringing.

RESOLVED:

To note the content of the 2017-18 annual reports for the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children and North

Yorkshire Safeguarding Adult's Boards.

51 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: PH2 SITES DETAILED BUSINESS CASES (S/18/23)

The Committee received the report presented by the Head of Economic Development and Regeneration and were asked to consider the contents and make any comments on the Housing Development Programme.

Members noted that the Housing Development Programme sought to provide 207 affordable homes for Selby District Council (SDC) and Selby District Housing Trust (SDHT) by 31 March 2020. The programme was based on three 'delivery pillars' that included direct development on SDC owned sites, the acquisition and development of new sites, and the acquisition of affordable homes constructed by other developers. The programme would generate revenue streams for the Council as a result of loans provided to the SDHT.

Members queried whether the delivery timescales described in the report were realistic; the Interim Development Surveyor advised Members that whilst they were optimistic, they were not unreasonable.

The Committee asked Officers to check the details relating to a location listed under Phase 3, specifically Benedicts Close in Selby.

Members were pleased that a number of sites that had been suggested over the years were appearing in the HDP, and were keen to see them delivered.

It was suggested by the Committee that the wording of the corporate priorities to 'Make Selby a Great Place to do Business' and 'Make Selby a Great Place to Enjoy Life' be amended to include the word 'District', to emphasise that Selby District was not only focused on Selby Town.

RESOLVED:

To note the contents of the Housing Development Programme.

The meeting closed at 6.50 pm.