

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

13 OCTOBER 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

Following the announcement of AmeyCespa as preferred bidder for the Waste PFI contract, work is progressing on completing the contract before bringing a report to the Executive on 30 November. The full council will then consider award of the contract on 15 December. This will mark the end of a long and thorough procurement process.

I explained at the last Council meeting our proposals to further engage with local communities to explain our proposals in more detail, and to seek views. Over the past weeks I have met representatives of those parishes closest to the proposed Allerton Waste Recovery Park site and attended all of our area committees. The meetings have included presentations on the need to move away from landfill and secure a more financially and economically advantageous solution to our long term waste management needs. There has also been the opportunity for attendees to ask questions and express their views to officers and representatives of AmeyCespa. The area committee meetings have been at different times of day and have had variable levels of attendance, with the most interest expressed at the Harrogate Area Committee. A summary of the feedback from the meetings will be included in the report to Council in December.

AmeyCespa has now commenced a second series of public exhibitions on the proposal with venues around the county.

In addition, a Members' Working Group chaired by Cllr Barnes has been reviewing the Waste PFI tender process and details of the proposed contract with AmeyCespa. Their report is due to be completed by the end of this month and its findings and recommendations, along with a summary of correspondence we have received from residents over the past weeks, will be included in the final report to Council in December on contract award.

Waste Prevention

Over the summer months, the County Council has been delivering innovative waste prevention campaigns on behalf of the York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership. Campaigns have focussed on love food hate waste, choose2 reuse and home composting. The Love Food Hate Waste campaign has focussed on reusing leftovers in exciting new menus to reduce waste. Residents have been able to see how easy it is to create wonderful new food

by using common leftover ingredients and store cupboard staples in a series of interactive and live cookery demonstrations by local chefs.

The promotion of low cost home composting bins and food waste digesters has continued and the aim of this campaign is to encourage residents to deal with biodegradable waste at home, which reduces the amount collected and taken to landfill whilst also providing a free source of nutrient rich compost for their garden.

We also hope to build on the success of the first Choose2 Reuse fashion show involving local designers, charities and community groups and plans are underway for a second event in Harrogate in January 2011 to demonstrate the wide range of good quality clothing that can be sourced from charity shops and to showcase local designers who use discarded textiles to create exciting new fashions.

TRADING STANDARDS

Community Enforcement in No Cold Calling Zones

It is five years since this initiative was originally launched, with the first zone being in Great Ayton, Nr Stokesley. Since then, the creation of the zones in areas where vulnerable residents reside has proved that communities can be empowered to reduce both cold calling and doorstep crime in general. There are now over 340 zones in North Yorkshire. The demand for new zones is such that priority is being given to those areas where a resident has been victimised to the extent of suffering serious financial loss or where the residents have the backing of an elected member. The surveys show that the initiative has proved extremely popular, with 92% of residents saying that they feel safer in their own homes. During the last five years, only one person within a No Cold Calling Zone has fallen victim to doorstep crime and new legislation which prevents aggressive selling practices will enable action to be taken when cold callers refuse to abide by residents' requests to leave.

INTEGRATED PASSENGER TRANSPORT

Concessionary fares

Consultation on our proposals to change the concessionary fares scheme closes at the end of October. It is clear from the comments which we have received that the scheme is valued by the thousands of pass holders who make regular use of our bus network. Many people have indicated a willingness to pay a charge for the facility but of course that just isn't possible under current legislation. There is genuine concern that particularly in rural areas, our proposals will create hardship and we will need to give due weight as part of our final decision. At the same time we are working closely with the existing partnership to ensure a smooth transition of the administrative arrangements; staff from Harrogate Borough Council have been particularly helpful in this respect.

CLARE WOOD