

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

10TH October 2007

TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Transport and Telecommunication Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have met once since the last full Council meeting. As the meeting takes place after the deadline for the County Council papers this statement is forward looking rather than looking back on what the Committee covered in our last meeting.

Committee Meeting – 3rd October 2007

1. Interactive I.T event – Flyer

You will notice in the Council Chamber today there are flyers asking if you would like to take part in an interactive I.T event. Myself and Cllr Haigh have come together to try and encourage the use of I.T by Members and we thought it would be a good idea to have this sort of event where we can learn from each other just what I.T can do for us.

We don't want an event where we are lectured to about the benefits of I.T so we came up with the idea of 'speed dating'!! There would be several 'stations' set up around the room and we would move between the stations to learn, for example, about setting up your own web page or 'blog' and how I.T can help us in our role as community leaders to keep the public of North Yorkshire informed.

The event will only take place if enough Members are interested so I urge you to register your interest by writing your name on the back of the flyer and posting it in the box at reception on your way out of County Hall.

2. Presentation from Phil Jones Government Office Yorkshire and the Humber (GOYH)

We look forward to the presentation from Phil Jones of GOYH. This is a return visit for Phil as he presented to the Committee in September 2006 on Government plans for delivering major transport schemes. Promoting major schemes continues to be a challenge for local authorities so it will be interesting to hear an update and progress report from government office for the region.

3. Review of winter maintenance – report of the Corporate Director Business and Environmental Services

The Corporate Director Business and Environmental Services will be presenting the findings of the winter maintenance internal review and the report will also be going to the Executive on the 16th October. One of the recommendations within that report to the Executive:

That a review of the winter maintenance routes, involving the development of criteria for prioritisation of these routes, be undertaken by officers of the BES Directorate and Members of Transport & Telecommunication Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A report would then be brought back to the Executive within nine months.

Our Committee looks forward to what we think will be a challenging piece of work but one where we think the involvement of scrutiny members will add value.

4. Update on Leeds Bradford International Airport (LBIA) Consultative Committee

Cllr Michael Heseltine regularly updates this Committee on issues discussed at the LBIA Consultative Committee. We feel that if there was any matter within his report that might have an impact on the County Council or the people of North Yorkshire we would raise the issue with the Executive for their consideration.

You may remember that the Executive agreed to the recommendation (initially brought forward through an earlier report from Cllr Heseltine) of this Committee that NYCC should request representation on the Consultative Committees of both Robin Hood and Durham Tees Valley Airports. We understand that the matter of membership of both Consultative Committees is considered at their annual meetings therefore we await an update on progress with this.

5. Draft Scrutiny Guidance

At the meeting of the Scrutiny Board 30th January 2007 Members agreed to set up a working group (The initial membership of the group was expanded to include all members of Scrutiny Board) to look at the implications of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill and to start thinking about how NYCC could prepare for this future legislation.

With the changes that the new legislation will bring the group took the view that it would be prudent to review our own overview and scrutiny protocols. The group decided to develop a publication called 'Your Guide to Overview and Scrutiny in North Yorkshire County Council'.

This guidance is now being presented to each of the overview and scrutiny committees for further comment and amendment. We hope that it will provide the basis for future working with partners as well as within the County Council.

County Councillor Eric Broadbent
Chairman
Transport and Telecommunication Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee
September 2007