



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday 7 April 2016 at 6.30 pm

Council Chamber, Ryedale House, Malton

Agenda

1 Emergency Evacuation Procedure.

The Chairman to inform Members of the Public of the emergency evacuation procedure.

2 Apologies for absence

3 Minutes from the meeting on 18 February 2016

(Pages 3 - 6)

4 Urgent Business

To receive notice of any urgent business which the Chairman considers should be dealt with at the meeting as a matter of urgency by virtue of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

5 Declarations of Interest

Members to indicate whether they will be declaring any interests under the Code of Conduct.

Members making a declaration of interest at a meeting of a Committee or Council are required to disclose the existence and nature of that interest. This requirement is not discharged by merely declaring a personal interest without further explanation.

6 Independent Persons: Recruitment

(Pages 7 - 12)

7 Delivering the Council Plan

(Pages 13 - 20)

8 Scrutiny Reviews Progress Report

(Pages 21 - 30)

9 Decisions from other Committees

Policy and Resources Committee held on 31 March 2016. (to follow)

10 Date of next meeting

11 Any other business that the Chairman decides is urgent.

The formal scrutiny meeting will be closed upon completion of the business for the committee and the task group for the current scrutiny reviews will then take place.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Held at Council Chamber, Ryedale House, Malton
on Thursday 18 February 2016

Present

Councillors Acomb (Chairman), Cussons, Duncan, Gardiner, Jainu-Deen, Jowitt, Keal, Potter, Sanderson and Wainwright

In Attendance

Will Baines, Beckie Bennett, Fiona Brown, Phil Long and Clare Slater

Minutes

78 **Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

79 **Minutes of the meeting held on the 3 December 2015**

Decision
That the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3 December 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
Voting record 8 votes for

80 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

81 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Sanderson declared a personal non-pecuniary but not prejudicial interest in Agenda item 6 (Review of Council Support for Flooding) and Agenda item 7 (Terms of Reference - Scrutiny Review of Property Related Assets) as a North Yorkshire County Councillor.

Councillor Keal declared a personal non-pecuniary but not prejudicial interest in Agenda item 6 (Review of Council Support for Flooding) as she had lobbied on the subject of flooding.

82 **Review of Council Support for Flooding**

Considered – Report of the Corporate Director

Councillor Sanderson proposed and Councillor Duncan seconded an amendment to reject the terms of reference for the review.

Voting record

5 For

5 Against

Councillor Acomb used his casting vote as Chairman, so the amendment was lost.

Decision

That the terms of reference for the review of the motion on flooding be agreed subject to the following amendments:

The task group will consider the implications of the councils budgetary position and also the councils role regarding flood alleviation. Potential questions that the committee could consider in scoping the review include:

- The role and responsibility regarding flooding for Ryedale DC.
- The role and responsibility of other agencies regarding flooding
- The context, extent and location of flooded properties in the whole of the Ryedale area
- Review of the North Yorkshire Malton, Norton and Old Malton recently commissioned Flood study.
- Appraisal of flood alleviation options regarding the North Yorkshire commissioned flood study and potential indicative costs of this (from NYCC) and any solutions put forward for Brawby regarding the sewage treatment works (from YWA)
- Should/how RDC propose to fund/commission technical support regarding examination of flood alleviation schemes for Malton, Norton and Brawby and other areas in Ryedale where flooding is of concern be considered *along with community resilience*.
- Understanding of Ryedale's current and future financial position regarding financial constraints on potential funding for flood alleviation measures.
- *To look at options to deliver community resilience in Ryedale.*

Voting record

8 votes for

2 against

Considered – Report of the Head of Environment, Facilities and Streetscene.

Decision

That the terms of reference for the review of property related assets be agreed.

Voting record
Unanimous

84 Customer Complaints Q3 2015/16

Considered – Report of the Business Support Manager.

Decision

That the report be noted.

85 Delivering the Council Plan Report

Considered – Report of the Head of Corporate Services.

Decision

That the report be noted.

86 Decisions from other Committees

The minutes from the meeting of the Planning Committee on 19 January were sent out by email on 26 January for the information of the O&S Committee.

The minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee on 4 February were presented at the meeting.

87 Any other business that the Chairman decides is urgent.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:10pm.

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REPORT TO:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	7 APRIL 2016
REPORT OF THE:	COUNCIL SOLICITOR ANTHONY WINSHIP
TITLE OF REPORT:	INDEPENDENT PERSONS : RECRUITMENT
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the issues and procedure for the appointment of one or more Independent Persons pursuant to the provisions in the Localism Act 2011 to maintain effective arrangements for the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct by Members.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended:

- 2.1 That two Independent Persons be appointed under Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 2.2 That the two Independent Persons be recruited separately from any other Authority.
- 2.3 That no allowance be paid to the Independent Persons, but they be eligible to claim expenses.
- 2.4 That the opportunity to apply be advertised on the Council's website.
- 2.5 That the vacancy for the position of Independent Person with Role Description and Person Specification shown on the attached Annex be approved.
- 2.6 That an interviewing panel comprising the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee make recommendations for appointment to the Council.
- 2.7 Confirmation of appointment to be made by the Council Solicitor in writing to the successful candidates.

3. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The District Council is required by Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 when maintaining arrangements under which conduct allegations can be investigated and determined (section 28 (6)) to make provision for the appointment by the authority of at least one Independent Person (Section 28 (7))

4. SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 The recruitment process will ensure that Independent Persons are in place to undertake the duties set out in the Localism Act 2001, which reduces the risk of both reputational damage to the authority and the risk of any decision by the Corporate Governance Sub-Committee being open to challenge due to lack of a required Independent Person.
- 4.2 The absence of an Independent Person would prevent the Monitoring Officer from dealing with complaints in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct complaints procedure.

5.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 The Localism Act 2011 specifies that the Council must appoint an Independent Person to be involved in the process for dealing with complaints of alleged breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct.
- 5.2 On 12 July 2012 Mr Colin Langley and Ms Gill Baker were appointed as the Council's Independent Person for a period of four years. The term of office expires on 12 July 2016.
- 5.3 It is desirable to commence the process for the appointment of "Independent Person(s)" in time to enable confirmation prior to 12 July 2016

6.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The recruitment and appointment of Independent Persons will contribute positively to the Council's Corporate Governance arrangements by ensuring that the Council maintains high standards of conduct.

REPORT

7.0 REPORT DETAILS

Proposed Recruitment Process

- 7.1 The appointment process must satisfy the requirement in the 2011 Act that the vacancy of an Independent Person must be advertised in such manner as the authority considers is likely to bring it to the attention of the public.
- 7.2 It is proposed that :
- A recruitment process for two Independent Persons is started as soon as practicable.
 - A public advert is published on the District councils website.
 - Interviews take place with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee with the

Council Solicitor in attendance.

- The Council will be asked to agree the proposed appointments, preferably at the Annual Council Meeting on 17 May 2016 or otherwise on at the Council meeting 7 July 2016.

7.3 The proposed Role Description and Person Specification is attached as Annex 1. It is proposed that no allowance be paid to the Independent Person but, expenses incurred in travelling to meetings can be claimed.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The following implications have been identified:

- a) Financial
None arising directly from this report, although a small amount of additional travelling expenses may be incurred. Recruitment costs are expected to be minimal.
- b) Legal
The proposals made in this report will enable the Council to meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and the regulations made under that Act.

K A Winship
Council Solicitor

Author: K.A.Winship
Telephone No: 01653 600666 ext: 267
E-Mail Address: anthony.winship@ryedale.gov.uk

Background Papers:
Include any referenced papers

Background Papers are available for inspection at:
Location or web address

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PERSON

The way that Ryedale District Council deals with conduct complaints about its elected members and Town and Parish Councillors in its area has changed, following the implementation of the Localism Act 2011.

On 17 May 2012 the Council adopted a new Code of Conduct setting out general principles of expected behaviour by Councillors and specifying requirements for the registration and declaration of their financial and other interests. The Council also approved a new simplified local process for dealing with complaints of alleged breaches of the Code.

The Localism Act specifies that the Council must appoint an Independent Person to be involved in this process. That role is currently being undertaken by two persons whose terms of office comes to an end on 12 July 2016. The Council is therefore now seeking to recruit Independent Persons. The existing Independent Persons may apply for the position.

It is anticipated that the Council will confirm the appointment at the Annual Council meeting to be held on 17 May 2016 or otherwise the Council meeting on 7 July 2016.

It is intended to also appoint one or two "Reserve" candidates to be in a position to act as Independent Person in the event that the person appointed is incapacitated or otherwise unable to act.

Details of the role and responsibilities of the Independent Person are set out below.

ROLE OF THE INDEPENDENT PERSON

The role of the Independent Person is:-

To assist the Council in promoting high standards of conduct by elected and co-opted Members of Ryedale District Council and Town and Parish Councillors within the Ryedale area and in particular, to uphold the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council and the seven principles of public office, namely: selflessness, honesty, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness and leadership.

To be available for consultation by the Monitoring Officer before a decision is taken on whether or not to investigate a complaint or to seek a resolution of the complaint.

To be consulted by the Council through the Monitoring Officer and/or the Corporate Governance Standards Sub-Committee before it makes a decision on an investigated allegation and to be available to attend meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee acting as a Corporate Governance Standards Committee or the Corporate Governance Standards Sub-Committee for this purpose.

To be available for consultation by any elected member, including town and parish councillors, who is the subject of a standards complaint.

To develop a sound understanding of the ethical framework as it operates within

Ryedale District Council and its town and parish councils.

To attend training events organised and promoted by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee acting as a Corporate Governance Standards Committee or the Corporate Governance Standards Sub-Committee.

To act as an advocate and ambassador for the Council in promoting ethical behaviour.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES REQUIRED

The independent person the Council wishes to appoint to this role will have a range of skills and competencies, including:-

- an interest in standards in public life;
- an awareness of the importance of ethical behaviours;
- a wish to serve the local community and uphold local democracy;
- the ability to be objective, independent and impartial;
- good analytical skills and an ability to demonstrate clarity of thought, assimilate information quickly and arrive at balanced judgements.
- an understanding of the need to comply with confidentiality requirements;
- a demonstrable interest in local issues;
- an ability to communicate clearly, verbally and in writing with various people and in a variety of different situations.
- tact and diplomacy in handling sensitive matters.

Ideally, that person will also have:-

- some knowledge and/or experience of local government or other public service and/or of large complex organisations and awareness of and sensitivity to the political process;
- knowledge and understanding of judicial quasi-judicial or complaints processes.

The person appointed will need to be contactable during normal working hours by telephone or by e-mail and be available to attend meetings of the Corporate Governance Standards Sub-Committee, which are generally held in the early evening, and occasional hearings which may held in the day time.

Eligibility

A person cannot be appointed as an Independent Person if they are, or have within the last 5 years, been an elected Councillor, a co-opted member or officer of Ryedale District Council; or any town or Parish Council within the Ryedale area or, is a relative or close friend of any such person.

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Council Plan 2015-20

Generated on: 18 March 2016

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1. Employment Opportunity & Economic Success													
	EC 10	EC 12a	EC 12b	EC 12c	EC 12d	EC 13a	EC 13b	EC 40					
2. Housing Need													
	HS 10a	HS 10b	HS 11	HS 14	BS RB 3	FP 7	FP 8	HS 5	HS 8	BS RB 2	HS 1	HS 2	HS 17
3. High Quality Environment													
	DM 157a	HE 13	SS 15	SS 17	SS 35	SS 36	DM 157c	SS 192	DM 2	DM 157b	SS 16		
4. Active Safe Communities													
	EC 77	HE 10											
5. Transforming the Council													
	BS AS 3	BS BI 2	BS RB 12	BS AS 1 RDC	HR A 01 R	BS RB 11	BS MD 1						

Key



Data Only Indicator for monitoring trend



Performance is improving









Performance has stayed the same









Performance has got worse




1. Employment Opportunity & Economic Success



		EC 10	Total Job Seeker Allowance and Universal Credit out of work Claimants Aged 16 - 64				
Current Value		1.0%	February 2016	Previous Value	0.9% January 2016	Data is published monthly	
Yorkshire & Humber - 2.3% GB - 1.9%							

		EC 12a	% Ryedale population aged 16-64 qualified - NVQ1 or equivalent			
Current Value	83.1%	2014/15	Previous Value	91.9% Jan-Dec 2013	Data is published annually	
Ryedale had 24,300 residents between January-December 2014 aged 16-64 studying at NVQ1 level and above. Young people achieve level 1 and 2 NVQ's in order to improve their career prospects. The council has targeted resources through various apprenticeships. This level is a stepping stone to future learning opportunities.						

		EC 12b	% Ryedale population aged 16-64 qualified - NVQ2 or equivalent			
Current Value		67.5%	2014/15	Previous Value	80% Jan-Dec 2013	Data is published annually
Ryedale had 19,700 residents between January-December 2014 aged 16-64 studying at NVQ2 level and above. Young people achieve level 1 and 2 NVQ's in order to improve their career prospects. The council has targeted resources through various apprenticeships. This level is a stepping stone to future learning opportunities.						




		EC 12c	% Ryedale population aged 16-64 qualified - NVQ3 or equivalent			
Current Value		54.4%	2014/15	Previous Value	53.2% Jan-Dec 2013	Data is published annually
The percentage of Ryedale residents aged 16-64 reaching NVQ3 and above continues to grow, with 15,900 attaining the qualification from January-December 2014. This puts Ryedale above the North Yorkshire and Yorkshire and The Humber average for this level of qualification.						

		EC 12d	% Ryedale population aged 16-64 qualified - NVQ4 or equivalent			
Current Value	41%	2014/15	Previous Value	40.1% Jan-Dec 2013	Data is published annually	
Ryedale performance is well above the North Yorkshire and Yorkshire and The Humber average for this level of qualification.						




		EC 13a	Gross weekly earnings by workplace			
Current Value	£410.20	2015	Previous Value	£420.20 - 2014	Data is published annually	
Ryedale has the lowest level of earnings by workplace in Yorkshire and the Humber.						




		EC 13b	Gross weekly earnings by residency			
Current Value	£411.80	2015	Previous Value	£426.00 - 2014	Data is published annually	




Earnings by Workplace 2015 annual data (pounds) Ryedale 411.8, Craven 450.2, Richmond 518.5, York 496.0, Hambleton 479.5, Selby 526.5, Scarborough 467.9, Harrogate 518.0, Yorkshire and Humber 480.5




		EC 40	Employment Rate - aged 16-64				
Current Value		80.3%	Oct 14-Sept 15	Previous Value	83.6% Oct 13-Sept 14	Data is published annually	
2014-15: Y&H 72.4% GB 73.4%							




2. Housing Need

		BS RB 2	Speed of processing - new HB/CTB claims			
Current Value		15.2 days	February 2016	Current Target	25.0 days	
Changes and improvements introduced have resulted in improved timescales						

		BS RB 3	Speed of processing - changes of circumstances for HB/CTB claims			
Current Value	2.6 days	February 2016	Current Target	12.0 days		
The addition of two extra staff has improved the speed of processing any changes of circumstances to well within the target range.						

91			FP 7	Net additional homes provided			
Current Value		261	2014/15	Current Target	200		
During 2014-15, 261 additional homes were provided, which exceeded the target figure of providing 200 additional homes. see the Strategic Housing Land Availability assessment for predictions for future delivery http://www.ryedaleplan.org.uk/attachments/article/132/SHLAA_Part1_2015_v2.pdf							

		FP 8	Supply of deliverable housing sites				
Current Value		118.0%	2014/15	Current Target	100.0%	See Annual Monitoring Statement and Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments. Target five year housing supply= 100%	
Supply = 5.92 years taking into account undeveloped allocations.							




		HS 5	Number of Homeless Applications			
Current Value	11	Q3 2015/16	Current Target	13	Total number of applications for 2014/15 = 30	
Eleven homeless applications were received between 01/10/2015 and 31/12/2015						




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		HS 8	Prevention of Homelessness through Advice and Proactive Intervention (values and targets are per quarter, not accumulative)			
Current Value	42	Q3 2015/16	Current Target	39	Target is to achieve 10% improvement in numbers of preventions year on year	
Between 01/10/2015 and 31/12/2015 there were 42 homelessness preventions through the Local Authority						
		HS 10a	% Households in Ryedale in Fuel Poverty (10% income measure)			
Current Value	26%	2013/14	Current Target	27.9%	Target is to improve on previous years performance	
Results published June 2014. Est. no. of households 23,090 of which 6,446 in fuel poverty.						
		HS 10b	% Households in Ryedale in Fuel Poverty (Low Income High Cost)			
Current Value	10.6%	2013/14	Current Target	11.9%	Target is to improve on previous years performance	
Updated May 2015: 2013-14 - Est No. of households 23,046 and 2,440 households in fuel poverty						
		HS 11	Empty Domestic Properties			
Current Value	243	2014/15	Current Target	249	Target is to improve on previous years performance	
This is the figure used to claim New Homes Bonus calculated in October 2015.						
		HS 14	Affordability Ratio			
Current Value	7.36	2013/14	Current Target	8.65	Target is to improve on previous years performance	
North Yorkshire 7.20, England 6.45						
		HS 1	Homeless applications on which RDC makes decision and issues notification to the applicant within 33 working days (was LPI 70)			
Current Value	88.9%	Q3 2015/16	Current Target	100.0%	Target is to decide on all applications within 33 days	
During Q3 2015/16 9 decisions were made, 8 of which issued notifications within 33 days.						
		HS 2	Length of stay in temporary accommodation (B&B, weeks) Snapshot			
Current Value	7.00 weeks	Q3 2015/16	Current Target	4.00 weeks	Target: National maximum allowable is 6 weeks. Local target of 4 weeks	
During quarter 3 of 2015-16, 1 household was accommodated in B&B, the average stay was 49 nights						
		HS 17	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)			




Current Value	23	Q3 2015/16	Current Target	57	35% of market housing target would result in 70 affordable homes arising from 200 net additional homes.
Only 23 affordable homes completed to end of third quarter -end of year figure to be collated in April 2016 and reported to next meeting.					




3. High Quality Environment

		DM 157a	Processing of planning applications: Major applications (13 weeks)			
Current Value	85.70%	February 2016	Current Target	70.00%	Targets originally set under Planning Delivery Grant regime	
By definition these applications are complex, often requiring for example legal agreements such as Section 106. These applications represent 4% of the total number received. Whilst well below target, performance is improving.						

		HE 13	% of Food establishments in the area broadly compliant with food hygiene law			
Current Value	74%	2014/15	Current Target	72%	Target is to improve on previous year. Assessments of premises undertaken using risk based scoring and national guidance. 17% of premises are low risk and not accessed and by default not compliant under the national definition for this indicator.	
A total of 624 Food Establishments were broadly compliant in 2014-15						

Page 1			SS 15	% of Household Waste Recycled			
Current Value		21.31%	2014/15	Current Target	20.00%	Target set following analysis of previous performance levels	
Performance continues to improve slightly but priority is now to maintain this level of performance							




		SS 17	Household Waste Collection - % change in kilograms per head			
Current Value	-1.38%	2014/15	Current Target	0.25%	Target is to improve on previous years change	
2014-15 463.03 kg/per household and 423.31 kg/per head for Household Waste.						

		SS 35	% CO2 reduction from LA operations.			
Current Value	-12.5%	2014/15	Current Target	-7.5%	Target set for three years, based on national guidance. To be reviewed following analysis of performance to date	
Reduction is due to the local swimming pools contract being taken over by a private company. The data is collated using the bills of the properties being paid for by RDC.						

✓	↑	SS 36	Tonnes of CO2 from LA operations			
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Current Value	1,418	2014/15	Current Target	1,622	Target set for three years, based on national guidance. To be reviewed following analysis of performance to date
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Reduction is due to the local swimming pools contract being taken over by a private company. The data is collated using the bills of the properties being paid for by RDC.

		DM 157c	Processing of planning applications: Other applications (8 weeks)			
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Current Value	88.60%	February 2016	Current Target	90.00%	Targets originally set under Planning Delivery Grant regime
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Performance has been improving for some months and this Trend is continuing. Customer satisfaction has increased on previous years Delegated decisions are currently made on 88% of decisions against a target of 90%.

		SS 192	% of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting			
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Current Value	48.07%	2014/15	Current Target	49.70%	National target to achieve 50% by 2020
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Reduction largely due to the introduction of charges for garden waste collection. Target will be changed to reflect changes following analysis of figures

		DM 2	Planning appeals allowed			
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Current Value	33.3%	Q3 2015/16	Current Target	33.0%	Target based on national averages and benchmarking
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The national performance level is consistently in line with the target figure of 33%. Performance for Ryedale has varied because of the relatively low number of appeals received. However the current level of appeals allowed at 33.3% is on target.

		DM 157b	Processing of planning applications: Minor applications (8 weeks)			
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Current Value	68.40%	February 2016	Current Target	80.00%	Targets originally set under Planning Delivery Grant regime
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Performance has been improving for some months and this Trend is continuing. Customer satisfaction has increased on previous years . Figure depressed by release of numerous applications requiring s106 agreements in February.

		SS 16	% of Household Waste Composted			
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Current Value	26.76%	2014/15	Current Target	30.00%	Target set following analysis of previous performance levels
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Reduction largely due to the introduction of charges for garden waste collection . Target will be changed to reflect changes




4. Active Safe Communities




		EC 77	Total Crime in Ryedale			
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Current Value	152	February 2016	Current Target		
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		HE 10	Adult participation in sport and active recreation. Sport England Active People Survey-Annual			
Current Value	32.7%	2014/15	Current Target	36.8%	Target is to improve on previous years performance	
Final result for Oct 2014-Oct 2015 updated as part of APS9 to 32.7%						
Y&H 34.1% England 35.8%						




5. Transforming the Council




		BS AS 1 RDC	Service enquiries resolved at first point of contact (telephone)			
Current Value	53%	2015/16	Current Target	50%	Target is for year on year improvement	
Total figure is not representative, as current lengthy call logging procedure means staff are unable to log the high volume of calls received during periods of peak call times.						

		BS AS 3	Payments made using electronic channels			
Current Value	90%	February 2016	Current Target	85%	Target is set to maintain performance	
Electronic channels include web, telephone and Direct Debit.						

age			BS BI 02	% FOI Requests responded to within 20 working days			
	Current Value		98%	February 2016	Current Target	90%	
	45 out of 46 FOIs responded within 20 working days.						

		BS RB 12	% of Non-domestic Rates Collected			
Current Value		94.13%	January 2016	Current Target	93.77%	Target is set to maintain performance
Q3 2015-16 Collection rates are in line with the previous years performance						

		HR A 01 R	Average number of Working Days Lost Due to Sickness Absence per FTE, RYEDALE			
Current Value		0.62 days	February 2016	Current Target	0.63 days	Target is North Yorkshire average for 2009

		BS RB 11	% of Council Tax collected			
Current Value	95.49%	January 2016	Current Target	95.63%	Target is set to maintain performance	
Q3 2015-16 Collection rates are in line with the previous years performance						

		BS MD 1	Standard searches done in 5 working days			
Current Value	7.7%	February 2016	Current Target	90.0%	Target is set to maintain performance	
Late responses from NYCC continue to be a problem- so no searches dispatched within 5 days						



REPORT TO:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (SCRUTINY)
DATE:	7 APRIL 2016
REPORT OF THE:	HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES
TITLE OF REPORT:	SCRUTINY REVIEWS PROGRESS REPORT
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on progress with implementing the recommendations agreed resulting from previous scrutiny reviews.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that members:
- (i) note the progress report for previous scrutiny review recommendations;

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To keep the members of the committee apprised of the progress with implementing recommendations made following previous reviews. See table attached at Annex A

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 No significant risks have been identified

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Scrutiny reviews link into corporate aim 5 (to transform the Council) and strategic objectives 8 (to know our communities and meet their needs) and 9 (to develop the leadership, capacity and capability to deliver future improvements).

REPORT

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 6.1 The table attached details the recommendations agreed following previous scrutiny reviews.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The following implications have been identified:

- a) Financial
None
- b) Legal
None
- c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental, Crime & Disorder)
None

8.0 NEXT STEPS

8.1 The Fuel Poverty Scrutiny Review Task Group will meet following the scrutiny committee meeting to consider the draft report and recommendations for the review.

Clare Slater
Head of Corporate Services

Author: Clare Slater, Head of Corporate Services
Telephone No: 01653 600666 ext: 347
E-Mail Address: clare.slater@ryedale.gov.uk

Background Papers are available for inspection at:
Ryedale House, Malton or www.ryedale.gov.uk.

Links to final reports have been included in the table attached at annex A

Scrutiny Review of Fuel Poverty in Ryedale - link to final report http://democracy.ryedale.gov.uk/documents/s22506/6b%20Fuel%20Poverty%20Scrutiny%20Review%20Report%20Draft%20Sept%202015.pdf	
Recommendations – To Council	Progress as at 21 March 2016
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Council should in future refer to fuel poverty as affordable warmth. Fuel poverty is the problem to be addressed and affordable warmth is the outcome to be achieved. 2. That the Council should continue to report on both of the fuel poverty indicators for Ryedale when reporting on the delivery of the Councils Business Plan 3. That the Council should continue to prioritise increasing wage levels in Ryedale by creating the conditions for economic success 4. To continue to challenge the assumptions made about those most likely to be affected by fuel poverty and continue to lobby for support for solutions which work in rural communities, and for all vulnerable households including young families, and anyone who is socially isolated. 5. To agree the funding for a stock condition survey for all property in Ryedale to provide the data to support the development and targeting of future initiatives to improve affordable warmth throughout the district. 	<p>These recommendation have been discussed at Resources Working Party and a business case was requested for the stock condition survey. A report will be considered by P and R on the 31 March 2016 with recommendations may then be made to Council</p>
<p>To Planning Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Council should be seeking new development to be built to the highest current 	<p>Energy efficiency is an ongoing consideration by members of the committee for decisions they make and in any decisions delegated to</p>

<p>codes for design and construction, lowering energy demand, encouraging occupants to reduce their energy use and supporting the use of renewable and/or low carbon sources.</p> <p>2. To train members of the planning committee in the application of the energy hierarchy to new development and existing buildings.</p>	<p>officers.</p> <p>This is incorporated into the mandatory training for members of the planning committee and also as part of member briefings on the Ldf policy framework.</p>
To Management Team:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That officers should pursue the routes for accessing the Energy Performance Certificate data, and analysis of the policy implications of the insight provided. 2. To develop a concise set of questions, along the line of 'every contact counts', to help front line staff to identify those who are living in a cold home. Identify key staff and timing for a pilot and link to North Yorkshire Winter Health Strategy and ensure action is taken to help any household to achieve affordable warmth. 3. To gather any self-reported data on the location and incidence of fuel poverty through contact made with front line staff. 4. That officers should explore the feasibility of warm healthy homes type project in partnership with public health and stronger communities, to reduce social isolation and help to connect people - 'Warm communities' and 'winter champions'. 5. Make sure we communicate the key facts 	<p>Management team have discussed the recommendations and recommendation one will be resolved following the decision on the stock condition survey, as analysis from the EPC data will form part of the work undertaken.</p> <p>Management Team will develop a response to recommendations 2 and 3 as part of the service redesign being undertaken as part of the Towards 2020 programme as this has a focus on designing services to meet customer needs.</p> <p>The fourth recommendation will be addressed following the stock condition work, if this is agreed by Council, as it is being recommended that the health impact Assessment work is included in the survey of stock condition. This will then inform any future programmes to address the health impact of cold homes and social isolation.</p> <p>See response to 4 above.</p>

about keeping warm affordably at the right time of year to our residents, annually.	
Scrutiny Review of Members Involvement in Outside Bodies and as Member Champions - Link to final report	
Recommendations – Meeting of Council 6th March 2014	Progress as at 31 March 2016
1. That the following outside bodies be removed from the list: Supporting People NY Joint Committee (agreed at Annual Council on 16 May 2013), Endowment Governors Charity called Malton School, LG Yorkshire & Humber Elected Members Cohesion Group (agreed at Annual Council on 16 May 2013), Rural Action Yorkshire (formerly YRCC);	The list of outside bodies was updated in preparation for Annual Council in May 2014. The outside bodies to be removed have been notified. The website was updated at the end of the 2013/14 municipal year.
2. That substitute representatives be appointed for outside bodies, where their governance arrangements permit,	Implementation completed at Council on 4 September 2014
3. That a précis from Member representatives on outside bodies be published on the website following each meeting	Implementation completed 4 September 2014
4. That appointments to outside bodies be for four year terms, from 2015 onwards to coincide with the District elections, subject to an annual review by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to address any issues with attendance or publication of précis;	This action was implemented in May 2015 at the meeting of Annual Council.
5. That nominations of representatives to outside bodies should be made by Council based on their skills and expertise, in addition to attendance records, and that Members be asked to provide an oral statement of this upon nomination.	The implementation of this recommendation was completed at Council on 4 September 2014. Skills and expertise should now form the basis for nominations going forward.
6. That the Independent Remuneration Panel be requested to review allowances payable to representatives on outside bodies, where a payment is currently made;	This matter has been considered by the Independent Remuneration Panel and recommendations included in their report.
7 That all Members note that any representative on an outside body cannot be involved in any financial or	This resolution reinforces the requirements set out in the Members' Code of Conduct, in the Council's Constitution. No further action is required.

regulatory decision taken by the Council that relates to that body.	
Scrutiny Review of the Role the Council Should play in Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector Link to final report	
Recommendations – O&S 4th October 2012	Progress as at 31 March 2016
Key Recommendation The contribution of the Voluntary and Community Sector is highly valued in Ryedale. The Council should help to sustain the Voluntary and Community Sector by providing financial and officer support.	<p>All recommendations have been considered by the committee to whom they were addressed.</p> <p>Budget provision for community grants was removed as part of the budget making process for 2013/14 by Council. It was then resolved at the meeting of the Commissioning Board on 6.6.13 to establish a new Community Grants Budget.</p> <p>The Community Grants Working Party makes recommendations to the Policy and Resources Committee and has a budget of £45,000 for 2015/16.</p>
Recommendations to Commissioning Board	
1. The Council should undertake a review of how it core funds organisations with a view to commissioning/contracts ensuring continuity for organisations and giving notice of any changes in line with the North Yorkshire Compact. This allows organisations to employ people and plan for the future.	<p>Commissioning Board accepted this giving the following reason: The Council core funds a very limited number of organisations and this review would reflect the approach agreed at Commissioning Board held on 24 January 2013 to core funding of the Ryedale CAB. Reviews now completed for CAB, RVA and Ryecat to establish the commissioning relationship. Each of these grants is now awarded with a service level agreement in place.</p> <p>A review is being undertaken of the funding relationship with CAB following recent additional funding awarded at Council. CAVCA has been invited to attend the June meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>
2. Core funding should be for a longer time with more notice of change (ie 4 months minimum), linked to commissioning/procurement processes	Commissioning Board accepted as this is in line with the principles within the North Yorkshire compact.
3. Investigate how the Council could help support Ryedale Voluntary Action to encourage volunteering in the Ryedale area.	Commissioning Board accepted as this is consistent with the decision of the CIF Panel to support RVA volunteering services.
Recommendations to Policy & Resources	

Committee	
4. Grant schemes should be streamlined making it easier for organisations to access and, all decisions should be made by one panel i.e. the CIF panel.	Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation subject to the deletion of “the CIF Panel” and the addition of “the Commissioning Board and to be confirmed by Full Council”
Recommendations to Commissioning Board and Policy & Resources Committee	
5. Development officers are essential in helping to develop projects within the voluntary and community sector and this role is highly valued by the sector. The Council should continue to provide development officers and continue to support their provision within the voluntary sector.	<p>Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation, recognising that development workers are intrinsic to the delivery of Commissioning Board activities, subject to any wider consideration regarding the Council’s budget</p> <p>Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation with the following reason: Taking account of the additional information presented regarding expenditure on development workers, the Policy and Resources Committee recognises the benefits and financial leverage achieved through these roles.</p>
6. The Council should make it clear what it’s funding priorities are and what outcomes it is trying to achieve.	<p>Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation as this approach is consistent with good practice in budgeting and grant making.</p> <p>Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation</p>
7. The Council should ensure that it is clear with all contracts and grants what it expects and monitor/evaluate/performance manage the outcomes accordingly ensuring Value for Money in the investment made.	<p>Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation as this approach is consistent with good practice in budgeting and grant making. Members welcomed the introduction of additional monitoring of outcomes, subject to available resources.</p> <p>Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation</p>
8. Maintain a small grants element in all grant programmes.	Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation, recognising that small scale grants are intrinsic to the delivery of Commissioning Board activities, subject to any wider consideration regarding the Council’s budget

	Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation
9. The Council should take every opportunity to co-ordinate funding and evaluation processes with other funding bodies, for example, lists of projects supported and case studies illustrating the impact of the funding awarded should be published on the Council website.	Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation as this approach is consistent with good practice in budgeting and grant making. It was noted that the extent of such activities would be subject to resources available. Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation
10. The Council should use every opportunity to promote and champion Ryedale and all that it has to offer. It should also support, celebrate and recognise the value and contribution of the voluntary and community sector.	Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation as this reflects current practice at the authority and is a key role of an elected member. Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation
11. When considering future budget decisions, the Council must recognise that the funding available to the VCS to meet the needs of communities in Ryedale is reducing. The Council has a role in championing the needs of Ryedale with other funders.	Commissioning Board accepted this recommendation and it was noted that Members considered that the Council already does this at every opportunity. Policy and Resources accepted this recommendation
Recommendations to Management Team	
12. The Council should ensure that any changes to the services it provides are clearly communicated to all those affected. This includes maintaining lists of key contacts for all services on the Council's website.	Management team accepted this recommendation with work ongoing to improve the information available on the Councils website.
13. Investigate better use of the Council's website for communicating and advertising events on	Management team accepted this recommendation and the Head of Economy and Infrastructure is investigating future options for improvement

behalf of the voluntary and community sector.	with their team.
14. Undertake joint member and officer training regarding funding schemes, priorities and processes for those members and officers directly involved with grant making.	Management team accepted this recommendation and training will be arranged for any funding schemes offered by the Council in future
15. Investigate the possibility of supporting VCS organisations with specialist skills available within the Council.	Management team accepted this recommendation. Support for organisations is currently being explored.
16. Review to be undertaken to define the members roles as champions and board members of voluntary and community organisations.	Management team accepted this recommendation and this was included in the terms of reference for the scrutiny review into members involvement with outside bodies.
Scrutiny Review of Post Offices 2010-11 Link to final report	
Recommendations - O&S 15th December 2011	Progress as at 31 March 2016
1. That the Committee responds to the Department of Business, Innovation & Skills' consultation document on the mutualisation of the Post Office.	Response to the consultation sent by the Committee in December 2011.
2. Officers continue to work on options for front office for local government with Post Office Ltd.	<p>Council agreed to the bar coding of all council bills to enable more options for payment of bills including council tax for more residents. HCS to met with representative of PO ltd to discuss the latest position with regard to the network transformation programme and receive an update on the position in Ryedale 1.12.14.</p> <p>Council Tax bills issued by the Council are now bar coded to enable payment at any post office. The Council presence in market towns is kept under review. The collection rate for Council Tax has been maintained following the bar coding of bills.</p>

3. Accept any opportunity presented by Post Office Ltd to work in partnership.	Officers continue to work in partnership with PO Ltd. Ryedale has been included in a joint Post Office LGA strategic engagement and the report of this can be found here: http://www.postoffice.co.uk/sites/default/files/Political_Stakeholder_Pathfinder.PDF
4. Undertake further research on the mobile/hosted and home service.	Survey undertaken in May 2012 with Cllr Janet Sanderson. Results show that although the majority of people would have preferred to see the local branch still open – the mobile service, however, was an acceptable alternative.
5. Provide feedback to the Post Office regarding their website and how it could be improved for rural areas.	Meeting held with Post Office Ltd and copy of Review document discussed.