

Leader's Statement

Comprehensive Performance Assessment

Members will note that the Audit Commission has reaffirmed North Yorkshire County Council's rating as a four star authority which is improving well. This result highlights our achievements in delivering high quality, efficient, value for money services to our residents.

We continue to excel at giving a good start to young people's lives by supporting the delivery of high class local education. We are in the top 10% for A-Level results, and top 20% for GCSE's.

In social care we have delivered on our commitment to help older people live more independent lives. More than one thousand extra people have been helped to stay in their own homes.

Environment Services has again achieved maximum possible marks. Through partnership working bus passenger journeys have increased by over 1.8 million and the amount of waste recycled and composted has gone up by 18%.

I would like to thank all Members and officers for their contribution to the authority's continuing success. Our four star rating underlines the importance of the policy decisions this Council has made, making us one of the very best local authorities in the country.

Sub National Review

The Sub National Review has been debated at length by many organisations in the region, including Yorkshire Forward, the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly, Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH) and the York and North Yorkshire Development Board. Whilst almost everyone recognises the benefits of a single region strategy for the economy, planning, housing and transport, the way this is achieved by the involvement of various partners is still a matter for detailed consideration.

I will continue to advocate for regional structures that are based on the primary importance of local authorities and which provide the most effective opportunity for a strong voice for all of North Yorkshire. The Government's formal consultation process on how to take forward the proposals contained within the SNR is expected soon.

Appointment of new Minister for the Yorkshire and Humber

Rosie Winterton MP was recently appointed as Minister for Yorkshire and Humber. I have met with and spoken to the Minister who has expressed her willingness to work with local authority leaders. She met both the Executive Board and the full Regional Assembly on February 7th and is determined to help the region by maintaining a high ministerial profile.