

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**16 FEBRUARY 2011**

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

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**Waste Prevention**

Since my last statement, waste prevention efforts have concentrated on the delivery of the Choose2Reuse fashion show that was held on 22 January 2011 at the Royal Hall in Harrogate. The show was incredibly successful with around 500 people attending on the night. The event featured catwalk collections sourced either straight from the charity shop or redesigned from reusable or recycled clothes and materials. The aim was to show how unwanted clothing can be as desirable and fashionable as brand new garments from a high street store.

**Household Waste Recycling Centres**

I am pleased to report that the construction of a new household waste recycling centre and depot to serve west Harrogate has started, and the facilities should be operational by autumn. When it opens, the new household waste recycling centre will be a clean, modern, customer friendly facility that will serve residents from an area covering Blubberhouses, Fewston, Pateley Bridge, Ripley and Killinghall to the west and north, and Jennyfields, Beckwithshaw, Pannal and the Duchy estate to the south and east.

The site is expected to reduce the use of Harrogate's existing facility on Wetherby Road by approximately 45%, which will also have obvious benefits for residents of Knaresborough and the eastern side of Harrogate. The new facility is a split level design, where customers stand on the higher level and drop their recycling materials and waste into skips which stand on the lower level. This almost completely removes the need for climbing up stairs to access containers. We have similar sites at Whitby and Seamer Carr in Scarborough, and the split level design is very popular there as I hope members from those areas will confirm.

We currently plan to accept 25 different materials for reuse, recycling and composting, and have built in enough space for additional materials when recycling markets become available. We hope to divert 70% of waste delivered to the site away from landfill, bringing the site in line with the existing 19 in the network and amongst the best performing in the UK.

## **TRADING STANDARDS**

### **New Landscape for Trading Standards Enforcement**

The government has announced that as from April 2012 the work of the government consumer helpline Consumer Direct (CD), will be taken over by the voluntary sector Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). The trading standards service has always maintained a close link with the local CABs and is now arranging training for CAB managers and key workers. In 2009/10 Consumer Direct dealt with 13,500 calls from NY residents, giving civil advice and providing an effective screening service by identifying and referring only those higher level complaints for Trading Standards intervention. In 2009/10 Consumer Direct referred 2276 higher level complaints to NY Trading Standards. The government has also announced that the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is being stripped of its consumer protection role and that local authority trading standards services will in future deal with additional higher-profile work tackling major consumer issues.

### **Alcohol Respect Campaigns**

Since 2008 trading standards have been working with other agencies and retailers as part of a three year trial targeting the reduction of complaints about the underage sale of alcohol by 50% through the community based Alcohol Respect Campaigns (ARC). This target will now be easily achieved with only 42 complaints being received in the first 9 months of 2010/11 compared to 139 in 07/08.

The service is currently coordinating a campaign in the Leyburn area and has been approached by Community Safety Partnerships to target both Knaresborough and Selby during 2011.

## **INTEGRATED PASSENGER TRANSPORT**

### **Harrogate Trains**

You will remember that on previous occasions I have told you about our hopes for an improved train service between Harrogate and London. About three years ago we hoped that up to 6 return journeys a day would be provided, unfortunately this has not been possible. However at a recent media event in Harrogate East Coast Trains announced the introduction of a daily London - Harrogate journey leaving London at 17.33, this complements the existing early morning train. This is a welcome improvement for the business community in Harrogate. This improvement is due in no small part to the combined efforts of Brain Dunsby Chief Executive of Harrogate Chamber of Trade and Commerce working closely with officers from North Yorkshire County Council and Harrogate Borough Council. The additional service will be introduced with the main timetable change in May 2011.

CLARE WOOD