

North Yorkshire County Cllr Helen Swiers Report June 2021

Covid-19:

As usual; I will not repeat the information provided in the Chief Executive's (Richard Flinton) weekly report.

The delay in moving to step 4 of the government's road map out of the pandemic restrictions is disappointing but I do have to acknowledge the sense in this decision.

The best defence against Covid-19 remains the take up of the vaccine programme and the continuance of practicing the basic – hands, face, space, and fresh air – which are vital in keeping us all safe.

Richard has also covered Safeguarding week (21st – 25th June), Loneliness awareness week, Supporting our schools and childcare and Growing our local economy; all important, but I shall not repeat as you already have the information.

NY Highways was launched 1st June:

NYCC are overseeing the new enterprise where the new company, NY Highways, are coordinating highways maintenance after the contract with the private sector company, Ringways, came to an end. The new venture is focused on North Yorkshire's own roads, but it is hoped it will bring opportunities for new income from work with other public and private sector clients. The executive member for access, Cllr. Don Mackenzie said: "Creating this company is an innovative, forward-thinking move that gives us greater control and flexibility over our highways service delivery." NY Highways' 170-strong fleet is made up of 80 new vehicles, ranging from vans to tippers, gully cleaners, street lighting vehicles and gritters, as well as vehicles transferring from Ringway.

A host of safety measures have been introduced to protect both staff and motorists. NYCC is the first local authority in the country to employ reflective logos down the side of the highway fleet, while scanners will alert drivers to cyclists and pedestrians. There are also audible alerts installed on the fleet to let cyclists and pedestrians know when vehicles are turning left.

For every £1 spent, NY Highway managers aim to ensure 70 pence is reinvested into the local economy by supporting small and medium- sized businesses in North Yorkshire and will spend an estimated £28m in the next year on local supplies and services. North Yorkshires 5,753 miles of roads, if laid end to end, would stretch to India.

North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel:

A rare opportunity is available to join a police and fire watchdog to help guide the business of policing and the fire and rescue service in North Yorkshire and York.

Last month, Philip Allott was elected as North Yorkshire's new Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. His role involves securing an effective, efficient police force and fire and rescue service, overseeing budgets and setting priorities.

The North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel provides a check and balance to his performance. It scrutinises the exercise of his statutory functions. This panel's work includes reviewing the commissioner's budget, the level of council tax to be set and key appointments.

The panel comprises ten councillors from the nine local authorities covering North Yorkshire and York. In addition, it includes two independent members, who are co-opted by the panel.

Applications are now open for those independent roles.

The panel is seeking people with the necessary analytical and scrutiny skills, enthusiasm, and commitment to bring a fresh, external perspective to its work. Applications are particularly welcome from under-represented groups.

The successful candidate will serve for four years. The panel meets roughly six times a year and panel work usually takes about one day a month. There is an allowance, currently £1,741 a year, plus travel expenses. Co-opted members are also entitled to Dependant Carers Allowance which

covers childcare costs or costs for care for elderly/disabled relatives, where arrangements have to be made to enable attendance at meetings.

If you, or you know someone who may be interested please encourage them to apply. It is worthwhile.

Further information and an application form are available

at: <http://nypartnerships.org.uk/pcprecruit>

For further details, contact Diane Parsons, Tel: 01609 532750, or email: nypcp@northyorks.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is 5pm. On 15th July 2021

Director of Public Health:

Louise Wallace has been appointed as North Yorkshire's Director of Public Health.

Louise is the first woman to take up the appointment for local government in the county, the role is about levelling up, advocating for the health of the entire population, and showing that health and wealth are inter-related.

There could not be a more challenging or critical time to take on this most important role.