

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 MAY 2008

STATEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR HELEN SWIERS

DEVELOPMENT & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES

National Convention of the Action for Market Towns

I am delighted to announce that North Yorkshire will host this year's National Convention of the Action for Market Towns. The event will take place in Skipton on 1st and 2nd October. The County Council, working with other partners, secured the event in competition with other market towns. The Convention will bring representatives from market towns across England to Skipton to hear presentations from Government ministers, share best practice, consider issues and challenges facing market towns and study a range of initiatives taking place in the area to support the regeneration of market towns.

I can also report that good progress is being made on developing the applications for funding for rural areas under the LEADER Programme for the Dales and the Moors and Coast. If approved, the Programme will bring funding over a 6year period to these rural areas. Bids have to be submitted by the end of July, including a local development strategy setting out priorities for investment and local management structures. In order to shape the bids, a series of consultation events have taken place during April with key stakeholders and further consultation events are due to take place during May with local communities. Subject to the bids being approved, the County Council will act as Accountable Body to manage the Programmes in these two areas.

**County Councillor Helen Swiers
21 MAY 2008**