

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
21 February 2007

**ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

Chairman's Statement

The Committee has met once since my last Statement, on 7 February 2007, when the agenda included:

1. **Ecological Footprinting** - A Presentation by the Stockholm Environment Institute (of York University). EF is the system used to determine the environmental impact of the use of resources by a locality or organisation. The presentation included a focus on the recently published information on the EF of UK local authority areas and in particular of the NY Districts. The presentation slides are available to County Council Members, on e-mail (from Neil Dodson, ext 2133 or e-mail neil.dodson@northyorks.gov.uk).
2. **The report of the ProSus Research Group** - The task and finish elected Members Group has undertaken a review of how the Council's procurement supports its Sustainable Development Policy objectives.
3. **Green Lane Management Policy and Assessment Criteria** - A Briefing on progress towards developing the Policy and Criteria.
4. **Archaeology and Building Conservation Improvement Review** - A report on the outcomes of the review.
5. **The Carbon Reduction programme** - A progress report.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Committee attended a seminar on Disability Issues, that included a focus on access to the countryside.

The provisional agenda for the next meeting of the Committee, on 25 April, includes the following:

1. **Annual report of the Council's Historic Environment (Heritage) Champion.**
2. **Management of Litter** - A progress report on action undertaken following the Executive's consideration of the Committee's scrutiny examination report on 28 March 2006.
3. **Corporate Waste** - A report on how the County Council is dealing with its corporate waste and the implications on this of the Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) Directive.
4. **WEEE and Waste Disposal** - A report on the implications of the WEEE Directive on the County Council as a Waste Disposal Authority.

5. **Climate Talk 50 +** - A progress report on this high profile initiative by the Stockholm Environment Institute, that focuses on how people in York and North Yorkshire view Climate Change and what action they consider to be necessary.
6. **Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty** - A report on the options for the UK to focus on reducing energy use v meeting energy demands.
7. **Draft Planning Guidance re Sustainable Development** - An opportunity for the Committee to comment on the County Council's draft response to consultation on the Guidance.
8. **Carbon Reduction Programme** - The first 2007 progress report.

It has been the Committee's practice to receive at each meeting a progress report on the County Council's Carbon Reduction Programme but when it met on 7 February it resolved to accept a proposal from the Corporate Director Finance and Central Services that two reports per annum be received, one in the spring and the second in the autumn. However this issue will be included in the agenda for each Mid Cycle Briefing, so that leading Members of the Committee are kept updated on developments.

The Management Board has asked the Committee to undertake research into 'Fairtrade', the worldwide initiative that aims to tackle poverty by enabling disadvantaged producers from poor countries to receive a better deal for their products. The focus is to determine the potential for the County Council to further support 'Fairtrade' objectives. When it met on 7 February the Committee established an elected Member Research Group (of three Members) to investigate the matter and to submit a report to the 27 June meeting.

County Councillor John Blackburn
12 February 2007