

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

16TH MAY 2007

TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Transport and Telecommunication Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee has met once and undertaken several visits since the last full Council meeting.

Committee Meeting – 21ST March 2007

1. Highways North Yorkshire Innovations Group

We were pleased to receive a verbal update from Lawrence Ireland of Balfour Beatty to update us on progress made in implementing the recommendations arising from the Committee's in depth scrutiny review on Roads to Re-Use and Recycling. This was a major piece of work for the Committee and has been cited in a publication entitled *Library Monitor #2 Waste management and recycling* available on the Centre for Public Scrutiny website. It was encouraging for us to hear that because of our work a Recycling Manager had been appointed whose responsibility it was to produce a business plan of further efficiency savings. The Recycling Manager was also developing a network of contacts within the local and national recycling industry and exploring potential uses for recycled materials. The Committee agreed that it would be useful to receive regular updates and this is to be scheduled into the work programme on an annual basis.

2. Airport Consultative Committees – NYCC Representatives

County Councillor Michael Heseltine presented the Transport & Telecommunication Services O & SC report on NYCC representatives for Airport Consultative Committees to the Executive on 23 January 2007. The Executive agreed that there should be representation from the County Council on the Airport Consultative Committees of Durham Tees Valley and Robin Hood Airports.

Response from Robin Hood Airport – the Committee are currently reviewing current membership and hope to get back to us on our request in the next couple of weeks.

Response from Durham Tees Valley Airport – the Committee have decided to defer their decision until the results of the North Yorkshire unitary bid are known (this is expected at the end of July 2007).

3. In-depth Scrutiny review – 'Let's get on the bus!'

By the time this statement comes to County Council the Committee will have met once more to finalise our report 'Let's get on the bus!' before it is presented to the Executive on the 22nd May 2007. We believe this has been one of the most important and vital scrutiny investigations that we have undertaken. The willingness of the bus operators to work with us on this review has been critical and the input of members of the public who took the time to respond to the NY Times article has been tremendous. Over 250 letters and emails were received which showed us just how much public transport means to the people of North Yorkshire. We were not able to answer each specific issue personally but in discussion with the County Council's Integrated Passenger Transport Team we have highlighted some areas for further investigation.

We hope that this scrutiny review can, in some small way, enlighten the public about bus travel in North Yorkshire, highlight the level of investment that bus travel is receiving, and stress to the County Council and bus operators the importance of working closely together so that we can tempt the public out of their cars to join the new trend of today's bus user.

County Councillor Eric Broadbent

**Chairman Transport and Telecommunication Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee
May 2007**