

COUNCIL – 14 MAY 2018

STATEMENT BY COUNCILLOR SANDRA TURNER

CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES

CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES

Community Impact Team

The Community Impact Team organised multi agency Modern Slavery Training delivered by Hope for Justice . The training was aimed at increasing awareness about the issue of modern slavery and how to support victims. Attendees were from a range of agencies, as well as attendance by Council Officers and Members. Feedback from the training was positive.

The Council's proactive response to safeguarding continues with safeguarding training undertaken at the major holiday parks and hotels. Counter terrorism training has also been provided to hotels across the Borough by the Counter Terrorism Unit, as part of ongoing awareness and training for businesses, agencies and organisations.

Community Environment Team

The Community Environment Team has been supporting groups across the Borough with environmental projects and a number of groups participated in the Great British Spring Clean on the last weekend of March. This is a national campaign and is very well supported by local volunteer communities. Community Payback has now completed half of the headstone restoration project in Dean Road Cemetery Scarborough, with over 2000 stones having been restored. Community Payback work has continued despite the poor winter weather, although there have been some minor delays in the completion of some projects.

Community Regeneration Team

The focus of the team is to reduce the demand on public services by providing development support to a range of community organisations to assist them to gain the knowledge, skills and resources to respond to community needs.

To this end the following groups have been helped to secure funding in this financial year (April 2018):

Who?	What For?	Amount
Rainbow Centre Scarborough	Replacement van	£14,000
Gallows Close Centre	Digital Inclusion Hub	£10,000
Newby and Scalby Library	Energy efficiency and refurbishment of café	£10,000

	area	
Eastfield Community Centre	New Community Kitchen	£10,000
Newby and Scalby Community Hall	Low energy external security lighting	£2,400

Applications in progress:

Who?	What For?	Amount
Mud In Your Blood – youth motorcycle project	Safety & Training equipment	£10,000
Sound of Scarborough	Support and mentoring project to support new bands/ local music quality	£15,000
Gallows Close Centre	Two year youth development and activity	£68,000
Whitby Town Council	Winter Festivals	£28,000
Whitby Krampus Run	Parade development	£5,000+
Scarborough Market Hall	Music venue equipment (Arts Council)	£100,000

Community Wellbeing Hubs

The Community Wellbeing Hubs project continues to demonstrate how relatively small amounts of pump priming funding can deliver multiple and ongoing benefits whilst also embedding knowledge and good practice within those communities. Over the past few months a further two hubs have been developed bringing the number to four across the borough. So we now have hubs in East Whitby, Eastfield, Hunmanby and Brompton and they are all receiving a level of ongoing development support and professional advice from the Council's Community Regeneration team.

Ongoing work by the team in Scarborough Town Centre has identified the need for a slightly different approach to tackle the more complex issues there. This will involve the creation of a multi-site wellbeing hub incorporating the Rainbow Centre, the YMCA building and the Summit. These three organisations will work together to deliver their own specialisms as well as some new services which will enable progression routes to develop between them.

Barrowcliff Big Local

Barrowcliff Big Local recently launched their business loan scheme in conjunction with South Yorkshire Credit Union. Also launched was their Big Stars programme which supports social entrepreneurs in conjunction with UnLtd. Barrowcliff community consultation is to develop the new Big Local plan 2018-20 which will be launched at the Big Local on Ice event in July.

Eastside Park, Whitby

The new play facility at Eastside Park is well used; however there is still some snagging to be done and the gateway feature is to be installed.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Gender Pay Gap Reporting 31 March 2017

Gender pay gap legislation introduced in April 2017 required the Council and all organisations with a workforce of 250 or more employees to publish an annual gender pay gap report. The gender pay gap is the difference between the average hourly pay received by men compared to the average hourly pay received by women, expressed as a percentage as at 31 March 2017.

Final figures show the gender pay gap among local authorities is an average of 5.4% and less than half the 12.3% reported for organisations from all sectors. Overall at national level local government leaders have pointed to the higher proportion of women in lower paid part time jobs as the main reason for the difference in average rates compared to men. Nationally a third of local authorities paid higher median average hourly pay rates to women than men. Within the Yorkshire and Humber Region the results were as follows:-

Authority	Mean Gender Pay Gap %	Median Gender Pay Gap%
Barnsley	8.1	12.4
Bradford	8.2	11.1
Calderdale	3.4	5.0
Craven	3.5	0
Doncaster	15.7	2.1
East Riding of Yorkshire	10.1	12.0
Hambleton	- 7.7	- 12.3
Harrogate	- 0.5	- 4.1
Hull	10.2	4.4
Kirklees	10.3	16.3
Leeds	8.6	13.1
North East Lincs	-0.1	- 8.3
North Lincs	6.7	0.1
North Yorkshire	12.1	11.8
Richmondshire	No report	No report
Ryedale	No report	No report
Rotherham	11.5	12.5
Scarborough	-1.0	-11.4
Selby	10.9	14.3
Sheffield	4.3	2.4
Wakefield	4.7	2.4
West Yorkshire Combined Authority	14.6	15.1

City of York	3.6	0.2
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In the Council's case, however we reported a negative mean gender pay gap of - 1% and median pay gap of - 11.4%, meaning that on average our male employees received a lower hourly pay rate than women employed by the Council. These figures are largely due to the high number of lower paid male employees undertaking traditional Council roles such as Cleansing, Refuse Collection, Outdoor Leisure and Parks. The Council's gender pay gap report highlighted that it would where possible promote staff development opportunities for lower paid male employees and encourage the upward movement of staff.

LOCAL TAXATION

The Local Taxation service successfully completed the year end processes for 2017/18 on 1 April 2018.

The final Council Tax in year collection rate for 2017/18 was 97.4% Previous years' performance is presented in the following table.

Financial Year	Council Tax
2016/17	97.5%
2015/16	97.5%
2014/15	97.6%
2013/14	97.4%
2012/13	97.7%

2017/18 was the 5th year of charging working age people in receipt of benefits a percentage of council tax and this element of collection continues to be challenging. The Local Taxation service continually reviews the recovery processes it pursues and benchmarks its policies to ensure they are appropriate.

The final Business Rates collection rate for 2017/18 was 98.2%. The previous years' performance is presented in the following table.

Financial Year	Business Rates
2016/17	97.6%
2015/16	97.6%
2014/15	97.5%
2013/14	98.4%
2012/13	97.5%

A number of schemes were introduced by the Government during 2017/18 to assist Business Rate payers with the effects of the revaluation of their properties' rateable values from 1 April 2017. The schemes were all implemented by Scarborough Borough Council and the following additional reliefs were awarded.

Pub Relief - an award of relief for eligible properties of up to £1,000 per property. The total awarded was **£95,236.67**. This relief has also been granted for 2018/19.

Supporting Small Business Relief – an award of relief to restrict the increase in charge for those ratepayers losing small business rate relief. The total awarded was **£106,528.01**. This relief also continues for 2018/19 but at a reduced rate to phase in the increases in charge.

Revaluation Discretionary Relief – an award of relief to restrict the increase in charge for all eligible ratepayers. The total awarded was **£569,795.06**. This relief continues for 2018/19 and the amount awarded will reflect the allocation from Government for this purpose. The full allocation for 2017/18 was awarded; however at the end the financial year a number of larger organisations returned their award as they felt that acceptance would have seen them exceed the limits allowable in relation to state aid legislation.

BENEFITS

Universal Credit Full Service will be rolled out to the Scarborough and Whitby Jobcentres on 30th May signalling a huge change in the way help is delivered to those in need. A considerable amount of work is currently underway to ensure the Council's Benefits team are geared up to help people who require assistance. Extensive training is being delivered to all staff both by the DWP and internally within the team. Various stakeholder meetings have taken place and will continue to take place to ensure partner organisations and landlords know how the changes will affect them and the people they help. Staff have also been taking part in job shadowing at both the Jobcentre and the Rainbow Centre so that we can better understand the issues that affect our residents. The next few months are going to be very challenging for all those touched by the benefits system.

The Service has again met all the internal targets for the speed of processing Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support claims. Figures show that we processed new Housing Benefit claims in 19.93 days against a target of 20 days last year. We dealt with Changes in Circumstances in 4.7 days against a target of 8 days and the Right Time indicator, which measures all Housing Benefit activity, showed performance of 5.58 days against a target of 10 days.

For Council Tax Support we processed new claims in 17.28 days against a target of 20 days. For Changes in Circumstances we processed in 4.94 days against an 8 day target and finally the Right Time Indicator for Council Tax Support was 5.77 days against a target of 10 days. Once again a very good achievement from the team in what has been a demanding and changing time for the service.

ELECTIONS & ELECTORAL REGISTRATION

As there no national or local polls scheduled for this May, the Elections team are making good use of their time to prepare for the new warding arrangements following the recent Local Government Boundary Commission for England's review of Scarborough Borough Council's warding arrangements and councillor numbers, which come into effect at the May 2019 polls. There is a significant piece of work

which now needs to be undertaken to ensure all the correct streets and houses are correctly allocated to the new wards, which will take the team till the end of November 2019 to complete.

Due to the warding changes, a full Polling District and Polling Station Review now needs to be conducted in the coming months, seeking to rebalance electors designated to polling stations, and making changes as required (which may include the use of alternative buildings), in readiness for the May 2019 local elections. This piece of work will include consultation with councillors, external organisations and political parties. Full details including a timetable will be issued in coming months. For now, initial research is being conducted to feed into that consultation.

The Kangaroo Boards® developed and marketed by Scarborough Borough Council, which is a multi-vacancy election ballot paper counting method, continues to bring income into the Council, and the product is being spoken about far and wide across the country. Following on from a demo of the product at the annual conference of the Association of Electoral Administrators in February this year, Idox Elections (one of the leading providers of elections software solutions nationally) has asked SBC elections team to come and talk about the Kangaroo Board® regarding its advantages compared to other traditionally used 'grass skirt' methods, at their User Group and Workshop in Birmingham in June 2018.

SBC Elections team are also pleased to have been asked to be a beta testing site for some new functionality within the elections software, which is a testament to the trust Idox Elections have in our ability to rigorously test and assist with development that will benefit other local authorities longer term.

EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS

Advantage Coast – Yorkshire Coast Community Led Local Development Project (CLLD)

In readiness for the final sign off of the funding agreements with DWP and MHCLG the Executive Group of the Advantage Coast project has granted conditional approval to six Scarborough projects, namely;

- Enhancing Scarborough Construction Skills Village (SBC)
- Construction Business Network (Northern Regeneration)
- Scarborough Jobmatch Delivery (Scarborough Jobmatch)
- Scarborough Jobmatch Enterprise Coach (Scarborough Jobmatch)
- Fit For Business (Yorkshire in Business)
- Social Enterprise Ambassador (CaVCA)

It is anticipated all projects will be contracted over May and June.

A further three projects from Scarborough will be considered at the May Executive Group meeting and another three are at the Expression of Interest stage. It is anticipated that a dozen or so projects will be operating in Scarborough by the end of summer 2018.

Boulby Mine Redundancies

Voluntary requests for redundancies are still being accepted at Boulby Mine. The numbers of voluntary applications received to date will leave around 100-110 compulsory redundancies required between June and December 2018.

SBC is part of a task force established by DWP to support those facing redundancy. A jobs fair with targeted employer representation will take place on 23 May timed between 2.00pm to 6.0pm to enable as many of the workers to attend as possible.

The National Careers Service in Scarborough will be involved, recognising the very successful jobs fair they have delivered in Scarborough over the years. Also there have been requests for additional ICT support for those facing redundancy as they have limited experience of digital technology for job search and application, benefit claims etc. Both Scarborough Jobmatch and NYCC Adult Learning Service are offering such provision in Whitby, with NYCC also able to make any provision bespoke for Boulby workers.