

**ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

Chairman's Statement

The Committee has met once since my last Statement, on 7 November 2007, when the agenda included:

1. **Waste Management Strategy** – The Corporate Director – BES gave a presentation outlining the progress that had been made on the Waste Management Strategy, including the development of the waste PFI project and interim disposal solutions. The Committee agreed with the Director that Members had an important role to play in supporting the project.
2. **Progress with the recommendations of the research group on sustainable procurement** – It was reported that good progress had been made with developing sustainable procurement. Members suggested that further consideration be given to work being done with schools.
3. **Flood Management Planning for North Yorkshire** – The Environment Agency gave a presentation on plans and strategies for flood planning. It was noted that the Environment Agency is now a statutory consultee in the planning process and has the opportunity to raise concerns should proposals relate to development on flood plains. Members heard that additional funding was being put into flood risk management.
4. **Adaptation to Climate Change** – The Committee discussed a report about how the County Council might adapt to the negative impact of climate change and embrace the potentially positive aspects of it, such as longer growing seasons. The Government is soon to release a policy framework on climate change and a regional study will be carried out in 2008. The committee agreed to include adaptation to climate change in its future work programme and to consider it when more information is available on the national policy and the regional study.

The provisional agenda for the next meeting of the Committee, on 9 January 2008, includes the following:

1. **A presentation by the Oil Depletion Analysis Centre on the predicted peak, and subsequent decline, in oil supply** – To brief the Committee on oil depletion and how local authorities might respond to its impact.
2. **Biodiversity Action Plans** – To inform the Committee about biodiversity action planning and related LAA targets.
3. **Unsurfaced, Unclassified Roads** – To update the Committee on progress.

County Councillor John Blackburn
11 December 2007