

**ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

Chairman's Statement

The Committee has met once since my last Statement, on 5 September 2007, when the agenda included:

1. **Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan for North Yorkshire** – A report was presented on the draft Plan, with a summary of results from the public consultation. Members commented on the draft prior to it being considered by the Executive and County Council.
2. **Countryside Strategy** – A report was presented on the draft Strategy, which establishes a new strategic direction for the Countryside Service for the years ahead.
3. **Archive Service Development** – This report informed Members of the policy drivers and development plans for the archive service.
4. **North Yorkshire Unsurfaced Unclassified Roads Liaison Group** – A verbal report was given on the remit of the newly formed group.
5. **Carbon Reduction in Schools** – The Schools Carbon Reduction Officer reported that she was working with 11 secondary and 18 primary schools on lighting, heating and other carbon-saving projects.
6. **Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty** – This reported that the motion regarding energy efficiency as put to the County Council on 11 October 2006 and agreed by the Committee on 27 June, was supported by the County Council on 18 July subject to amendment. It also made Members aware that the Council's views had been represented at the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Stakeholder Consultation event on the Future of Nuclear Power held on 7 August.
7. **Fairtrade Research Group Report Update** – Members were updated on the Management Board's comments on the recommendations made by the Research Group.
8. **Task and Finish Group on Reducing Corporate Waste** – Members agreed to set up a task group to look at how the County Council can reduce waste and increase the amount of re-use and recycling on Council premises and in schools.

The provisional agenda for the next meeting of the Committee, on 7 November 2007, includes the following:

1. **Waste Management Strategy** – The Corporate Director - BES will give Members an outline of the County Council's strategy.
2. **Adaptation to the Effects of Climate Change** – To review action taken by the County Council and partner organisations to adapt to the problems and opportunities brought about by climate change.
3. **Sustainable Procurement** – Update on implementation of the recommendations of the Research Group on Sustainable Procurement.

County Councillor John Blackburn
2 October 2007