

North Yorkshire County Council

Executive

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Northallerton on Tuesday, 7 July 2015 commencing at 11.00 am.

County Councillor Carl Les in the Chair. County Councillors Arthur Barker, David Chance, Gareth Dadd, Don Mackenzie, Chris Metcalfe and Clare Wood.

Also in attendance: County Councillors Val Arnold, Derek Bastiman, John Blackie, John Clark, Roger Harrison-Topham, Bill Hoult and Elizabeth Shields.

Officers present: Richard Flinton, Julie Blaisdale, David Bowe, Pete Dwyer, Gary Fielding, Ruth Gladstone, Neil Irving, Barry Khan, Barrie Mason, Josie O'Dowd, Mary Weastell, Richard Webb and Neil White.

9 members of the public were in attendance.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

296. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2015, having been printed and circulated, are taken as read and are confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

297. Questions and Statements from members of the public

There were six questions and statements received from members of the public and these were taken under the following item as they all related to libraries.

298. Reconfiguration of the Library Service

Considered -

A report of the Assistant Chief Executive - Library, Customer and Community Services informing Members of the outcome of the consultation on the future delivery of the library service, seeking Members' approval for the revised proposals and recommendations and seeking Members' approval for further work with communities in partnership with the Stronger Communities Programme to establish a way forward for the delivery of services.

County Councillor Chris Metcalfe introduced the report referring to page 18 which set out its purpose and scope, he then highlighted the additional recommendations from the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee as documented at

page 99. He stated that the process of reconfiguration offers communities a greater say in how their library service is delivered, whilst providing an opportunity to optimise the use of buildings via co-location and so share operating costs. He explained that the process of consultation had been long and intensive, followed by a full review of the findings by the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Before handing over to Mary Weastell, Assistant Chief Executive - Central Services, County Councillor Carl Les clarified the running order for the remainder of item of business.

Mary Weastell began by setting the context for the report, explaining that this was a very challenging time - it was necessary to provide a quality service, meet statutory obligations, and deliver savings. She said that this was a time of change noting that the existing family of libraries already included nine community libraries and although similar challenges had been faced three years ago, the proposed the scale of change was now considerably greater. Since the previous changes, she advised that relationships had developed, networks had expanded and grown to support community libraries. She felt that a true partnership approach was now in place, stating that this good practice was recognised nationally. In light of this she expressed confidence in the proposals before Members. Turning to the proposal consulted upon, it was noted that this was outlined from page 20 - detailing the £1.6m of savings to be achieved. The proposition being to deliver the future service based upon three categories of library: core, hybrid and community managed. A move to these arrangements was necessary to deliver the service within the reduced funding which would be available from 2017. Mary Weastell noted that there had been early engagement with Overview and Scrutiny to work up the criteria for each category of library. She stated that one core library was proposed per district and these would become the engine room to drive the broader network of libraries. These proposals were based on a strong network model and included the retention of the Supermobile and Home Library Service. Regarding the consultation programme she advised that this had been an extensive process conducted over a three month period from November 2014 to February 2015, detailed at page 22. She stressed that lessons had been learnt from the last time consultation had been undertaken, and this time a new approach had been employed incorporating drop-in sessions at supermarkets, numerous public meetings and the extensive use of social media. She also advised that a considerable number of petitions had also been received in response to the consultation. She advised that the results to the exercise were contained in the appendices to the report. She summarised the key findings:

- All libraries need professional staff;
- Communities need help to manage libraries themselves;
- Libraries are much more than the books they contain, they have a much wider role in terms of the health and well-being of communities;
- The local availability of volunteers is a worry, as is the loss of knowledge from libraries;
- People would prefer savings to be made elsewhere if possible and not from libraries;
- Many respondents understood that changes need to be made;
- Support was shown for sharing buildings and costs, and developing a community hub role for libraries;
- Volunteers could do more where working alongside professional staff;

Mary Weastell also acknowledged that other suggestions had been made, as at page 23 - most notably seeking to increase the number of hybrid libraries contained within the proposal. This option was not supported in view of the cost implications of doing so. Another suggestion to give every community library £15,000 to support their operation,

was similarly felt not to be financially viable. Regarding Social Enterprise - it was noted that no proposals had been received from communities. Following the analysis and consideration of all the responses to the consultation, the revised proposals set out at page 24 were compiled, reflecting some of the suggestions put forward.

Julie Blaisdale, Assistant Director - Library Customer and Community Services, then spoke in detail regarding the proposals. She explained that the revised option 3 before Members went beyond the original proposals and incurred an additional £175,000 expenditure. She noted that the original option based upon three types of libraries, core, hybrid and community, had assumed the following percentages of paid staff support:

- core 40%
- hybrid 25%
- community managed 0%.

Following the analysis of the results of the consultation, options 2 and 3 were had been added to the proposals providing more support for volunteers in community and hybrid libraries. She explained that the proposals relating to core libraries remained unchanged as these would continue to operate as the hubs and support other libraries in each network. She stated that option 3 was the preferred option as this offered the most to communities and best demonstrated that the Council is responding to the concerns raised during the consultation - it is committed to finding a sustainable way forward in the longer term. Julie Blaisdale went on to outline various implications of the proposal including proposals to create a level playing field for community library groups including a subsidy of: fair rent + 70% of a library's three year average utility costs net of income. Regarding staffing, she explained that the restructure which would be required would result in fewer paid staff and changing roles for those remaining. She stressed the importance of how paid staff would work with volunteers, to facilitate and assist them.

Julie Blaisdale spoke of the risks of the proposals, stressing that their delivery would be challenging. Risks were identified regarding the extent of the proposed expansion in community libraries and also the work needed regarding local leadership to make these changes happen. Working with partners across communities was key. She also acknowledged the risk of legal challenge in respect of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, and referenced the Equality Impact Assessment which sought to quantify and address concerns. She also noted the risk of not achieving the targeted savings, and highlighted the importance of the long lead time to implementation in Spring 2017 - necessary to give time to build capacity and deliver the required sustainable solutions. She also acknowledged the risk of data protection and access to the Library Management System noting that volunteers did not have full access at the present time. This was a development that would be needed if the proposals were implemented in full. She felt very strongly that this was a risk to be owned, understood and overcome. She stated that the changes would need to be closely monitored in terms of the impact upon performance and the added value delivered. Close working would be required with the Stronger Communities Programme to address the risks and implications that had been identified.

Regarding property and asset transfer, Julie Blaisdale advised that more work would be needed on this in future, including the development of an appropriate policy. She spoke of the widening role and remit of libraries as a result of initiatives such as Assisted Digital. She then touched upon passenger transport implications and the work undertaken with Integrated Passenger Transport to ensure the public can access their libraries. She reiterated that partnership was the key in all aspects of this project. Again

she flagged the significance of the Equality Impact Assessment at Appendix 2 at pages 62 to 81. She acknowledged that the biggest risk to the future of libraries was if communities did not come forward to get involved. Finally she stressed the positive benefits to those who volunteer – whether as a learning opportunity for younger people, or an opportunity to give something back to their communities for others.

**At this point the meeting paused to observe the national one minute
silence in remembrance of the 7/7 bombings.**

County Councillor Carl Les then invited County Councillor Derek Bastiman, Chairman of the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee to give feedback from the scrutiny process.

County Councillor Derek Bastiman noted that the draft minutes from the Corporate and Partnerships Committee meeting that considered this report, were in Appendix 6 (Annex 2). He advised that the Committee spent three hours considering the report on the reconfiguration of the library service, hearing a wide range of views and proposals from the ten public speakers, interested local councillors, as well as written submissions from members of the public and County Councillors not on the Committee. The Committee agreed with the recommendations in the report seeing option 3 as a way to give an additional level of support staff where it is needed, however, the Committee heard from a number of speakers of their nervousness about how this would be delivered and how the volunteer support could be galvanised in the local communities. The Committee had noted that a further report would come to the Executive regarding the progress made with the community groups following the decision, as set out in recommendation 4 on page 37, and the Committee wished to consider this report and asked that it come to the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee before it comes to the Executive in order to help the Executive to explore any further opportunities that may arise from the progress that has been made. Furthermore, the County Councillor for Richmond Town was keen to see that all three libraries (Catterick, Colburn, Richmond) would remain open and proposed that the Council considers a voluntary model for Libraries that takes into account Charitable Trusts who can manage a group of libraries in a geographical area, as it may make the development of the Library service in this area stronger. The Committee agreed with this proposal as it could be used throughout the County, where it was appropriate, and so asked that the Executive agree to this additional recommendation which is set out on page 99. County Councillor Bastiman was pleased to have the opportunity to present the findings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Executive and asked that the two changes to the recommendations were made.

County Councillor Carl Les then invited the members of the public who had registered to speak to come forward in turn and make their contributions.

Dr John Gibbins stated that he had recently run a workshop in Cambridge regarding knowledge networks where he had spoken of the importance of the knowledge economy and the aspiration that the UK is seen as a primary source of innovation for invention and design. He stressed the importance of libraries as a store of knowledge - they are the main repository across the world, enabling the reliable transfer of knowledge to ordinary people, whereas technology can be prone to failure. He therefore stressed the importance of the sound storage of knowledge. He advised that he had talked and engaged with professionals from many different disciplines including the Police, Health

and the CBI regarding such matters. Dr Gibbins stated that he would have little confidence in the library proposals to maintain professional standards. He felt that where librarians were replaced by volunteers, the risk profile of the service would increase. He went on to speak of de-professionalisation, noting that many professions were under threat of this today whether from criminals, business, or the Government. He observed that professions such as policing and medicine were being stripped of certain professional roles. Dr Gibbins commented that volunteers could be placed at risk if they are expected to take responsibility for things they are not properly equipped to do. He felt that the proposals compromised the duty of care and put both volunteers and customers at risk. He suggested that low levels of control would only seek to exacerbate the problem and increase such risks. Dr Gibbins had submitted a written statement prior to the meeting, the full text of that is shown below and this was circulated to all present.

“The Dangers of De-Professionalisation

(Dr John R Gibbins BSc; MA; PhD (Wolfson College, Cambridge)

Following decades of training Professionals in the area of Conduct (including Chief Constables; Nurses; Social Workers; Counsellors; the Confederation for British Industry and Higher Education; UKCGE; UKGrad), I wish to warn the NYCC of several risks pertaining to its proposals to introduce higher levels of non-professional staff into the NYCC Library Service.

An easily accessible definition of a profession and their roles are provided below. Librarianship is a vaunted profession with origins in Hellenistic Alexandria and Rome. Entry and standards of knowledge and conduct are highly attuned and regulated to ensure that the duty of care of all parties are protected and rights recognized and upheld. Training covers many diverse areas from IT to counselling; privacy and cataloguing. Performances are monitored, behaviour regulated to minimize risks and ensure quality of performance and good conduct.

In today's global society, professions are under threat from criminals proffering fake credentials and training; businesses wishing to circumvent regulations, and governments seeking to cut costs. One serious aspect of this threat is de-professionalisation - put simply as replacing trained and highly paid professionals with the non-trained, amateurs, volunteers. The NYCC Policy of staffing several libraries, previously served by trained professions, with volunteers falls within the category of de-professionalization. Imagine your worries if accountants, doctors, solicitors being replaced by volunteers.

Too many dangers exist to be listed here but I will focus of a few that should ring alarm bells to Councillors, Council staff and Council Tax payers in the County:

Volunteers

Volunteers will be dealing with often complex issues without appropriate levels of training.

They can be expected to make more errors than training professionals.

They can be expected to have less knowledge to deploy in aiding library users and allied professions and bodies - so reducing levels of service.

They will be exposed to difficult situations they are neither trained nor are supported in handling - abusive customers.

They will have lower levels of support than professionals.

They will have less monitoring and regulation - exposing all parties to risks e.g. the misuse of data privacy and confidentiality) when accessing library users online details.

Volunteers will not have the same levels of duties of care nor obligations as professionals.

Volunteers will not have the same level of financial and legal protection when any of the above occur.

Librarians

Librarians will be exposed to many allied risks:

They will have extra duties imposed for which they may not be trained eg counselling; skills training; annual reviews, monitoring, discipline

These duties will distract them for core duties.

They will have less time to provide existing professional responsibilities.

They may be held responsible for volunteers conduct over which they have no control - a volunteer can just walk away from errors.

Librarians will be placed in danger of prosecution or civil actions for actions of those who have no duty of care to customers.

Councillors and Council Staff

These parties will have little or no powers of control or regulation over unpaid volunteers.

Allowing non-professionals to practice with the public will expose Councillors and Council Staff to risks of prosecution for failures to exercise duties of care to the above parties.

This policy will actually put all parties at risk.

Definition of a Profession

'A profession is a [vocation](#) founded upon specialised [educational training](#), the purpose of which is to supply disinterested objective counsel and service to others, for a direct and definite compensation, wholly apart from expectation of other business gain', Wikipedia.

Roles of a Profession

- to generate and maintain legitimacy of knowledge and autonomy in a specialist area
- to regulate entry, training, promotion, exit to ensure appropriate standards
- to set and monitor standards of conduct in the profession
- to exercise the duty of care to employers, customers and colleagues
- to uphold the rights of all stakeholders to the activities concerning the profession
- to monitor and regulate conduct and culture of all those practicing in the profession
- to regulate discipline and punishment in cases of mal-administration
- to reproduce itself via education and training and maintain standards
- Supply and update knowledge and information within the profession and to related professions and bodies
- to negotiate with external bodies on matters pertaining to the profession and the activities it regulates

Key ethical and legal Principles of a Profession

- Honesty and telling the truth
- Openness and Candour
- Privacy
- Confidentiality
- Access and freedom of information
- Decision Making, Discretion and Prioritisation
- Informed Consent
- Justice
- Prioritisation,
- Discrimination and Equity
- Neutrality
- Impartiality and Favouritism
- Preference and anti-discrimination
- Intervention
- Specialised services and Trials
- Competence
- Accountability and Charters
- Diligence
- Non Solicitation
- Fee and cost transparency
- Protection and Insurance”

Julie Blaisdale responded stating we would endorse Dr Gibbins' view that there is a role for professionally trained and qualified staff in the library service and these proposals aren't about removing that role. However, we need to draw a distinction between the experienced, trained staff who work on the front line, that the public see every day and the professional librarian. In this new model, professionals will have a role in ensuring that the County Council continues to fulfil its obligations under the 1964 Act. They will work very closely with the voluntary groups, enabling and supporting them to run a high quality service. This will include delivering the induction and training package to volunteers and community groups, which is the same as they deliver to our current front line staff. The reduced level of budget means that the service cannot afford to pay for staff for every hour the libraries are open.

Mr John Dean - Save North Yorkshire Libraries likened those who would be staffing libraries in future to those who worked for the Territorial Army, commenting that he felt adopting such an approach would be taking a gamble. He spoke of the Save North Yorkshire Libraries petition which he had been involved in co-ordinating, this sought a minimum of one member of paid staff per library and more hybrid libraries. He raised concerns regarding the additional funding which had been referred to in the report, wishing to know whether this was temporary for 2016/17 for non-library based staff or whether it would be used for library based staff. He also commented upon the importance of bus services to enable people to travel to their library and the threat which some of these services faced. He noted that Whitby feared it might become cut off in future, and that for certain other locations it might take virtually a day's travel to visit the library. He commented that universities and public schools provided the best facilities they could for students, and he asked that the local authority aspire to do the same. He also noted the challenging individuals who sometimes frequent libraries. The statement submitted prior to the meeting by Mr Dean is shown below and this was circulated to all present.

“OUR LIBRARIES IN NORTH YORKSHIRE: THE CONSULTATION FALL-OUT

The Executive Committee of North Yorkshire County Council is to consider the report and recommendations on Library Cuts-7 July County Hall.

Thousands have sent in their views-by Consultation Forms, letters, petitions and campaign groups across many towns from the Dales through the Vales of York, Mowbray, Pickering, Ryedale as well as Selby Cleveland border and the Coast–so how have their fears for the Library Service and their aspirations for positive changes asking for staff in all of our libraries been met by the Report?

Well, there have been the optimistic press release headlines recently:

‘Thousands force Council re-think’ Apparently new money (a small amount) has been found. Most of this though is to finance the induction of the many volunteers who will be needed if these cuts to staff go ahead-if the councillors meeting on 7th July at County Hall adopt the Library chief’s recommendations.

The County Hall meeting on 5 June -at which members of the Scrutiny Committee –after hearing members of the public (19 present altogether) and some campaigning Councillors had spoken –debated issues such as the sustainability of volunteers; problems with the unfairness of rural libraries (and all the others too) will be left without front of house on- the-spot staff. Much was said of the special needs of two or three ‘deprived areas’ of North Yorkshire This is an ongoing unresolved thorny issue – deprivation even in apparently prosperous communities. Major worries are emerging for less prosperous library users.

Bus service subsidies are set to go -though the Library report tries to reassure.

There is anger and despair too along the major routes provided by Coastliner to Whitby from Malton and Norton via Pickering up to Whitby –all library towns

There will be severe cuts to subsidy for the winter service across the Moors and the 31X provided by Stephensons from York through the NYCC border via Easingwold, Helmsley to Kirkbymoorside-another string of library towns.

There is also the tricky task –raised on 5th June again-for ‘community groups’ to undertake fund-raising to cover shortfalls in finance. Legal issues remain all over the County in connection with community group or trust governance; buildings which are expensive or have restrictive leases (though the County Council maintain a brave face on this).

Former university lecturers - an archivist and researcher and myself -deplored the knowledge to be lost –whether in the planned severe loss of staff or in the legacy to children who need skilled support. People of all ages undertaking research for jobs or other tasks need a supportive, neutral and above all confidential environment in which to work. Security is vital: incidents in the news: Whitby (a paedophile library user) and in York Explorer (formidably challenging visitors) would have intimidated well-meaning purely volunteers beyond endurance.

Many of the most in need of such library staff attention are today confined in their own towns - unable to be present here today many are at work or fully caring for young or old in their families. Another of course is the remoteness of County Hall from the Coast or rural areas just across the hills or the A1 – so near but yet so far away for so many.”

Julie Blaisdale responded stating that the additional money proposed in the report is to pay for additional staffing support for hybrid and community managed libraries, in response to the views expressed during the consultation. These staff would provide a regular presence at community managed libraries and work directly with volunteers showing them how to deliver the service to the public and giving them reassurance and confidence in the roles they are taking on. This is in addition to the training delivered by the professional team.

Regarding the bus subsidy, she commented that Library staff had spoken with Integrated Passenger Transport who advised that the Coastliner service to Whitby is a commercially provided service. The subsidy which would be removed is just that which provides a route diversion via Goathland in the winter months. A community transport alternative is being looked at for Goathland. In respect of the 31X, they are reviewing the service pattern following the comments that have come in so far during the bus consultation, which continues until mid-August. A service will continue between York, Easingwold and Helmsley. The commercial service 128 provides a service between Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside.

Julie Blaisdale stated that the Service recognises the challenge that some library users can present, particularly in the larger libraries, which is why volunteers will be working alongside front line staff in core and hybrid libraries. She reiterated that there will be additional staff support in community libraries.

Mr Martin Vander Weyer - Helmsley Library Working Group, an ad hoc committee of Town Councillors and Library volunteers, informed and supported by Library Service officers. The statement submitted prior to the meeting is shown below and this was circulated to all present:

“Consultation responses clearly and quite rightly did not give a mandate for service cuts previously outlined, which would have killed many smaller libraries stone dead. We therefore welcome the revised proposals, in particular ‘preferred’ Option 3, offering 5-7 hours staffing per week each to smaller Community Libraries, plus rent/utility subsidy.

On this basis, Helmsley Library might well be sustainable — though recruitment of sufficient volunteers will be challenging, even in a community with high levels of voluntary activity. A move to lower-rent space at the National Park building, under discussion, would further reduce NYCC and local costs, while offering other synergies. So far so good.

May we however urge Councillors to consider further rebalancing staff hours between library categories to guarantee smaller libraries at least one full day equivalent per week of staff time.

Most importantly, may we urge Councillors to encourage within NYCC a new ethos that more wholeheartedly embraces and respects the role of volunteers. This would include:

Removal of remaining barriers to volunteers working alongside paid staff and undertaking similar tasks.

Revision and simplification of the onerous ‘service level agreement’ which Town Councils or other bodies are asked to sign when they offer to help organise library volunteers.

Creation of a volunteer-led, possibly county-wide, Communities Libraries body which would engage with NYCC on behalf of its members and share best practice between them.

Finally I thank you for striving, within such severe financial constraints, to maintain a service that meets both the 1964 Act and the expectations of citizens — for whom libraries remain such a highly valued and visible county service.”

Julie Blaisdale replied commenting that regarding re-balancing staff hours between library categories, it needs to be recognised that the proposals are not about giving every library the same. The allocations are based on the available budget and the service’s considered assessment using a range of criteria around business levels. She noted that the service level agreement (SLA) is an important document, which will be re-looked at to take on board what people say about it being onerous and she pledged to try to make it as simple as possible. However, large amounts of public money in the form of buildings, technology and bookstock etc, are at stake and so there has to be a legally binding agreement which formalises the Council’s expectation of community groups and what groups can expect of NYCC. She welcomed the suggestion of a county wide Community Libraries body, seeing it as a partnership and stated that all possible will be done to help communities to work together. She noted that the current community groups do have a Groupspace site on the internet. Compliance with the 1964 Act comes with strings – and she felt that the SLA is important in helping the Council ensure the service complies.

Mr Mike Canavan – Save Stokesley Library Campaign The statement submitted prior to the meeting is shown below and this was circulated to all present:

“Good morning Chairman. Thank you for allowing me to speak this morning.

Comments made at the recent Scrutiny Committee indicated the initial funding level decision was taken without the knowledge of the implications of that decision.

We now have confirmation of the consequences, which include 21 of the 33 existing libraries being run as Community libraries staffed entirely by volunteers in the longer term. There is no commitment to provide any paid staffing beyond the 18 months implementation period. There is a significant difference between an indication of a willingness to volunteer in a consultation questionnaire and the level of commitment needed to manage what are acknowledged to be larger libraries than the current community libraries. The report notes that all the proposed options are extremely challenging. The Scrutiny Committee acknowledged the risk with the numbers of people being asked to volunteer – is this the way that NYCC wishes to progress its responsibility for provision of a Library service? If a library closes it is likely to be lost forever.

Looking at district level, in Hambleton the proposal is that only one Core and no Hybrid library would serve nearly 90,000 people. This is 2.5 times worse than say Scarborough District. The geographical area served by these Hambleton libraries is equally unfairly provided for. It is more than double that of the majority of the NYCC districts.

The revised proposal (Option 3) takes account of some of the consultation feedback to provide some short term paid staff support for community libraries. Without any justification the report indicates provision for additional staffing for hybrid libraries, increasing the ratio from 25% to 40%. Why? Such funding should be used to provide much needed support to the Community libraries.

Turning to Community libraries the report provides several examples of actions that Communities could take, but which the Library Service itself has not actioned. The service could create or seek a trust or social enterprise to run the service, increase the use of library buildings and assets or co-locate services. NYCC professional staff are much better placed to progress these opportunities than unpaid volunteers. Savings thus accrued would lessen the impact on the library service provision in the county. Equally the not insignificant costs of the staff time, across several other council departments, required to support the changes in the proposal do not appear to have been considered.

Examining Stokesley specifically, as a District Service Centre it is geographically one of the most distant proposed community libraries from either a hybrid or core library. It has the second highest resident catchment population of any proposed community library, being greater than that of two proposed hybrid libraries in other districts. In the consultation documents used in decision making, the number of Over 55 members was understated by over 90% (182 v 1882). Additionally two different levels of the subsidy payable to Stokesley as a community library have been proposed. These differ by over £4,000, or 40%.

Like other communities, Stokesley has areas of relative deprivation that its library serves. Discussion at the Scrutiny Committee has already suggested for this reason that alternative funding be accessed from other budgets to make a community library sustainable. This acknowledges that the current proposed Library Service funding is inadequate to provide such sustainability. Surely the sensible option is not to use money from other budgets but to sustainably fund libraries from the Library Service budget in the first place.

I accept that some reduction in library service funding is required, but I urge this Executive not to accept the current proposals and to request alternative proposals are developed which are fully evaluated and justified for provision of a sustainable service.”

Julie Blaisdale responded stating that paragraph 8.2 of the report recommends a post-implementation review 18 months to 2 years after February 2017. This gives the service ample time to see which communities need more support. She acknowledged it is a considerable level of commitment for communities and individuals, and the Council is not saying it will be easy and straightforward. She advised that work would continue with communities to support them alongside other NYCC colleagues, for example from the Stronger Communities team. She noted the intention to report back to Executive in December to give an initial assessment of progress made, and will continue to keep all informed. In Hambleton she advised it is proposed that there will be one core library, to be based in Northallerton, and 5 community managed libraries (including the existing GADC). She added that geography doesn't necessarily reflect use. The top 12 libraries, ie the proposed hybrids and core libraries, represent 65% of total business. She stated that the Council has to put resources where most of the usage takes place. She confirmed, it is proposed that there is additional staffing in the hybrid libraries. This reflects the consultation responses from communities with proposed hybrid libraries who were concerned about the low levels proposed initially, given how busy these libraries are. However, no additional staffing is proposed for core libraries.

Regarding co-location – the Council will continue to make the most of every opportunity that comes our way. There is a track record of co-location and partnership. The Council has looked at other options such as trusts and social enterprises, however, these would still rely on on-going revenue funding from NYCC. There are other libraries that are more distant from a core or hybrid library than Stokesley. Julie Blaisdale accepted that

there was a typographical error on the Stokesley information sheet, which had been corrected. She stressed that this did not affect the process of coming up with proposals, this was based on the underlying data. Regarding the subsidy levels query, Julie Blaisdale advised that these have been based on a formula. She stated that the Council is mindful that a number of communities have areas of deprivation. This will be taken into account in the work going forward with communities to ensure they maintain sustainability.

Mr Canavan clarified the query he had raised noting it related to Appendix 4 and the 4 June email to County Councillor Bryn Griffiths.

Mrs Eileen Driver - Save Stokesley Library Campaign The statement submitted prior to the meeting is shown below and this was circulated to all present:

"I speak on behalf of 2,400 Stokesley people who have signed petitions and written letters to the council, asking that our library become a Hybrid and not be an All Volunteer library. This strong and clear message has been supported by our Secondary and Primary Schools as well as unanimously by the Parish Council. Local people recognise the immeasurable educational, social and cultural value that our library develops in our town. I cannot tell you how many people said that an all volunteer library would not last and so a hybrid was the only option. Our Community selected the Hybrid option because they saw it as a good compromise, recognising your financial constraints and believed that it protected the library from the vulnerable position that an All volunteer library would be in.

3 weeks ago, on the radio, Julie Blaisdale said that the 20 communities had to think creatively to deal with their libraries as All Volunteer units. If your professional library service could not think creatively, with its professional Business Enterprise Dept, it is impossible to expect 20 groups of amateurs to manage each library with creative business solutions, especially in the long term. Since the statutory responsibility is to provide a "free, professional and efficient service" is not pushing this legal responsibility on to small communities certain to precipitate the disappearance of some libraries and therefore a postcode lottery?

Stokesley has only been open since 2005, with money from the sale of the previous library and other local land and property, the resulting almost £2million was invested into the new library. If Stokesley library is not preserved, there will be a capital loss to the ratepayers of almost £2million with corresponding benefit of rent free accommodation.

There is a Partnership Agreement between Broadacres and NYCC library service, a legal agreement to agree exit terms. Our legal adviser has been striving since December to establish what the costs to NyCC would be of exiting the lease to NYCC. She was not given an answer during those months or at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on June 5th. The position is still that you are tasked with saving money, but considering a decision which will result in closure of the library but commits you to paying an unknown amount of compensation.

Broadacres will not want to make a loss. They will be looking for a figure far in excess of the library's annual £26,000 running costs. Commercially, it will be difficult to relet the library in a town where there are a significant amount of business lets available. Broadacres will be looking for several years' worth of service charge and business rates which could easily add up to a 6 figure sum. We ask that you create and fund a Hybrid library for Stokesley which local people wish to have and help with, rather than

abandoning the almost £2million put into the building and spending our money as ratepayers on paying compensation to Broadacres.

We know from your On line survey Report that a few Stokesley people want to run an All Volunteer library but that is outweighed by the same report that informs you that , when asked, “would you be interested in forming Friends and Community managed library group and volunteering?” 86% of Stokesley people said No.

On behalf of all of your grandparents, uncles, aunts, children, grandchildren and yourselves who gained vast amounts of learning, research, culture and community social benefits from libraries please rethink your position on this profound question and make Stokesley and any of the other proposed-for-closure libraries into Hybrids. Such a wise decision will guarantee a civilised sustainable future for our county.”

Julie Blaisdale replied stating that the service is always open to opportunities for partnerships and works closely with other parts of the County Council and District Councils, including extra care and tourist information etc. She confirmed that the Council will work closely with communities to ensure that community libraries remain within the family of libraries. She stressed there was no proposal to hand over the keys and walk away, noting that it would be seen as a failure on the part of the Council if community libraries could not be sustained.

Regarding the investment in Stokesley library – she reiterated:

“NYCC made contributions in kind and in cash towards the development of Town Close. The primary reason for this was to enable the development of an Extra Care facility of 40 flats to replace the elderly person’s home. The development also included premises for Hambleton District Council, a new library and modern accommodation for the Community Care Association and for use by other local groups. Updating of the Manor House had been considered, but estimates were in the region of £1 million. There is no financial penalty clause in the lease and there has been no suggestion in our informal discussions with Broadacres that they would seek any payment. Broadacres have expressed willingness to continue working with the County Council and any new partners coming forward. The service does not want the library to close and hopes that a group will come forward with whom we can work in partnership. We would hope the library could continue in the premises. If no group comes forward we would explore other options with Broadacres, including use of the premises for other NYCC services. The Partnership agreement is a much broader document than the lease, and includes NYCC’s ongoing relationship with Broadacres in respect of the extra care provision, so there is no likelihood that this would be terminated.”

She noted that in the consultation, 21% of respondents from Stokesley said they were likely or extremely likely to volunteer and 14% said they were interested in forming a friends or Community managed library group or volunteering, which is higher than the overall county average of 12%. She stressed that no library closures were proposed - the report was all about keeping libraries open.

Mrs Melva Steckles – Chairman Brough with St Giles Parish Council (a small Parish Council located alongside Catterick Garrison, Colburn and Richmond). Regarding Colburn Library, she commented that the community really needed their library, and noted that it was well used and accessible. Regarding Catterick Garrison she noted the new library which had been established, accommodating the growth of the Garrison and the expanding town centre. She also noted that this locality was well served by a regular bus service; the public transport network was good overall. She acknowledged that Richmond Library was historically the administrative centre and accepted that there were

lots of volunteers located there, however on the negative side, the library was not readily accessible. She felt it would be regrettable not to develop an accessible library as a core library and noted the various constraints of the Richmond Library site, as it was located within older buildings which were not as accessible. She felt that the Catterick Garrison Library was already performing as a community hub and met many of the criteria required to be a core library. Regarding the Garrison itself she advised that this was growing with more permanent personnel coming to the site, she felt that this location was therefore a logical candidate for a core library venue. The statement submitted by Mrs Steckles prior to the meeting is detailed below and this was circulated to all present.

"I refer to my letter to the Corporate and Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee which met on the 5th June '15, and to item 55 in the minutes regarding the above service. My comments appear in the minutes of that meeting on pages 7 & 8 together with Julie Blaisdale's response.

I will try not to repeat my earlier comments but hope to add more background to the expanding Catterick Garrison Town Centre issue.

Currently (June – August) 8 regiments are relocating from Germany into Catterick with only 4 leaving to relocate elsewhere in the UK. In the newspapers this week we hear that local junior school places are under pressure because of the hundreds of new houses being built in Colburn, off the A6136, towards the new Garrison town centre. Bus routes and cycle routes across the three parishes (Hipswell, Colburn, Scotton), which make up the new town centre, all serve the new town centre in which the first shops, cinema & hotel will be opening this month.

It has been suggested that as the three libraries are so close together that a hub of three is formed. This does make sense in that each serves large built up areas in their own right. I assume, however, that one still needs to be the lead library which brings me back to the point I made earlier to the Scrutiny Committee; Catterick Garrison has had over a million pounds of NYCC investment in a new bright modern building, is the most accessible, has bus routes regularly timed from both Richmond and Colburn and would serve a community of younger families/people who are the most likely to be isolated.

Having spent many years working in and serving (as a Cllr) the residents and members of our armed forces in Catterick Central I seriously believe that NYCC can really help in the Military-Civil integration by making Catterick the core library.

I observe that the Richmond Library, being in a rundown building, will need capital expenditure or a relocation, (possibly to an even less accessible building?).

Finally I was pleased to see Julie Blaisdale's comments that her response was based on current business levels, that they are not set in stone and plans can change. I am now asking that if you are of a mind to form a hub of three that the Catterick Garrison library is the core service provider. "

Julie Blaisdale advised that the report does include the recommendation that Richmond Library is named as the Core library for the district, in line with criteria applied elsewhere; ie Richmond is the administrative centre for the district and it currently has the highest business levels in terms of usage. She noted that as the core library, Richmond would under the proposals, be the base for the professional team supporting the whole of the Richmondshire District and the professional team will ensure that as much as possible is done to ensure that ALL services across the District (including Catterick and Colburn as

well as Hawes and Leyburn) continue to operate beyond 2017. It was accepted that this may require different solutions for the Catterick/Colburn/Richmond areas to be considered and progressed in the longer term, particularly given that the extent of the plans to expand the Garrison may mean that in time, it will become the administrative focal point for the district as well as leisure and retail. Julie Blaisdale confirmed that there is an understanding that the demographics, including levels of deprivation, and geographic proximity of Richmond, Catterick and Colburn do allow for some discussion on the future potential for sharing management committees and volunteers as well as possibly staff. In addition, potential partners/agencies were being actively sought alongside colleagues in the Stronger Communities team, in order to find a solution that will ensure that all three communities can continue to sustain and benefit from their local libraries.

County Councillor Chris Metcalfe observed that all the issues identified had been looked at in detail but he accepted that the Council had to retain a degree of fluidity and an open mind regarding alternative future developments. It was noted that Catterick Garrison had much to offer, however the timing was not now ideal to change from the Richmond proposal at this time.

County Councillor Carl Les then invited County Councillors who were not members of the Committee but who were present and wished to make contributions to do so.

County Councillor Elizabeth Shields stated how pleased she was to see a community library proposal for Norton, as opposed to a combined facility with Malton. She hoped that this would come to fruition and she was keen to see option 3 implemented, advising that Norton Library would seek to achieve charitable status. She advised that there were some very experienced people who lived in the locality and who would be pleased to work on this project, and share their knowledge and expertise. She recorded her thanks to officers for the support given to get this far, and she felt confident that volunteers would be forthcoming to make a success of the community library.

County Councillor Roger Harrison-Topham began by advising that those sitting in the public gallery area had struggled to hear the proceedings due to issues with the sound system. He stated that libraries ranked very highly within his own personal priorities and that they were particularly important in rural areas. He acknowledged that the proposals had developed and improved following the consultation, however he felt they reflected one major flaw - the lack of contingency provision in the event of failure. He urged that risk assessments are undertaken. He commented that he was an accountant by profession who was used to forecasting outcomes. He noted that upon implementation of the library proposals it would be necessary to contain costs and achieve the required savings, whilst still delivering the service. He expressed concern not on the basis of the assumptions made, but rather as a result of the unexpected. He urged Members and officers to 'expect the unexpected' and in accordance with this ethos, urged that a lifeboat in the form of contingency funding, should be available. He wondered if this might possibly be sourced from the core libraries which were located in the more highly populated areas. He stressed that the risk of libraries closing was very challenging and that once closed they would be very hard to re-open later.

County Councillor John Blackie commented that alternative proposals that had been forwarded and dismissed earlier in the process, but he accepted that this was now history. Commenting upon the Overview and Scrutiny process he felt that this had been a rubber-stamping exercise and that the outcome today was probably a done deal, however he accepted the position was better now than at the start of the public consultation. He wished the proposals to be successfully implemented and to this end,

he wished to offer those present some tips to ensure that this would be so. He stressed that it was all about communities and that libraries would be lost at our peril. He acknowledged that it was a year since the Hawes Post Office had opened in the Upper Wensleydale Community Office where the library is also located. He advised that over the period of the last year, footfall had increased by 150% - which he felt was a very positive outcome and one which should be replicated elsewhere. He explained that the District Council, the County Council, Police, Parish Council, Meals on Wheels, community office, Little White Bus, library, internet café, post office sorting office and three branch offices ran from this location, which was operated by 14 part-time staff and 40 volunteers. He noted that 30,000 journeys had been facilitated on the Little White Bus and that turnover was approaching £250,000. He noted that the project had started some 17 years ago with one volunteer and one building in a deeply rural setting. He advised that this community hub gives access for all in the locality to a wide range of services, but it did not happen overnight and it took a huge volunteer effort including the local councillor (John Blackie) and others. He stated that the library proposals would mean that volunteer groups would need to gain charitable status to qualify for rate relief. He stressed how much was involved in this, it was a complicated process and that groups needed to register themselves as companies limited by guarantee and that they needed Articles of Association and Memoranda. He also noted that accounts had to be submitted on time which also involved a lot of work. County Councillor Blackie advised that revenue support from Borough and District Councils would be needed to achieve the 20% discretionary rate relief, and that community groups may face resistance in trying to push for this. He noted that a level playing field was important but it is not always easy to achieve this - he advised that rivalries can have adverse impacts on such projects. Regarding volunteers, he advised that the more rural areas are not usually lacking in volunteers for libraries, but this might be more challenging in urban areas. He supported the suggestion from County Councillor Roger Harrison-Topham regarding contingency funding. He cautioned of the sensitivities of volunteers managing volunteers, explaining that arrangements can be volatile at times and that all concerned needed to recognise that such issues need very special handling, given everything is based upon goodwill. On the question of a reduction in professionalism, he felt that this can be more than made up for by the enthusiasm and commitment of willing volunteers. Finally he commended the wonderful brigade of frontline library staff recognising that some would lose their jobs in future, and that others would need to adapt to a totally new existence. He accepted that their expertise would be missed but hoped that some could be retained wherever possible.

County Councillor Chris Metcalfe responded to these comments starting with County Councillor Elizabeth Shields. He stated that he was pleased that the Norton proposal could move forward and he welcomed the work which had been done to bring the community together. He felt there was similarity with the community library in Barlby and its relationship to Selby, citing this as a real success story. Regarding County Councillor John Blackie's comments, County Councillor Chris Metcalfe advised that he had noted the alternative proposals forwarded earlier in the process, but had felt that these were flawed. He was grateful for the very articulate way in which the community library concept had been advocated and re recalled an occasion when he and the former Director, Derek Law, had spent a lot of time with County Councillor Blackie when developing and evidencing the community model in the first instance. He was grateful for the valid points made and totally supported the co-existence of multiple services in one location to make them all viable. He commented that wherever such schemes were successful there was strong local leadership, whether this was given by the local councillor or a local resident, he felt this really helps to get projects off the ground. He recognised the importance of arrangements being sustainable, therefore it was important to value volunteers and a flexible approach was key. Regarding County Councillor

Roger Harrison-Topham's contribution, County Councillor Metcalfe also acknowledged the libraries were special. To ensure the sustainability of projects he highlighted the umbilical cord of support which would always be provided by the County Council. By staying engaged with communities, any difficulties will be spotted early and addressed accordingly. He felt it would be inappropriate to have an underwriting policy at this time as it would send the wrong message, on this basis he did not support the contingency fund approach.

Julie Blaisdale commented that throughout the consultation, efforts had been taken to acknowledge that the proposed approach was not an easy option, that it was highly challenging. She confirmed the intention to come back to the Executive in early December to update Members on progress towards implementation. She accepted that it would be hard to get some libraries into a position to be operational from 2017. She stressed that officers were looking at the ways of achieving this all the time, and that it was a key focus of the service's work. She reiterated the honest approach taken to the challenges and barriers within this, and the proposals to address them. She cautioned that a community library had in fact closed in the last round of changes - Hunmanby Library. She was pleased to report that the majority of those who had used that library, now used Filey Library or the Home Library Service. She reiterated the importance of working with other partners to implement the proposals and the key role to be played by the Stronger Communities Programme.

County Councillor Carl Les thanked officers for the detailed report provided and the attendance at various public meetings including presentations at all Area Committees. He then invited Executive Members to make their contributions.

County Councillor Gareth Dadd commented that it had been a long and arduous process to reach this point and he welcomed the balanced report before Members regarding the outcome of the consultation. He wished to place in context the fact that these proposals were one small part of the savings challenge faced by the Council, without the news from the Chancellor which was awaited tomorrow. He stressed that it was not an option to do nothing. Whilst it may be desirable to preserve all libraries in their present form, the best option to achieve a sustainable future was expressed in the proposals before Members. He commented that he did not support contingency funding for emergencies, wherever the money came from. He felt that the post implementation review was of prime importance in terms of reviewing funding and performance.

County Councillor Don Mackenzie stated that he supported the proposals and was pleased to note the aspiration to create a level playing field, given ownership was in a variety of different arrangements.

County Councillor Clare Wood added her congratulations to officers for the work which had gone into the report, and the presentations made to all Area Committees. She acknowledged that volunteers were critical and accepted that they were now being used in places where they had never been envisaged previously. She felt the Equality Impact Assessment was crucial in addressing the concerns of the vulnerable. She noted that 2,500 people now used the Home Library Service which was all volunteer-led and she wondered whether this had grown over its lifetime. She quoted the Public Rights of Way Service which was also heavily reliant upon volunteers. She felt confident that volunteers would come forward but accepted things could go wrong, which she felt was most likely if the appropriate support was not provided. In conclusion she supported the recommendations and option 3.

Julie Blaisdale advised that the Home Library Service had grown from 500 to around 2,700 users, and that the overall Library Service is facilitated by 56,674 volunteer hours per annum.

County Councillor Arthur Barker recorded his thanks for the contributions from members of the public and other Members. He noted what a huge challenge faced the Council as a result of the Government funding cuts, adding that this might increase after the Chancellor's announcements tomorrow. He was pleased to see that the proposals had been amended since the consultation, and that there would be some paid staff in all libraries and he supported option 3, however he cautioned that the additional funding this required, would mean additional savings would need to be found elsewhere.

County Councillor David Chance commented that the Stronger Communities Programme would help build up volunteers and he felt the proposals now under option 3 gave more cause for confidence. He was clear that libraries must in future become community hubs. He enquired whether it would be possible to provide model Charity Commission applications to assist volunteer groups seeking charitable status. He did not support the lifeboat emergency funding option but accepted that there were risks but he felt these were ameliorated via the long lead-in time which had been allowed for the project.

County Councillor Carl Les then invited County Councillor Chris Metcalfe to sum up and make any concluding comments. County Councillor Metcalfe noted that the service was clearly held in people's hearts and minds there had been good input to the discussions today. He felt that this was a great opportunity to re-provide a well-loved service in a transformational way, to better meet the needs of communities. He did not underestimate the enormity of the challenge but felt that a clear vision was given of the way forward. He recorded his thanks to all in the Library Service and also Stronger Communities particularly for the enthusiasm shown for building this new family of libraries going forward, these were he felt exciting times. He commended the recommendations as amended by the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee to Members.

Resolved -

- (a) That the report is noted and the categories core, hybrid and community managed and the libraries in these categories as detailed in paragraph 5.3 as amended by paragraph 6.6 of the report are agreed.
- (b) That the implementation of Option 3 as detailed in paragraphs 6.9-6.11 of the report and the consequent decrease in savings requirement is agreed.
- (c) That it is agreed to subsidise the premises costs for community managed libraries in line with the formula detailed in paragraph 6.18 of the report.
- (d) That a further report, following consideration by the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be brought to Executive on 8 December 2015 on the progress made with community groups, highlighting areas of potential risk.
- (e) That the proposal for a post-implementation review is noted.
- (f) That a voluntary model for Libraries is considered that takes into account Charitable Trusts who can manage a group of libraries in a geographical area.

There was a short break at this point in the meeting.

299. Feedback from Area Committees

Considered –

A report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) relating to meetings of the:-

County Committee for Hambleton - 1 June 2015

Selby Area Committee - 8 June 2015

Ryedale Area Committee - 10 June 2015

An updated version of paragraph 4.3 of the Ryedale Area Committee Feedback Report had been circulated (a copy of which is in the Minute Book) and County Councillor Clare Wood commented upon the revised recommendation noting that she had no personal recollection of the reference to the petition in the recommendation to the Executive. Notwithstanding this, she was happy to support the revised recommendations before Members.

Resolved –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the Executive consider taking the action the petition requests [as per option (i) in the petition report] after hearing the views of the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the Scrutiny of Health Committee [as per option (iii) in the petition report].

300. Children's Social Care - No Wrong Door - Capital Priorities

Considered -

A report of the Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service seeking the Executive's approval to a programme of capital investments projects to support the delivery of the No Wrong Door initiative.

County Councillor Arthur Barker advised that he was introducing this report in the absence of County Councillor Janet Sanderson. He advised that, to support the implementation of the No Wrong Door model, it was necessary to provide appropriate physical infrastructure. The proposed investments were considered to be the most appropriate way to deliver the required infrastructure.

Pete Dwyer, Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, commented that this was an exciting time for children's residential services and the proposals built upon the £2m funding which had been received from the Department for Education's Innovations Programme, and was expected to support a further reduction in the County's looked-after population. The proposals would provide better facilities for North Yorkshire's young people and comprised:- conversion of Fisher Lodge in Harrogate to provide two self-contained independence trainer flats with additional space for bespoke staff support; improvements/adaptations to Forest Lane, Starbeck, Hub; and improvements/adaptations to Stepney Road, Scarborough Hub. The proposed total

capital investment of these projects was £692,200, against an available budget of £720,000.

County Councillor Carl Les asked Barry Khan, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services), to confirm who had authority to approve the recommendations set out in the report.

Resolved -

- (a) That the priorities for capital investment detailed at paragraph 6.1 of the report are approved.
- (b) That the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) be requested to confirm who has authority to approve the recommendations set out in the report.

301. Annual Report on Partnership Governance

Considered -

A report of Chief Executive and Corporate Director - Strategic Resources providing an annual report on the governance of partnerships involving the County Council for the financial year 2014/15.

County Councillor David Chance, in introducing the report, advised that this was the Council's fifth annual report on partnership governance. He noted that the Council must ensure that its business was conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money was safeguarded, accounted for and spent economically, efficiently and effectively. This applied equally to the Council's partnerships, which were an important way of delivering strategic objectives and services and making best use of scarce resources, but which produced particular governance issues. The aim of this annual report was to demonstrate that the Council had proper and effective processes in place to ensure good governance of its partnerships. Decisions about which partnerships the Council should, or should not, be a part of were outside the scope of this report on partnership governance; those were matters that Executive Members should continue to review on an ongoing basis with senior officers. Prior to a commitment being made to any partnership arrangement, approval was required in line with the Council's constitution financial procedure rules and partnership working guidance. All partnerships were risk assessed against five criteria, and the governance arrangements of all partnerships with an overall high or medium risk rating were also individually reviewed by officers from Legal Services. No partnerships were currently rated high overall risk, 18 were rated medium risk, and the remaining 36 were rated low risk. Appendix 1 to the report provided a summary of the governance arrangements as at 31 March 2015. The numbers and nature of partnerships changed from time to time so, as with all annual reports, the data was a snapshot in time.

County Councillor David Chance advised that the annual report was also considered by the Audit Committee. In recent years there had been few issues to report about partnership governance because of an overall reduction in the number of partnerships, the process of risk assessment, and the additional reviews of partnerships with an overall high or medium risk rating. For that reason, the report recommended that this annual report was formally considered only by the Audit Committee in future years, with the Executive receiving, as and when required, a report on any particular issues that the Audit Committee wished to bring to the attention of the Executive.

Resolved -

- (a) That the annual report on partnership governance is noted.
- (b) That the arrangements in place to ensure good governance and reporting of partnership activity are noted.
- (c) That the content of the schedule of partnerships within the scope of the report as at 31 March 2015, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, is noted.
- (d) That individual Executive Members, in consultation with officers of each Directorate, be requested to continue to give consideration to the governance and monitoring arrangements of partnerships relating to that Directorate.
- (e) That the Executive receive an 'issues report', in place of the annual report, on an as and when required basis, highlighting concerns raised by the Audit Committee about partnership governance.

302. Working Together - The North Yorkshire Compact

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Director - Policy and Partnerships seeking the Executive's agreement to submit to County Council, for adoption, the refreshed North Yorkshire Compact between voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations and the public sector.

County Councillor David Chance, in introducing the report, highlighted that North Yorkshire had more than 3,000 voluntary and community sector organisations and social enterprises. Together they provide a broad range of local services as well as many of the County's cultural, sport and leisure opportunities. Most were charities, some employed specialists, but many were informal volunteer based groups. North Yorkshire's voluntary and community sector organisations and social enterprises play a crucial role in North Yorkshire's quality of life and in strengthening the fabric of our local communities. They were an essential part of Stronger Communities.

County Councillor David Chance reported that the North Yorkshire Compact was a written agreement – a memorandum of understanding rather than a contract between voluntary and community sector organisations and social enterprises and the public sector, setting out how all would work together for the benefit of our communities. The original North Yorkshire Compact was adopted by the Council in 2005 and was now in need of a refresh. Similar refreshes had happened at the national level and in most other local areas. Discussions between voluntary and community sector organisations and social enterprises and the public sector over the past 18 months had resulted in the refreshed Compact at Appendix 1 to the report. Other public sector bodies in the county, as well as voluntary and community sector organisations and social enterprises, were also currently being invited to adopt the refreshed Compact. The Compact was within the Council's policy framework, as set out in the Council's constitution, and therefore the recommendation in the report was that the Executive recommends that the County Council adopts the refreshed North Yorkshire Compact at its meeting on 22 July 2015.

Resolved -

That it be a recommendation to the County Council at its meeting on 22 July 2015 that the refreshed North Yorkshire Compact is adopted.

303. Better Together Collaboration Agreement - Proposals between North Yorkshire County Council and Selby District Council

Considered -

A report of the Chief Executive seeking the Executive's approval to enter into the Better Together collaboration, effected by the agreement set out at Appendix A to the report, and providing an overall update on progress with the Better Together Collaborative Programme being delivered jointly by North Yorkshire County Council and Selby District Council.

Mary Weastell, Selby District Council's Chief Executive and North Yorkshire County Council's Assistant Chief Executive, advised that the report set out progress to date and gave practical examples of projects which were delivering better services for customers and both cashable and non-cashable benefits to both North Yorkshire County Council and Selby District Council in accordance with the key objectives of the collaboration. The work now needed to be put into a sound legal and governance framework.

County Councillor Chris Metcalfe, as a Member of both Councils, emphasised that this was a good piece of work and provided strong evidence of collaboration. He highlighted that the principle mover was the leadership of Selby District Council which had shown a real willingness to improve outcomes for residents. The two Authorities had put preciousness aside to deliver improved services to customers and efficiencies for both organisations, whilst respecting the autonomy of each Authority. He felt that this work provided a positive example for other bodies.

Resolved -

- (a) That the County Council entering into the Better Together Collaboration is agreed.
- (b) That the Chief Executive, acting in consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services), is authorised to conclude the legal documentation to implement the decision, including clarification and fine tuning, as appropriate, of the Better Together Collaboration Agreement.
- (c) That the progress being made with the Better Together Programme is endorsed and supported.

304. Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan Strategy

Considered -

A report of the Corporate Director - Business and Environmental Services seeking agreement to recommend that the County Council approve the draft Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy at its meeting on 22 July 2015.

County Councillor Don Mackenzie, in introducing the report, advised that the Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy described the County Council's commitment to Highways Infrastructure Asset Management and was a link between the recently agreed Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Policy and the collective and individual plans used by Highways and Transportation to manage highways assets. The Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy would contribute to the wider highways strategy of ensuring that the County Council received the full Local Authority Capital Maintenance funding from the Department for Transport.

Resolved -

That it be a recommendation to the County Council at its meeting on 22 July 2015 that the draft Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy is adopted.

305. Highways Emergency Contact Arrangements

Considered -

A report of the Corporate Director - Business and Environmental Services advising of the current contact arrangements for dealing with highways emergencies and setting out options for consideration.

County Councillor Don Mackenzie introduced the report, advising that it was presented in accordance with a request from Richmondshire Area Committee. He clarified that the advice in the report applied also to Elected Members. County Councillor Don Mackenzie highlighted that these were operational issues, not policy matters, and that the current arrangements generally worked well and were seen by both the Police and Highways officers as providing the most effective and efficient way of dealing with highway situations which required an emergency response. Therefore the arrangements should not be amended.

County Councillor Gareth Dadd commented that he could not support alternative options under which members of the public could be allowed to decide what constituted an emergency.

Resolved -

That the current systems and processes for dealing with in and out of hours highways emergencies are retained.

306. Proposed Closed Road Mass Participation Sportive Cycle Event July 2016

This item of business was deferred.

307. Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies

Considered –

A report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) to enable any appointments to outside bodies, which are to be made by the Executive under the County Council's Constitution, to be considered and for any other appropriate appointments to be recommended for approval by County Council on 22 July 2015.

County Councillor Carl Les advised that the review of the membership of the Looked After Children Members' Group had not yet been completed and should therefore be deferred to the next meeting on 28 July 2015.

County Councillor Carl Les advised that the Superfast North Yorkshire Advisory Board was presently omitted from the County Council's Constitution. A short paper had been circulated outlining the background to this proposal and detailing the appointments required, a copy of which is in the Minute Book. County Councillor Carl Les asked the Executive to approve the appointments to that Board and to receive a report at a future meeting regarding the updating of the terms of reference.

Resolved –

- (a) That the review of the membership of the Looked After Children Members' Group is deferred to the next meeting of the Executive on 28 July 2015.
- (b) That it be a recommendation to County Council that any proposals for the re-allocation of seats, if necessary to achieve political proportionality, or for changes to memberships or substitute memberships of committees, or other bodies to which the Council makes appointments put forward by the relevant political group, prior to or at the meeting of the Council, be agreed including:

Scrutiny of Health - District Council Representatives

Cllr Kevin Hardisty – Hambleton (No named Substitute)
 Cllr Judith Chilvers – Selby (No named Substitute)
 Cllr Bob Gardiner – Ryedale (Councillor Elizabeth Shields Substitute)
 Cllr Linda Brockbank – Craven (Cllr Wendy Hull Substitute)
 Cllr Karin Sedgwick – Richmondshire (Jamie Cameron Substitute)
 Cllr Paul Haslam (Substitute) - Harrogate

Health and Wellbeing Board

Cllr Richard Foster – Leader Craven District Council (District Councils' Representative)
 Julie Warren – NHS England

- (c) That, in respect of the Superfast North Yorkshire Advisory Board:-
 - (i) The Superfast North Yorkshire Advisory Board is included in the next update of the Constitution to be undertaken by the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services).
 - (ii) The appointments shown below are approved:

	Councillors Names	Political Party
1	Clifford Lunn (Chair)	Conservative
2	Carl Les	Conservative
3	Janet Sanderson	Conservative
4	John Clark	Liberal
5	John Blackie	NY Independent
6	John Fort BEM	Conservative

Other Participants		
1	WALTERS, Scott, Chief Executive of NYnet	NYnet
2	Wendy Farmer	BDUK
3	Tim Frenneaux	LEP
4	Vacant	LEP

- (iii) The Board's terms of reference, which are now due for review, be brought to a future meeting of the Executive for approval.

308. Forward Work Programme

The Forward Plan for period 1 June 2015 to 30 June 2016 was presented.

Resolved –

The forward work programme is noted.

The meeting concluded at 1.40 pm.

JOD/RAG/JR