

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

15 DECEMBER 2010

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

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Prevention

I am pleased to confirm that waste prevention projects have continued over the Autumn and we have successfully delivered a series of innovative campaigns.

We celebrated European waste reduction week between 20 - 28 November working with BBC Radio York to focus on different waste prevention behaviours including Love Food Hate Waste, Choose2Reuse, home composting, the NY Rotters volunteer programme and real nappies.

We supported the Love Cooking Festival at the International Centre in Harrogate on the 5 December 2010. And we are putting the final touches to preparations for the Choose2Reuse fashion show that is being held on 22 January 2011 at the Royal Hall, Harrogate. I would urge you all to support the event that demonstrates how discarded textiles can be turned into exciting new fashions.

Household Waste Recycling Centres

I am pleased to report that the project to provide a new household waste recycling centre to serve west Harrogate is due to commence in January 2011 and be operational by autumn. The site will be part of a joint development with the Highways service and will garage gritters and store salt, thus replacing the existing highway depot at Pateley Bridge.

Long Term Waste Management Service

Members are asked today under a separate item on the agenda to consider award of the contract for provision of the long term waste management service to AmeyCespa.

TRADING STANDARDS

We have had a number of successful prosecutions over recent months: An individual sentenced to six months in jail for breaches in animal welfare, and three particularly unsavoury individuals, who were jailed for defrauding an elderly lady for surfacing her drive. They actually drove the lady to the building society to get the money. The individuals were sentenced to between 1 and 2 years each.

INTEGRATED PASSENGER TRANSPORT

Members will be aware that two important pieces of consultation closed at the end of October. The first relates to our proposals to change the time at which concessionary bus passes could be used. While many of the respondents recognised the need for the council to reduce expenditure, and some offered to pay a contribution to their free journeys, most were opposed to our proposals. At its meeting on the 9 November 2010 the council's executive took careful account of the comments and acknowledged that if we were to go ahead with a change in hours people in rural areas would be disadvantaged. We have therefore decided that there should be a countywide scheme based on passes being used from 0900 to 0600 the following morning.

The second piece of consultation relates to our proposals to reduce the amount of money we make available to support bus services and to withdraw the funding we currently make available for evening and Sunday services. The alternative of course is to withdraw daytime services, which would leave some communities with no public transport services at all. The withdrawal of evening and Sunday services will reduce our expenditure by approaching £600k per annum. This proposal was considered by the Transport Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on the 24th November, and the views of the committee will be taken into account by the Director when he takes a final decision at our next meeting. The consultation responses were generally opposed to our proposals and they serve as a reminder as to just how important public transport services are to people and where ever we are forced to make reductions we will find similar comments. If we were to retain evening and Sunday services it most likely would be at the expense of withdrawing daytime services in rural areas or finding an additional saving from another service area.

CLARE WOOD