

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 May 2010

STATEMENT OF THE CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER (Corporate Services, Finance, Performance Management and Procurement)

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARL LES

Ongoing work to support young peoples employment

The good work in this area continues with further new developments:

- **Contractors Providing Apprentices Posts**

The County Council is now encouraging and supporting its contractors to introduce apprentice posts which will further increase the variety and number of career opportunities available for young people in North Yorkshire. A supply chain network has been established, and apprenticeship provision, through contractors, is a key priority for the network. The network is called "Build North Yorkshire" and will be launched at an event later today at Harrogate Pavilions. It is expected to attract over 80 small and medium sized enterprise (SME) contractors from the sub-region. The event, will be attended by the Young Person's Recruitment Team, and used to promote the apprenticeship agenda and to establish provision through contractors in partnership with NYCC. It has already resulted in enquiries from 3 contractors and work is underway to establish a suitable delivery model for apprenticeship provision through the partnership. It is hoped that a minimum of 15 extra apprentices will be provided through the network this year.

- **Yorkshire & Humber Strategic Health Authority Apprenticeships**

Partnership with Yorkshire & Humber Strategic Health Authority has identified a workforce gap within the eleven North Yorkshire Health Trusts. A partnership arrangement to delivering work placements, apprenticeships and graduate recruitment has been established at a regional level and work is underway to engage the Health Trusts within North Yorkshire, particularly through the delivery of the Future Jobs Fund.

- **Future Jobs Fund**

Through this national fund, a number of additional jobs have been established in North Yorkshire: 73 for long-term unemployed young people, and 10 for long-term unemployed people from disadvantaged groups (aged 24+). The initiative will run until 31 May when all jobs will be filled (61 jobs filled to date) and candidates will be in post. Jobs have been created by the following partners:

- North Yorkshire County Council (BES, CEX)
- Richmondshire District Council
- Hambleton District Council
- Scarborough Borough Council
- Selby District Council
- Groundwork
- Coast and Moors Voluntary Action

Due to the success of the current arrangements the County Council has the opportunity to extend the scheme to deliver a further 83 jobs between 1 June and 30 November 2010.

Programme of improving Gas Ventilation in Boiler Houses and Kitchens

A significant programme of work has been carried out to upgrade the ventilation systems in all gas fired boiler houses and in kitchens that use gas appliances. This was necessary to ensure that the County Council is meeting the regulatory requirements for gas safety in all its premises and not putting staff and building users at risk. The boiler house programme is now complete and the kitchen programme for Schools and Elderly Person's Homes will be completed by September/October this year. This has been a 2 year programme which has required an extensive procurement exercise to find suitably qualified companies to carry out the work, significant project management from Jacobs UK, officers from Children and Young People's Services, Adult and Community Services and Corporate Landlord Services and, in relation to the Kitchen work, co-operation and input from County Catering staff, Headteachers and EPH Managers. The total value of the programme is £5.8m. The project will be completed within the original time scales and is providing up to date, safe working environments for our staff and service users on the 320 sites that have been affected by this work.

Supply Chain Readiness Network

Supply chain readiness networks are partnerships that aim to build a substantial local resource of skilled firms that actively seek work in construction and the built environment supply chains via a virtual 'shop window' and face to face meetings with potential buyers such as main contractors.

The County Council is working with Northern Procurement Group and one of their associates to set up a network in the County which will act as a platform to assist subcontractors, who, in North Yorkshire, are predominantly Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, to gain work from principal contractors. The network will also have an emphasis on promoting apprenticeships and work for young people in the construction industry across the County, and details of this are included earlier in my report. The model therefore supports the objectives of Economic Development Schools and Careers, the built environment, sustainable communities and construction procurement.

We have been successful in attracting partners to work with us on this initiative including the PCT, Fire and Rescue Authority, Broadacres, Economic Development officers from the District Councils, City of York Council, York University as well as our own framework contractors and the regional Business Support and Training Organisations.

A launch of the network is taking place this afternoon and evening at the Harrogate Pavilions where we have over 38 exhibitors and a significant number of delegates attending to find out details of the opportunities that exist in public sector building work across North Yorkshire; how we can help and assist them to gain work; to find and grow the next generation of skilled workers that we will need for the future; and to provide them with a network of contacts that will benefit their businesses going forward.

Equality Framework for Local Government

A few weeks ago we were accredited as an 'achieving' authority against the Equality Framework for Local Government standard following a visit by a team of member and officer peer review assessors from other local authorities. I am sure that you will agree this is excellent news for the authority, particularly as we are one of the very first authorities to do this under the new assessment regime. I would like to pass on my thanks to all members and officers who have worked hard to get this result. The peer review team identified many strengths in our work as well as endorsing our self-assessment of the areas for improvement (for example the need to develop a single equality scheme and more robust performance monitoring mechanisms to show how equality targets are achieving success).

York and North Yorkshire Climate Change Leadership Programme

This was set up to inform decision makers from the nine local authorities, including ourselves, and other key local public sector partners about why climate change is an issue for their authority; why there is a strong need to demonstrate leadership; and to support how this can be achieved within their own authorities and in collaboration with others. Funding was provided by the Yorkshire & Humber Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership. Four workshops were run from November 2009 to February 2010 focussing on specific national indicators and how participants can take action to improve authority performance as well as deliver benefits for local residents. Recommendations will be taken to the next meeting of Local Government North Yorkshire and York. We will play our part in this process alongside the districts councils on behalf of all our residents. The presentations and final report can be accessed at www.nyssp.org.uk/cclw

19 May 2010