

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 FEBRUARY 2007

COMMUNITY SERVICES

STATEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS METCALFE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Inward Investment

The County Council has agreed to provide funding support for inward investment in North Yorkshire through york-england.com. The County Council will work in partnership with Yorkshire Forward and York City Council to fund jointly a sub-regional delivery structure which will promote York and North Yorkshire to UK and overseas investors. The County Council will provide £30,000 in 2007/8 which will enable key strategic sites in the county to be promoted – such as Business parks at Sherburn, Scarborough and Colburn - together with smaller opportunities in rural areas. A Service Level Agreement will be drawn up which will set specific targets around the number of inward investments secured and new jobs created. Discussions will be held with york-england and funding partners to develop a new organisational structure which will seek to reduce overheads and direct more funding into service delivery.

Economic Development Strategy

A programme has been agreed that will see an Economic Development Strategy for the County Council being drawn up by September 2007. This has been developed in conjunction with the Economic Development and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee, members of which will contribute to the process at key stages. The Strategy will focus on activities across the County Council which support economic development and regeneration capacity and will link into other key regional, sub-regional and Council strategies.

Sub-Regional Investment Plan

Work is progressing on the Sub-Regional Investment Plan for York and North Yorkshire. Through the Partnership Executive groups are developing the five Transformational Themes – Science and Innovation; Enterprise; Culture and Tourism;; Skills and knowledge; and Connectivity. Work has now started on relating these themes to specific geographic areas of the sub-region – York area, including Selby and southern Ryedale; Scarborough Town; Upland rural areas; and Harrogate, Skipton and lowland areas.

The Groups will identify specific outcomes to be achieved to grow the sub-region`s economy. This will be completed by the end of March. It will then

identify activities that will deliver these outcomes and set up a process of commissioning projects to deliver. This will be completed by June 2007.

County Councillor Chris Metcalfe
12 February 2007