

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

17 December 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

2. The Committee received a presentation from Jonathan French, York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit (YNYPU), on the North Yorkshire Geographic Programme. Geographic Programmes are the successor to the programme of Sub Regional Investment Plans which have operated for the past three years. The programmes will be local authority based, with contracted responsibility to Yorkshire Forward and should provide for local decision making. NYCC will be the accountable body for the North Yorkshire Geographic Programme.

The programme will focus on a number of priority groupings for delivery which include enterprise and innovation, people, science and York, Harrogate, Craven and the Lowlands, Scarborough Town and Rurality.

There will also be transformational themes including:

- exploiting knowledge and innovation
- stimulating and supporting enterprise and an enterprising culture
- developing a contemporary, high quality cultural and environmental offer
- attracting and developing knowledgeable and creative people
- ensuring a connected sub-region.

YNYPU is currently developing the programme framework and further detail is awaited on budget levels, what is to be delegated and the degree of local discretion. The Committee will receive further information on this when it becomes available.

NYCC Strategy for Economic Development

3. In response to the changing context arising from the Sub National review and development of the Geographic Programme, NYCC will be looking to produce an Economic Development Strategy for the County Council. Paul Whitaker, Assistant Director, outlined the key themes for this and this will take a Cross Directorate coordinated approach. It will be based on the impact and contribution of the County council as a whole and will therefore recognise the work of all Directorates that impact on the economic well-being of the county. The Scrutiny Committee will be involved in the development of this work as it moves forward.

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

County Hall
Northallerton

5 December 2008