

COUNCIL – 14 MAY 2018

STATEMENT BY COUNCILLOR STEVE SIDDONS CHAIRMAN: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

7 MARCH, 16 APRIL AND 25 APRIL MEETINGS

- **Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme**

The work programme for 2018/19 is being devised and in connection with this, the annual Scrutiny Survey has been launched, seeking suggestions from Councillors and Officers for scrutiny topics. I will of course be happy to receive items for scrutiny all year round, but for the purposes of analysing survey results ahead of the next Board meeting on 30 May 2018, please could I remind Councillors to return their survey forms to Heather Donaldson by 18 May.

- **CCTV in Scarborough Borough**

I have written to Mr David Bowe, NYCC's Corporate Director Business and Environmental Services, expressing the Board's concerns about the County Council's proposal to withdraw £56,000 of funding from CCTV provision in the Borough. Officers will shortly be considering Mr Bowe's detailed response, along with a separate review of CCTV provision being undertaken by the North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, and will aim to join the wider discussions that are being held and to liaise with NYCC in relation to the services that the Council provides.

- **Future Options for Cemeteries Provision**

The Board is being consulted on future provision of cemetery land in Filey, Scarborough and Whitby, and the suggested sites are currently undergoing further assessment. The Scarborough site requires costings for surface drainage improvement works, and Whitby private landowners have been invited to submit expressions of interest in providing an alternative site there. The Board will continue to receive updates in preparation for the final consultation.

- **Section 106 Planning Obligations**

Members have considered a detailed report on Section 106 planning obligations, including information about the current situation with the collection, allocation and spending of the commuted sums of money obtained through the agreements. We will receive annual updates as part of our work programme.

Regeneration of the Eastfield Area

We have considered the plans for the delivery of future regeneration activity in the Eastfield area of the Borough, and discussed the strategic objectives of the overall project. Members were particularly keen to see improvements to Eastfield town centre as part of this, and welcomed the inclusion of affordable, energy efficient development designs. The Board will be involved in the consultations for all of the regeneration projects as they are brought forward.

- **Yorkshire Coast Homes and Coast and Country Housing Merger**

The Board held a special meeting to consider in-depth the proposed merger of Yorkshire Coast Homes and the Redcar-based Coast and Country Housing, and were pleased to welcome the Chief Executives and Chairmen of both organisations to the meeting. We supported the principle of the merger, and I attended Cabinet the next day to present the Board's recommendations which Cabinet accepted with minor amendments, and which Council has considered today. This was an excellent example of pre-decision scrutiny, illustrating how scrutiny can inform and add value to the decision-making process.

- **Selective Licensing Scheme Review**

The Board has considered the progress made to date on the Selective Licensing Scheme, and the plans to extend it to other parts of Scarborough. The recommendations for expanding the scheme will be considered by Cabinet on 15 May 2018.

- **Scrutiny Task Groups**

The Cinder Track Task Group has requested officer discussions with the North York Moors National Parks Authority and Sustrans to consider how the Council can effectively build jointly on the considerable work carried out by Sustrans on its initial report. This report did not take account of the views of all stakeholders – something that the Task Group has subsequently addressed – and the process of amalgamation has proved to be more onerous than expected. Further work is required in particular around the cost-benefit analysis of proposed improvement works, in order to be successful with future grant applications. The Task Group will conduct a public consultation about the draft Cinder Track Plan in due course, and asks for forbearance in the meantime.

On 9 May 2018, the Rough Sleeping Task Group will be meeting informally with heads of services working to prevent rough sleeping in Scarborough, especially those services which the Group has not previously been able to visit. The Group aims to present its findings to the Board on 30 May 2018.

The Scarborough Harbour Task Group, chaired by Cllr Mark Vesey, presented its findings and recommendations to the Board, and its detailed report will be considered by Cabinet on 15 May 2018 and will provide an action plan for the Harbour and its future uses. This review has engaged all sectors of the fishing industry and has generated significant interest and discussion.