

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 May 2008

TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Transport and Telecommunication Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee has met once since the last full Council meeting.

Committee Meeting – 7th May 2008

Planning applications and their impact on Highways

The Committee received an extremely informative presentation from the Team Leader Transport and Development Control outlining the planning process and the implications for highways. We were advised that there are ten planning authorities and these authorities make the decision on all planning applications but NYCC as the Highway Authority is a statutory consultee in the Planning Process. The County Council can make recommendations to the planning authorities but cannot direct them.

Feedback from Leeds Bradford International Airport Consultative Committee

County Councillor Heseltine represents North Yorkshire County Council on this Airport Consultative Committee. He gave the Committee his regular annual report on the work of the consultative committee informing us of the membership of the committee and the value of input from those who live very locally to the airport and those (such as NYCC) who have an indirect involvement. He advised the Committee that with the recent change of ownership developments were in the pipeline and these included improving the pick up and drop off point and the short stay parking.

We were also pleased to hear that the Airport Consultative Committees for both the Robin Hood and Durham Tees Valley have agreed to a representative of NYCC on each of their Committees. The Executive at their meeting on the 6th May appointed County Councillor Gillian Ivey as the representative on the Robin Hood Airport Consultative Committee and we await the formal letter of invitation from Durham Tees Valley before a representative can be nominated. We would like to invite both the representatives to come along to the Transport & Telecommunications O&SC in the future and hope that we can look forward to a similar annual report.

Update report from the Winter Maintenance Scrutiny Task Group

This in-depth scrutiny review has proved to be as interesting and emotive as it first promised to be. We have received letters and emails highlighting public concerns and also praising the service that North Yorkshire provides.

County Councillor Cullern (Task Group Chairman) introduced the report and gave an overview of the Task Group's work. He highlighted two areas of particular importance:

- The important role of farmers in particularly bad weather to assist in winter maintenance. (This was not included in the original remit of the Task Group but due to its significance would now be considered at the next Task Group meeting.)
- The importance of clarity for the proposal around the priority 2 routes. This is the suggestion that local weather conditions and the forecasted temperature after 10am should be taken into consideration when the decision to treat the priority 2 routes is

taken. The Task Group has taken on board the concerns of the local people and the Area Committees with regard to this particular proposal and this will be discussed further at the next Task Group meeting.

- The draft final report will be presented to this Committee at a special meeting on Monday 23rd June before the final report is presented to the Executive on the 8th July 2008.

Work Programme

The Committee were informed of discussions at the mid cycle briefing which included:

- Update on NYnet
- Scrutiny Leaflets
- Business & Environmental Services - Corporate Director's Question time – scheduled for 8 July 2008.

County Councillor Hoult highlighted an issue which had been the subject of discussion at a recent meeting of the NYCC Audit Committee involving the recent claims of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) accusing some construction companies of 'bid rigging'. Any possible implications for the County Council are currently being looked into but Councillor Hoult flagged it as an area that might also be considered by this Committee. I suggest that the initial way forward is to include it on the agenda for the next mid cycle briefing.

**County Councillor Eric Broadbent
Chairman**

**Transport and Telecommunication Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee
May 2008**