

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
18 February 2009

**ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

Chairman's Statement

- 1.0 The Committee has met once since my last Statement, on **7 January 2009**, when the agenda included:
- a) **Sustainable Waste Management** – Members had an interesting and thorough briefing on the waste strategy and on sustainable aspects of the waste treatment technologies that are available.
 - b) **Management of Litter** – Members heard that the sub-group on litter set up by the York and North Yorkshire Waste Management Partnership had not made significant progress. It was resolved to invite area committees and the NYSP to consider whether they would wish to include litter management on a future meeting agenda.
 - c) **Tackling Climate Change in your Community Follow-up Report** – This successful event, which had been organised by the scrutiny committee for councillors in North Yorkshire, had raised several issues about tackling climate change, and Members were pleased to hear that these would be taken forward as part of the County Council's draft Climate Change Strategy.
 - d) **Joint County/District Flooding Scrutiny Task Group Report** – An update report was provided and further details are given under 2.0 below.
- 2.0 **Joint County/District Flooding Scrutiny Task Group**
- 2.1 The Joint Flooding Scrutiny Task Group was set up to review arrangements for flood planning, response and recovery in North Yorkshire and to consider community involvement. There are six County Council representatives and seven District/Borough Council representatives on the task group, which is chaired by myself.
- 2.2 The task group had its first meeting on 9 December. The first part of the meeting took the form of a workshop to discuss the main issues around flood risk; how prepared we are for flood incidents; recovery and long-term effects; and the extent to which communities are involved before, during and after flooding events. Representatives from the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water, NYCC Highways and NYCC Emergency Planning participated in the workshop. As a result of the discussion, a number of actions were identified for the task group and these form the work programme for the rest of the project.

- 2.3 A second meeting of the group was held on Tuesday 20 January at the Environment Agency offices in York. Members were briefed by Environment Agency staff on flood monitoring and warning systems. Members also heard about the development of multi-agency flood plans for North Yorkshire.
- 2.4 On 10 February, Members will visit Hull City Council to discuss the lessons they have learnt from the flooding in the city in 2007. Two further task group meetings have been scheduled for 3 March and 31 March when the group will be briefed on the Local Resilience Forum and recovery arrangements. A community workshop is planned for April, involving representatives from flood groups in North Yorkshire.
- 2.5 The task group is scheduled to complete its work in May 2009.
- 3.0 The provisional agenda for the next meeting of the Committee, on **4 March 2009**, includes the following:
- a) **Draft Unsurfaced Unclassified Roads Strategy** – To comment on the draft strategy.
 - b) **Carbon Reduction Programme** – Update report

County Councillor John Blackburn
3 February 2009