

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 MAY 2007

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. This Committee has met once since the last full Council meeting and the main area of work that I would like to highlight is set out below.

Committee Meeting 4 April 2008

2. Following consideration of a paper outlining the current economic crisis surrounding livestock farming at our January meeting, this meeting was focused specifically on this topic. The purpose of this was to gain more insight into the issues faced and to consider what, if any, action the County Council can take to provide support.
3. Guest speakers attended from the NFU, CLA, Farm Crisis Network, Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, the Rural Development Officers from the Churches Regional Commission and the Tenant Farmers Association. The speakers gave an excellent insight into the key issues and challenges faced within agriculture in North Yorkshire and highlighted specific areas where NYCC could play an important role. These included:
 - Procurement of local produce both by NYCC and influencing other public sector organisations
 - Promotion of local produce and links to websites
 - Supporting skills and training initiatives for diversification
 - Promotion and links to agriculture through schools and careers.
4. We will be discussing follow up to this and identifying how to take forward the issues highlighted above. The in-depth work that we have done on diversification in agriculture will link into this.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN SAVAGE
Chairman – Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Hall
Northallerton

4 April 2008