

## **COUNTY COUNCIL STATEMENT**

### **FOR COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN FORT**

#### Local Area Agreement

The Local Area Agreement for North Yorkshire was submitted by the GOYH to DCLG on the 8<sup>th</sup> February as planned. The key element of the submission was the set of stretch targets. By the time the submission was finalised there had been a great deal of investment of time and effort by a range of partners in the targets. As a consequence, the package is strongly supported and some difficult decisions had to be made along the way about which would be in and which not. The GOYH feedback is that the LAA offers a well expressed account of issues for North Yorkshire and that the strategy to deliver it is sound.

Partners are now turning to the task of firming up the performance management arrangements and the programmes by which the outcomes of the LAA will be delivered. Work is well advanced in disaggregating county level targets to district level so that LSPs can develop their own local monitoring arrangements. This disaggregation will be further refined as the delivery programmes are developed and identify where action needs to be focussed.

#### York and North Yorkshire Safer Communities Forum

The Safer Communities Forum brings together the principal criminal justice organisations across the County with local authorities and CDRP chairs so that they can collaborate in the strategic management of this area of activity. It is important that good progress is made in this area as the GOYH is looking for greater strategic capacity to support local delivery by community safety partnerships. Joint Coordination Groups have been established in relation to alcohol harm reduction, prolific and other priority offenders, data management and domestic abuse and all, though at the early stages, are addressing their priorities with a clear sense of purpose. So far, these developments represent another positive step in the development of stronger partnership working in North Yorkshire through the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership.

#### Community Safety Strategy

Some members will be aware that the County Council's community safety strategy is being considered by Area Committees at present, to ensure members awareness of the strategy and to seek local concerns and priorities from members. The document is intended to provide the means by which the County Council can monitor its own response to this agenda and its attention to its responsibilities under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act which obliges authorities like our to have regard to the effects of what it does on reducing crime and disorder.

The strategy will be part of the Council's Policy Framework and so will be presented to the Council for final approval, probably at its next meeting.

#### Social inclusion

In 2004, the County Council approved its first Social Inclusion Strategy. Obviously a lot of changes to directorate work programmes have happened since and so last year an officer working group was tasked with revising the document. Production of the County Council's Social Inclusion Strategy 2007-2010 is now complete. The revised version identifies the current and future directorate work programmes that we are, or will be, implementing across the board to tackle social exclusion. Future monitoring of the action plans will identify the areas where work still needs to be done to ensure people do not suffer social exclusion. The document is also intended to act as a signposting document for people in North Yorkshire to contact the County Council on issues relating to the priority areas identified in the Strategy. The Safe and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be considering the Strategy in March and it will be presented to Full Council in May.