

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**23 JULY 2008**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

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 27 June 2008**

2. The Committee received a presentation from Neil Smith and John Fox, Partnership Managers for Business Link Yorkshire. The organisation, run as a joint venture between Exemplas Holdings Ltd and Reed in Partnership plc, took over the running of this service on 1 April 2008. The presentation covered the range of services provided for SMEs including the introduction of an Ideas Development Team to help customers develop ideas into a sustainable business proposition. Two Partnership Managers have been appointed by the organisation to ensure that Business Link builds effective links with other organisations throughout North Yorkshire and it was encouraging to hear that a recruitment campaign will shortly start to increase the number of business advisors working within the area. The Committee has asked for a further update early in 2009.
3. The Committee received a further update on the LEADER programme for the North York Moors Coast and Hills area and for the Yorkshire Dales Leader area. Feedback was given on the consultation process and on the strategic priorities identified for each area. The Committee will continue to monitor progress on this.

**Launch of progress in York and North Yorkshire 2008**

4. The Chair and Scrutiny Support Officer recently attended a presentation by the York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit outlining progress on the 63 national indicators. The report provided an assessment of the sub-region's performance against key economic, social and environmental indicators providing more local data for North Yorkshire. Patrick Bowes, Principal Economist at Yorkshire Forward presented the evidence, challenges and opportunities from the Sub National Review and we will be arranging for him to attend a future Committee meeting to discuss this in further detail.

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

County Hall  
Northallerton

9 July 2008