

## North Yorkshire County Council

19 May 2010

### Transport and Telecommunication Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

#### Statement by the Chairman

The Transport and Telecommunication Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee has met once since the last full Council meeting. The Committee held its scheduled meeting on 28 April 2010.

#### Committee meeting 28 April 2010

##### Passenger Rail Industry in North Yorkshire

The focus of our April meeting was the passenger rail industry in North Yorkshire so we were thrilled that; Alan Hyde (East Coast Mainline); David Mallender (Trans Pennine Express) and Drew Haley (Northern Rail) could come along and not only give interesting and informative presentations but also respond honestly and openly to our many questions. I would like to flag up here however our deep disappointment that Network Rail were unable to send a representative ...even with three months notice of the meeting...

The presentations from each of the rail representatives included:

##### East Coast Mainline:

- Feedback is shaping future development of timetable
- Network Rail, the Office of Rail Regulation and Department for Transport will approve the final timetable later this year
- Pre-launch & launch marketing campaigns
- Eureka! (media launch) due to be introduced 22 May, 2011

##### Trans Pennine Express investment:

- Trains £250 million
  - 51 x three car diesel trains
- Stations £12 million
  - 30 stations
  - 6 stations in North Yorkshire

##### Northern Rail looking at 2010 and beyond:

- Skipton refurbishment
- Cycle integration
- Route strategies to deliver extra capacity
  - \* Harrogate line
  - \* Airedale Line
  - \* Selby line
  - \* Settle – Carlisle
- Extra trains in Leeds City Region
- Promotions
- New Franchise 2013

With many Harrogate Councillors on the Committee we could not help but raise our concerns around what we see as a poor rail service not only for the people of Harrogate but also the many people who use (or would wish to use) the conference centre facilities as well as encouraging tourist visitors. We will continue to lobby transport chiefs to upgrade the stretch of railway on the Harrogate to York route and therefore we were pleased to see that the

NYCC response to the recent Department for Transport consultation had included the case for direct London to Harrogate services to be specified to prospective franchise bidders.

### **Final report on Speed Outside Schools**

County Councillor Don MacKenzie presented the draft final report of the Task Group looking at a range of measures for reducing road traffic speed outside schools. The Committee welcomed the report and agreed to send it unchanged to the Executive on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

### **Looking ahead**

The proposals to reduce the number of Overview and Scrutiny Committees has a direct impact on our Committee as it is proposed to merge with the Economic & Regeneration O&SC and the Environment & Heritage O&SC. This will mean an increased work load for the Committee but one that promises to be both challenging and rewarding!

**County Councillor Cliff Trotter**

**Chairman**

**Transport and Telecommunication Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**May 2010**