

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
13 October 2010**

**TRANSPORT, ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Chairman's Statement

- 1.0** I am delighted to present my first statement as Chairman of this new Committee. The Committee has an extremely wide and varied scope, which represents the merging of the remits of three former overview and scrutiny committees. The Committee met for the first time on 29 September 2010, and the agenda for that meeting included the items below.
- 2.0 Overview of Business and Environmental Services by the Corporate Director**
- 2.1 We were grateful to the Corporate Director for giving a thorough overview of the Business and Environmental Services directorate and its main service priorities and challenges over the coming months.
- 2.2 The priorities include moving towards further integration of waste services across the county; a review of home to school transport; continuing with the programme of repairs to roads damaged last winter; developing a more planned and less reactive service for future maintenance of the road network; developing a partnership arrangement to deal with repairs to listed bridges; implementing the Scarborough agency contract; managing the outcome from the consultation on changes to concessionary fares and bus services; implementing the Local Transport Plan 3 and the revised Countryside strategy; reducing street lighting at night to achieve carbon and cost savings; and working with the private sector to take forward the Local Enterprise Partnership proposals.
- 2.3 Inevitably, maintaining and improving service delivery will become even more challenging because of the impact of funding cuts and the extent of these will be better known after the Comprehensive Spending Review later this month.
- 3.0 Local Enterprise Partnerships and Regional Growth Fund**
- 3.1 The Committee was briefed on the proposed Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) and the Regional Growth Fund. The York and North Yorkshire LEP bid was submitted to the Government at the beginning of September, but it is understood that the bid will not be in the first phase of proposals to go ahead. Other bids in the Yorkshire region have been put forward by the Leeds City Region; the Sheffield City Region; and Hull, East Riding and Scarborough.

- 3.2 The overall objective of the LEP would be to promote business growth through investment in infrastructure and people. Its proposed actions would include securing investment in broadband provision, investing in business tourism and the visitor economy, supporting coastal regeneration, supporting the food and agriculture sector, enabling the care sector to meet rising needs, and delivering rural programmes.
- 3.4 The proposal for the York and North Yorkshire LEP identified three critical tasks before it can be put in place, which are to establish stronger private sector leadership; to move towards more formal arrangements with East Riding Council; and to establish a core capacity for the LEP.
- 3.5 The Regional Growth Fund that the Government proposes to establish will offer £1 billion nationally over the next two years. The main objectives of the Fund are to encourage private sector enterprise and, in particular, to support those areas and communities that are currently dependent on the public sector to make the transition to sustainable private sector-led growth and prosperity.
- 3.6 The LEP proposal suggests that the priority themes for developing a bid to the Regional Growth Fund should be investment in broadband, investment in the Science base and a localised approach to nurturing enterprise.

4.0 North Yorkshire Countryside Strategy

- 4.1 Members were asked for their views on the main themes of the revised countryside strategy, which is due for completion by the end of the year.
- 4.2 The revised strategy will need to be fit with and demonstrate how it delivers against other mainstream programmes such as the sub-regional strategy, and to secure external resources it will need to clearly state the economic and social benefits that the countryside brings. The National Parks will be part of the strategy.
- 4.3 Members were keen to see the strategy result in actions that could lever in additional funds for the countryside. The Committee was invited to attend a workshop on 7 October for all concerned to discuss and help to shape the strategy.

5.0 Flood Risk Management

- 5.1 The Committee was briefed on developments with flood risk management, and the new roles and responsibilities that have been brought about by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.
- 5.2 We noted that there have been significant improvements in joint working between the various agencies responsible for flooding, although one Member commented that this did fall short of the 'one stop shop' he had hoped for. The need for more effective gully emptying in certain areas was raised, and this was taken up by the Executive Member Cllr Dadd.

6.0 Local Transport Plan 3

6.1 Members were briefed on the Phase 2 consultation results including consultation with area committees. The Local Transport Partnerships were also discussed. It was recognised that the imminent funding cuts would affect decisions to be taken about transport planning, but that the overall priorities set out in the Plan would remain relevant for the next five years.

7.0 Future work planning

7.1 The Committee agreed to invite a number of partner organisations to address future meetings including North Yorkshire Business Education Partnership, rail companies, Welcome to Yorkshire and English Heritage.

8.0 The provisional agenda for the **next meeting of the Committee**, on **24 November 2010**, includes reports on the following:

- a) 95 Alive (York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership) report
- b) Changes to concessionary fares and bus services - consultation response
- c) Countryside Strategy – Final version
- d) Local Transport Plan 3 – Final version
- e) *Small Steps Big Difference* NYCC Internal Environmental Campaign

County Councillor David Jeffels
4 October 2010