

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 May 2008

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Chairman's Statement

The Committee has met once since my last Statement, on 5 March 2008, when the agenda included:

1. **Use of Renewable Fuels in Fleet Vehicles** – Members heard that all County Council fleet vehicles use a mix of bio-fuel with conventional diesel. The problems associated with bio-fuels, such as the increasing need for land to grow crops, were discussed. Members raised the possible benefits of moving to use of hybrid/dual fuel vehicles.
2. **Organisational Waste and the WEEE Directive** – An update was given on the options developed to deal with the Council's waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). Two options have been developed, either for equipment to be taken to household waste and recycling sites or to be collected from individual establishments by a dedicated service provider. Members raised questions about the opportunities to work with partner organisations to collect WEEE and how individuals might link in to the system being operated.
3. **Adaptation to Climate Change** – Members discussed how the committee might look at issues over which the County Council could have some influence relating to adaptation to climate change, such as flooding.
4. **Preparing for Peak Oil** – The Committee agreed that the presentation on peak oil given at the previous meeting covered important issues that would benefit from being raised with a wider audience. It was proposed that it be made the subject of a Members' Seminar.

The provisional agenda for the next meeting of the Committee, on 11 June 2008, includes the following:

1. **Emerging Issues in Heritage** – To brief the Committee on forthcoming legislation and other matters.
2. **Draft Climate Change Bill** – To inform the Committee of the provisions of the draft Bill.
3. **Reducing Corporate Waste Task Group Final Report** – The task group will present its findings and recommendations on how the Council might reduce waste and increase recycling on its premises.

County Councillor John Blackburn
9 May 2008