

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**21 JULY 2010**

**STATEMENT OF RURAL SERVICES, WASTE DISPOSAL, PUBLIC  
PASSENGER TRANSPORT AND TRADING STANDARDS PORTFOLIO  
HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR CLARE WOOD**

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**Long Term Waste Service Contract**

On 29 June 2010 I was pleased to be able to announce that North Yorkshire County Council and City of York Council have completed our procurement for a long term waste treatment service and have identified AmeyCespa as our preferred bidder. All Members will have received a separate and more detailed briefing note on this important announcement but I am pleased to provide a summary of the key issues here.

The service is being delivered using the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) which enables and Councils to benefit from £65 million of PFI Credits from Government. We have been prevented from confirming the outcome of the procurement whilst the new Government reviewed the final business case and its support and financial commitment to projects approved by the former Government. It is therefore especially encouraging that the outcome of this review was positive and that our project has not only been given approval to proceed, but has effectively been confirmed as contributing towards delivery of local and national objectives.

The Waste PFI will help us reduce future waste disposal costs by over £260 million over 25 years and will give us control over the cost we have to pay for treating our waste in the future. The additional costs of not moving away from landfill are £8.7m per year which if we had to find on top of the expected Government grant reductions would be crippling for the Council.

Evaluating the tenders received for this contract was a very long and careful process with set evaluation criteria to achieve a sustainable waste management solution which is both affordable and environmentally acceptable. Like many councils, we have historically relied on landfill as a cheap and local way of getting rid of our rubbish – but landfill sites are running out and their continued use is not sustainable environmentally or financially. We also need to ensure we tackle the key issues of climate change; carbon reduction and minimisation of greenhouse gas emissions.

AmeyCespa is proposing a waste treatment solution which diverts waste from landfill and recovers value from it through increased recycling and energy production; mechanical sorting and Anaerobic Digestion (AD) to treat food waste. The proposed technologies will produce enough electricity to supply around 40m000 houses – more than all the homes in Harrogate. The proposed location for this facility is Allerton Quarry, an existing landfill and quarry site next to the A1M and within Harrogate Borough.

Together with the waste reduction campaigns that the York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership runs – like Love Food, Hate Waste and Choose2Reuse, the combination of technology solutions will enable value to be recovered from almost every aspect of our waste.

We are now starting a public and stakeholder consultation to give people the opportunity to ask questions and make their views known before we formally ask the Council to approve award of the contract in the Autumn. It is expected that a planning application will be submitted later in this year and, if successful, the plant will be operational in 2014.

### **Waste Prevention**

The County Council continues to deliver innovative waste prevention campaigns on behalf of the York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership including the highly successful Choose2Reuse fashion show. The event, held in the evening of Friday 28 May at York Racecourse aimed to demonstrate that it is possible to buy chic and fashionable clothes and other items from charity and reuse organisations at a fraction of the cost of buying from new. The clothes and accessories for the catwalk were sourced entirely from charity shops and featured redesigned, customised and ‘upcycled’ contemporary fashions from up-and-coming designers. I am pleased to report that the fashion show was a huge success, with more than 450 people attending. A second Choose2Reuse fashion show is planned for January 2011 in Harrogate.

Other waste prevention activity has included the continued promotion of low cost home composting bins and food waste digesters to encourage residents to deal with biodegradable waste at home, to reduce the amount collected and taken to landfill whilst also providing a free source of nutrient rich compost for their garden. The Love Food Hate Waste campaign has also continued with a particular focus on reusing leftovers in exciting new menus to reduce waste. Both campaigns have been promoted at a range of events, including the Great Yorkshire Show and have included live cookery demonstrations by local chefs using common leftover ingredients and store cupboard staples to create wonderful new food.

Further activity to promote home composting, Choose2 Reuse and the Love Food Hate Waste campaigns are planned throughout the summer months and I will update Members further at future meetings.

### **TRADING STANDARDS**

#### **Illegal Money Lending Team Launch**

#### **Eastfield Library Scarborough 24.06.10**

Trading Standards and Planning Services are working in partnership with the Government Illegal Money Lending Team which has achieved great national success in recent years in combating the activities of loan sharks. On 24<sup>th</sup> June their work in the Scarborough area was officially launched with an event at Eastfield Library.

I was pleased to meet local agencies and members of the community in Eastfield who had gathered to hear about the work being carried out which is to form part of the Eastfield Financial Inclusion Project.

Other presentations included representatives of the Illegal Money Lending Team, Scarborough Citizens Advice Bureau Debt Advice Service, the North Yorkshire Credit Union and The Five lamps Lending Project. The day was concluded by all parties contributing to a debate on the issue of illegal money lenders in the area and how the community can help the team to identify loan sharks in their community.

## **INTEGRATED PASSENGER TRANSPORT**

### **Concessionary fares**

Members will be aware that the council will be responsible for the costs and administration of concessionary fares from 1st April 2011. Work is continuing to ensure a smooth transition and an affordable scheme. In June a report was considered by the executive and we were pleased to note that discussions are well in hand for pass applications to be dealt with by libraries and all enquiries to be dealt with through the customer service centre. We are intending to consult on changes to the existing scheme which would mean that concessionary passes could not, in general be used on bus services before 09.30 or after 23.00 with an expectation that the cost to the council will reduce as a result. A report on the possible cost reduction and the results of consultation will be considered by the executive in October.

### **Scarborough Park & Ride**

I thought it timely to report again on progress with the two park & ride schemes in Scarborough. Both schemes continue to be popular with users with high levels of satisfaction being reported through customer feedback cards. The buses are fitted with real time information systems which can also be used to monitor reliability; during the first year of operation over 95% of journeys operated on time. In its first 12 months, the scheme carried 457,000 passengers and in the first 3 months of the second year passenger numbers have increased by 40% on the same period last year; still early days but a positive start.

CLARE WOOD