

**ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

Chairman's Statement

The Committee has met once since my last Statement, on 11 June 2008, when the agenda included:

1. **Reducing Corporate Waste Task Group report** – The task group presented its final report on how the County Council can cut its organisational waste in schools and council buildings. The committee had a presentation from pupils at Holy Trinity CE Junior School, Ripon about their eco activities.
2. **Heritage Protection Bill** – A briefing was given on how the proposed new legislation would simplify the existing complex nature of heritage protection and produce a more transparent registration process. Cllr Garnett also briefed the committee on the Heritage Champion work she had carried out over the past year.
3. **Climate Change** – Members were briefed on the draft Climate Change Bill which is expected to introduce carbon trading schemes and waste reduction incentive schemes. An officers group has been set up and will be taking proposals to senior managers for a climate change strategy and action plan for NYCC.
4. **Sustainable Development Action Group Update** – It was noted that this group would report to the Assistant Director's Environmental Management Strategy Group and would focus on delivery of achievable outcomes.

The provisional agenda for the next meeting of the Committee, on 30 July 2008, includes the following:

1. **Presentation by the Regional Director of English Heritage** – To discuss the forthcoming changes to heritage protection and inform the Committee of the work of English Heritage in North Yorkshire.
2. **Scrutiny of Fairtrade** – To update Members of progress to date.
3. **Dalby Forest project** – To tour the Dalby Forest Visitor Centre which is constructed from sustainable building materials and uses renewable energy, and to be briefed on the development of the Forest as a 'regional centre of excellence for sustainable economic activity'.

County Councillor John Blackburn
11 July 2008