

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 July 2010

**STATEMENT OF SCHOOLS PORTFOLIO HOLDER
(Schools, 16-19 years education, and early years provision)**

COUNTY COUNCILLOR JIM CLARK

School Capital Funding

Members will be aware of the recent government announcement concerning the Building Schools for the Future programme. The position is less clear about the future of the Primary Capital Programme as no announcement has been made about the current capital allocation. Funding from 2011 onwards will form part of the government's review of school capital announced on 5 July 2010, which is not expected to report in full until the end of the calendar year.

Instrumental Music Service Fees

The Music Service is funded from a variety of sources. Grant funding at present is received from national government, some contribution is made by the County Council, and the greater part of the Music Service income arises from fees which are payable either by parents or schools. It is our normal practice to review fee levels for parents at this time of the year and we have done that recently. We decided to raise fees by 4%.

It has been necessary this year, however, for us to look at Music Service resourcing in the content of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Although our overall proposals will be coming forward for detailed consideration in the next few weeks, it has been necessary to look at aspects of Music Service funding in advance of that, in so far as the matters are connected with fees payable by parents. With this in mind, and knowing the very significant financial challenges which all services in the Council face, it has been necessary for us to review our policy for providing subsidised transport for students attending Saturday morning Music Centres. Our decision to withdraw the subsidy from transport to music centres is a decision we have taken with regret. We will do all that we can, working with parents, to maintain a bus service, providing there is sufficient interest from parents in meeting the associated costs.

Harrogate Admissions – Referral to the School Adjudicator

Members may be aware that the revised admissions arrangements for secondary schools in the Harrogate area have been the subject of a recent challenge to the Schools Adjudicator. I am pleased to report that the Adjudicator has found in the County Council's favour.

**County Councillor Jim Clark
Executive Member for Schools**