Headlines

Community Safety
O&S Members, acting in their role as the crime and disorder committee, focused the October meeting on holding the local community safety partnership (Community Impact Team) to account for its operational performance in preventing and tackling crime and disorder including anti-social behaviour, promoting community safety and protecting vulnerable people. Members sought assurance that policing levels were sufficient to manage issues and support communities especially in ward areas with higher than average numbers of incidents. They were informed that the multi-agency partnership had expanded its work incorporating more health and housing focus, e.g. better response to people with mental health issues. Moreover the partnership used a risk-based tasking approach to allocate resources across the borough appropriately on a weekly to fortnightly basis. Members noted the good work of the partnership, in particular developing responses to significant complex challenges such as ‘county lines’ (drug exploitation) and domestic abuse.

Green (garden) waste
The Board endorsed fair proportionate increases to the green (garden) waste collection service for bin and sack collections. The point was made to continue to encourage composting.

Tackling climate change / carbon neutral sustainable borough
O&S has for some time recognised the need to review progress and challenges in tackling climate change to create a more environmentally sustainable Borough. The Board agreed broad terms of reference for a diverse review group of members to refine the focus as appropriate. The Council can lead with its own direct actions on reducing the impact from its assets and services, e.g. energy efficient buildings; working in partnership with other organisations and local communities; more widely supporting and encouraging other sectors, businesses, communities and all local people.

The review group members are Cllrs Phil Trumper (Review Chair), Will Forbes, Clive Pearson, Paul Riley, Michael Stonehouse and Sue Tucker. Tackling climate change is of interest across the Council and all other members are welcome to attend meetings and contribute ideas.

The first meeting was a constructive platform outlining the Climate Emergency Pledge aiming to make the Borough carbon neutral by 2030; the Council’s existing
Sustainability Policy and progress made in implementing most of the policy actions; the need to urgently refresh focus and tackle evolving priorities. Review members felt it was also important to highlight any good progress made so people could get assurance of actions and help enhance their own lifestyles.

They were keen to identity innovation from outside the borough which could have good local potential, e.g. Ryedale has recently reviewed its approach resulting in a new action plan and North Yorkshire County Council is reviewing progress. Most importantly, review members want to promote interactive communications with local people, communities and businesses raising awareness of progress made helping develop local people’s own knowledge and options. These communications will help the Council gain ideas from all people.

The first meeting also resulted in a long list of potential areas/themes to focus upon. These ranged from promoting use of electric vehicles through to more energy efficient homes and tree planting but recognising that options had to be considered properly with the most practical taken forward.

The second and third meetings will look at existing evidence baselines of local carbon emissions and actions proposed/needed. These meetings will be consulting Council service managers and external partners such as Ryedale District Council, North Yorkshire County Council and the North York Moors National Park. Other partners invited include representatives from Beyond Housing, the main local social housing provider, the regional National Farmers Union and local train/bus operators.

Plans will be developed for two public consultative meetings (Whitby and Scarborough) in March.

The target is for the review group to report its findings and recommendations (realistic sustainable action plan) to the O&S Board in April followed by Cabinet in May. The group has already recognised that whilst there needs to be some actions now, this may be a first stage piece of work towards creating a more sustainable borough with evolving priorities and, in particular, everyone across the borough playing their part.

**Forthcoming meeting - 15 January 2020**
Some meetings have been cancelled this year due to various reasons so the January meeting has a sizeable agenda but quality time will still be allowed for each item.

**Scarborough Town Centre Strategy and Scarborough Harbour Masterplan**
The Scarborough Town Centre Strategy involved O&S public consultative events last year and was then endorsed by O&S and Cabinet. There were seven themes to develop a mixed use economy alongside aspects such as converting empty
properties into student accommodation and promoting a safe night time economy as well as a greener town centre. An action plan was also endorsed including development of a town centre delivery team with diverse representation and skills. There have been some recent funding outcomes and further opportunities. This is a good time for O&S to review interim progress. Alongside regeneration of the town centre, O&S looked at proposals for creating a more sustainable Scarborough Harbour and endorsed use of a consultant to help develop a draft Masterplan which O&S will now be looking at. Both pieces of work in Scarborough may in due course potentially help inform similar work in Whitby and Filey.

**Car parking for residents**
Last year, O&S reviewed and supported introducing a residents’ virtual discounted parking pass but recommended that the proposed introduction of winter charges in some car parks be deferred. The in-year performance (take-up and usage of residents’ discounted passes and financial projections) will be reviewed through a mid-year report in January followed by a full year report in May 2020.

**Gulls management**
O&S reviewed the Council’s disruption and dispersal programme last year. This involved contractors undertaking actions to reduce the potential impact of herring gulls venturing into town and causing a nuisance. Members considered effectiveness, need and value for money of the programme. Other measures considered were raising local people’s awareness of issues, particularly schools and takeaway businesses. Alongside actions, members considered the outcomes of a university research study into the programme but this was inconclusive due to changing climatic conditions. The programme and wider actions along with the outcomes of another research round are being reviewed again.

**Provision of cemeteries**
This is a complex area requiring long-term planning establishing future needs, securing appropriate land and seeking planning permission. This will be an interim progress update prior to a more detailed report later in the year when decisions will be required.

**Selective licensing of private sector housing**
The Council has made use of establishing selective licensing powers to encourage private landlords to ensure their properties are of decent standard, e.g. energy efficient and clean and tidy to help reduce anti-social behavioural issues. The measures help protect the health and wellbeing of potentially vulnerable tenants. O&S will be reviewing progress made for the existing two designated areas which are in the Scarborough north and central vicinities. This also fits into the expected public consultation on a proposed third area to become designated (Ramshill and Weaponness)
Public Conveniences Review - Phase 2
A comprehensive study has been undertaken of needs, options and investment opportunities. This report is of interest to O&S and wider stakeholders.

Supporting volunteers
O&S undertook a review to better understand the local volunteering picture. This covered who volunteered, why and how they volunteered, any gaps in volunteering opportunities, what support might help aspiring or actual volunteers and how best to value volunteers. A public survey was undertaken and support groups consulted, e.g. Scarborough YMCA. Two sets of recommendations emerged for consideration - one concerning simple actions to use Council communications to provide some voluntary information support and for the Council to attend ‘Support the Supporters’ network meetings. The second set concerns more detailed wider options and will either complement or be superseded by the emerging Council Plan and priorities.

Work Programme
Review of Council Tax support options will start from the March meeting looking towards the most appropriate scheme for the next year, 2020-21.

Task and Finish Reviews
As reported above (Climate Change Review).