

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

15 DECEMBER 2010

**STATEMENT OF THE HIGHWAYS AND PLANNING SERVICES
PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR GARETH DADD**

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

County Council Statement – Highways and Transportation

WINTER DAMAGE PROGRAMME

Members will recall that the extreme weather last winter left a legacy of damage to the County's road networks. As a result around £2m of emergency repairs were carried out to keep the roads safe into the spring and a further £10m was re-directed towards funding for longer term repairs.

The design and procurement of these repairs is now well advanced and a number of schemes have already been completed on the ground. Inevitably with such a large programme of works there will be a degree of disruption to the travelling public, but officers have been working hard with local communities to keep this disruption to a minimum.

Some major projects have already been completed, including a major programme of repairs in and around Harrogate. Works on the A170 on and near to Sutton Bank were completed two weeks ahead of schedule. We managed to complete £820,000 of road surfacing in just over 2 weeks instead of the anticipated 4. Earlier in the operation the closure of Sutton Bank itself for maintenance work was completed in 5 days instead of 7. The overall duration amounted to 3 weeks instead of the 5 originally programmed.

This was followed by £300,000 of surfacing works on the A684 between Northallerton and the A19. This work was successfully carried out over a 2 week period in early November.

The target is still to complete the vast majority of the programme by Christmas with the only major project after this time being on the A684 at Morton-on-Swale, which is programmed for early in the New Year to avoid the closure period for Skipton-on-Swale.

WINTER MAINTAINANCE

We're now well into the winter season. This year snow has arrived a lot earlier than in the recent past. Our highways teams have been working day and night to keep the roads open and traffic moving. At this juncture, I pay tribute to all the teams working hard to deliver our gritting and clearing operations. They, again, have really stepped up to the mark. Throughout this recent period there was only a handful of occasions when major roads had to be closed, however, this was generally only for short periods and access was normally restored quickly.

Again, I thank on behalf of the residents of North Yorkshire, the teams at the "2coal face" that are doing such a sterling and vital job to keep us moving here in North Yorkshire.

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

The County Council continues to receive positive recognition for its proactive approach to Flood Risk Management, whilst also being acknowledged for our efficient and effective use of the limited resources available. This reputation has put the County Council in a strong position to shape and influence the regulations and guidance associated with the Flood and Water Management Act (2010), which are due in the coming months. Significant elements of the legislation are expected to be enacted by April 2011, and the County Council remains on track to be able to discharge our new duties effectively and efficiently.

In addition to a strong focus on the strategic and policy implications of the changing legislative picture, we are also supporting the delivery of schemes and initiatives that will make a real difference to communities in North Yorkshire affected by flooding.

Pickering Flood Alleviation Scheme – Slowing the Flow

This scheme is a great example of the way we are playing our part in the delivery of flood alleviation schemes in North Yorkshire. 'Slowing the Flow' is a pilot scheme of national significance, where more traditional flood prevention measures are being combined with a range of land management techniques in an effort to 'slow the flow' of flood water entering the town of Pickering. As part of the project delivery team we are supporting all aspects of the project, providing support and guidance on flood risk management, highways, emergency planning and development control.

With the key funding elements from Ryedale District Council and the Environment Agency now in place, the delivery partnership have started to implement many of the upland catchment elements of the scheme, with the construction of low level storage bunds programmed to start in April 2011.

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 3

Members will recall that I updated you on progress on preparing LTP3 at our October meeting. Since then the comments on the consultation draft have been considered and appropriate amendments made to the LTP. A draft of the Final LTP3 was considered by the Executive on 30 November and is presented to you for your consideration and approval or otherwise at Full Council.

GARETH DADD