

## **COUNCIL – 7 JANUARY 2019**

### **STATEMENT BY COUNCILLOR SANDRA TURNER**

#### **CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES**

#### **CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES**

##### **Counter Terrorism and Modern Slavery Training**

Sixty-four people from local hotels and businesses have attended sessions on counter terrorism and modern slavery awareness. These are the latest sessions in an ongoing programme of awareness raising, in partnership with the counter terrorism team. The sessions have been well received by those attending and several hotels have requested follow up sessions for their hotel staff.

##### **Anti-social Behaviour**

Multi-agency operations are currently taking place in a number of locations within Scarborough focused on tackling issues of anti-social behaviour and crime. The approach is one of disruption, enforcement and support. A press release has also been released by the Police as part of the operation to encourage parents to be more aware of the whereabouts and activities of their children and the impact of anti-social behaviour on the wider community.

##### **Community Environment Team**

The team have had a busy month and are currently working to support a number of groups across the Borough, including the Filey and Whitby in Bloom groups. The team are also working with young people from the Princes Trust on a tree planting project in Peasholm Glen. The team also supported Peasholm Park Friends Group with a successful application to the “Tesco Bags of Health” fund. This will provide funding to extend the sculpture trail, provide additional tree planting, interpretation and environmental improvements within Peasholm Glen.

##### **Customer First**

The Customer First Team have co-ordinated and encouraged donations for the Rainbow Centre in Scarborough. This included fund raising and donations of over £150 for toiletries and food, as well as a huge amount of donated gifts, clothes and food for the Centre who provide much needed support for homeless people and local communities over the Christmas period and beyond.

#### **DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

A number of policies are now under review in preparation for the new Council of 46 Members to be elected in May. Two to highlight here are:

- An Independent Remuneration Panel has just been appointed to undertake a comprehensive review of the Members’ Allowance Scheme in light of changes not only to the Council size but also significant changes to the Council’s operation and governance. It is timely therefore that the scheme is reviewed to ensure the new intake of Borough councillors in May 2019 receive an allowance reflective of their community leadership role, responsibilities and workload.

- We are also seeking to adopt a new Protocol for Members on Outside Bodies outlining clearly Members' responsibilities including a new annual reporting requirement for Council representatives. Further details will feature in the report to full Council in March.

Not wishing to steal Cllr Colling's thunder, I was impressed by the high level of public engagement and interest in the recent **Cinder Track Scrutiny Review**, and look forward to the Council and National Park Authority harnessing this interest in the future management of the track.

## **ELECTORAL SERVICES**

The revised Register of Electors was successfully published at the beginning of December 2018. Electoral Services are confident in the accuracy of the registers, following a successful annual canvass period using different permitted methodologies to encourage responses from potential and exiting voters:

- An initial email based canvass was conducted during July which sent 20,381 emails to 19,376 households, and we received 10,823 responses (55.86% response rate). Sending the emails to obtain responses prior to the paper forms being sent achieves savings of around £6.8k.
- The traditional paper based annual canvass followed in August and September which saw 47,523 forms being posted to households across the Borough and a further reminder being issued. The response rate to paper forms posted out was 58.07% (overall response rate at this stage was 81%)
- Any outstanding responses by the end of September require a personal canvasser (door knocker) to be sent to encourage responses which involved 11,083 households.
- The overall response rate for the entire annual canvass was 92.61% which is on a par with the 2017 canvass.

The elections team have been very busy redesigning the polling districts to fit with the new warding pattern within the Borough as determined by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in 2018. Over the coming month, there is a challenging piece of work to be done to implement those changes within the office systems, then to conduct tests and checks to confidently implement the changes ahead of the May 2019 elections.

The team will be re-publishing the Register of Electors again on 1 February 2019 under a completely new structure to that which has been in place for many years. Without restructuring the electoral register, the elections team will be unable to administer the May 2019 elections, as by then, the register would be unfit for purpose and not representing the warding patterns required.

The elections team have in the last few months been heavily involved in the Destination Business Improvement District (DBID) acting as the Ballot Holder independent of the business led proposers. The team enjoyed the challenge of

learning how to manage the ballot, which was an all postal-ballot (to qualifying business categories) within the Borough of Scarborough and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council areas. The poll achieved a turnout of 29.17%, with the result declaring that the ballot was a 'yes' vote. The Chief Executive, Jim Dillon as Returning Officer, held an open count which was attended and observed by interested individuals and the press.

Preparations are well underway for the May 2019 local elections. Polling stations are provisionally booked, and a large pool of staff will be contacted in the coming weeks to ascertain their availability to work at polling stations and at the count, as well as the many other roles required. A candidate briefing for both Borough level and Parish level have been scheduled and further information will be sent out to all councillors very soon.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **Armed Forces Covenant**

The Council is a signatory of the North Yorkshire Armed Forces Community Covenant and part of the national Armed Forces covenant pledge is to *“remove disadvantage and look after those who have given the most”*.

The Council received the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Bronze Award in November 2018. The ERS encourages employers to support defence and inspire others to do the same. In practical terms this means that in relation to recruitment, the Council promotes the new armed forces protected characteristic, by including the following wording on the Equal Opportunities Monitoring form:-

- Are you currently serving in the UK Armed Forces (this includes reservists or part time service e.g. Territorial Army)?
- Have you ever served in the UK Armed Forces?
- Are you a member of a current or former serviceman or woman's immediate family/ household?

This enables the Council to monitor applications from current or ex armed forces or close family in the same way as we do in relation to other protected characteristics such as age, gender, disability etc.

In addition the Council has received an electronic certificate and is able to display the logo on its website and job adverts, which will help to promote the covenant and support our efforts to encourage a more diverse workforce.

## **BENEFITS**

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions recently announced a new partnership between DWP and Citizens Advice to deliver Universal Support from 1 April 2019. This means that from that date the Local Authority will not receive funding from DWP to help residents with claiming and maintaining their Universal Credit

claims or with any budgeting help they require. All such enquiries will need to be directed to the local Citizens Advice offices from the new financial year. Anne-Marie Benson, Chief Executive of Scarborough Citizens Advice has been invited to give a briefing to Members on these new responsibilities on 18 March 2019.

The last Job Centre serving residents of the Borough rolled out Universal Credit on 28 November when Loftus job centre started to provide Universal Credit full service. Full Nationwide roll out for new claimants was completed just prior to Christmas. The DWP have said the next phase of the roll out will be “slow and measured” and commence in the summer of 2019 with no more than 10,000 claimants to be migrated nationally.

## **PROMOTING DEMOCRACY – YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**

Our latest Schools Council event for the 14 to 18 year old age range and took place during UK Parliament Week in November. The students gave very informative and engaging presentations in relation to Single Use Plastics and the schools will return to present their ideas to Full Council in March.

As a further development of the Youth Engagement work, we are implementing EcoChamps Scheme for schools. This will allow Schools to achieve a bronze, silver or gold award for their work on environmental issues, with a platinum award being given for outstanding achievement.

I would also like to draw attention also to our Logo Design Competition for young people. This is to support the initiative to reduce the use of Single Use Plastics in the Borough, and we plan to use the logo on signage and promotional material, as well as Council vehicles.

## **EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS**

### **Scarborough Construction Skills Village**

Since September 2018 Northern Regeneration has secured additional funds to complement the CLLD funds obtained in April 2018. The additional funds come from the Coastal Communities Fund, Sirius Foundation, CITB and the DfE and the Humber Learning Consortium. These funds will be used to help address major skills gaps in construction specialist areas, such as plant training, Health and Safety and apprenticeships across North Yorkshire and the East Coast. In addition, NR is now supporting all the local schools across Scarborough Borough by providing an alternative construction curriculum offer for learners aged 14+. We have identified, engaged and enrolled 73 learners onto a construction programme at the Skills Village since September 2018 of which:

- 40 learners aged 16- 18 started on full time study programmes
- 8 unemployed adults have started on a construction programme
- 12 individuals aged 14+ attend the extended alternative curriculum programme, resulting in 135 days of off-site construction delivery to pre-16 learners

- 19 apprentices studying an NVQ Level 2 in Joinery, Groundworks, Brickwork and Maintenance Operations.
- 2 apprentices are studying Business Management and Administration

In addition to the above, the Skills Village has supported 18 local micro, small and medium companies and individual tradespeople with re skilling and/or up skilling of their workforce via accredited and non-accredited training. As a result, we have delivered 55 accredited and 21 non-accredited qualifications in Plant Operations, Cable Avoidance, Vehicle Marshal and Health and Safety qualification in partnership with CSV training. Additional training is planned including Asbestos Awareness, Forward Tipping Dumper and Excavator above 10 Tonne. Courses are aimed at unemployed individuals and career changers.

In respect of High Eastfield Farm and the arson attack in August 2018 doubt was cast on the financial viability of undertaking reconstruction works to create a new construction training and business centre at the site. However, at its meeting in December 2018 the YNYER LEP Infrastructure Board agreed to increase their financial contribution to the scheme from £160k to £320k to ensure the project can be delivered.

### **CLLD Advantage Coast**

A further two projects for Scarborough were approved at the last Executive Group meeting of CLLD:

- i Firstly an ESF project entitled Wave Power which will incorporate water based activity along with employability profiling, work experience and one-to-one support for local unemployed people. A key partner in this project is Dexter's Surf Shop as the project will be based in Scarborough's North Bay. Dexter's are providing the water based element of the project.
- ii Secondly an ERDF project, Scarborough Studios, which will upgrade the old parcels office on Scarborough station to provide a year round facility for artists' workspace. Whilst this project was approved by CLLD Board it will need to be cleared by the Managing Agent, MHCLG, as it requires resource being moved from revenue to the capital allocation. Subject to this re-allocation of resources the ERDF element of the CLLD funding for Scarborough will be fully committed.

### **Scarborough Jobmatch**

SJM is now delivering on the CLLD project that was contracted in October and performance information will be available for the next meeting. A new manager at SJM, Rachel Wilson, started work in October and we are now working on getting a full complement of staff working on the employment support activity. SBC had bid to the Sirius Foundation, in a partnership with SJM and Eastside Community Centre to provide a service in Whitby and, although we got to the second round of the process, ultimately we were unsuccessful. Therefore we are not presently in a position to provide Jobmatch support in Whitby. We are actively seeking alternative funding to re-establish a Jobmatch service in the town.