

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
16 February 2011**

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

Chairman's Statement

1.0 The current economic climate has brought opportunities as well as threats and at its last meeting, on 26 January 2011, the Committee discussed a number of very topical issues including the potential to expand high-speed broadband services and the reduction in business miles travelled by staff and councillors, as well as the challenge of continuing to prioritise road safety against a backdrop of funding cuts.

2.0 High-speed Broadband Provision in North Yorkshire

2.1 Cllr John Watson, Chairman of NyNet and the company's Chief Executive, Dave Cullen, brought Members up to date with the company's progress and plans for future expansion.

2.2 NyNet, on behalf of NYCC, submitted a bid under the Government's initiative to bring next generation broadband to rural areas, benefiting small and medium-sized businesses. From a large number of bids, four areas have been provisionally selected, including North Yorkshire. Though still in the early stages, it is expected that this would involve NyNet joining with a private sector partner to put together a £40 million programme which would enable it to reach the 19,000 small and medium-sized enterprises in the county that are currently unserved. Although NyNet cannot provide a service direct to individual households, it is likely that the partner organisation could.

2.3 This is potentially an exciting prospect for businesses and individuals in the rural parts of our county and we look forward to following the progress of the project.

3.0 Employer Engagement in Education in North Yorkshire

3.1 "Helping to build the workforce of tomorrow" – this is how Sue Gradwell of the North Yorkshire Business Education Partnership described the Partnership's work. Employer engagement in education can make a difference to young people by helping them to see the relevance of what they are learning to the world of work.

3.2 Taking a longer-term view, as our economy begins to grow again we will need young people with the right skills, motivation and entrepreneurial talent to contribute to and drive that growth, and contact between young people and employers at an early stage can help to achieve this.

4.0 95 Alive: Annual Report from the Road Safety Partnership Steering Group

4.1 The aim of the Partnership has been to reduce the annual number of fatalities in York and North Yorkshire by a third by the end of 2010, representing a saving of 95 lives between 2005 and 2010. In this annual report, we heard that there has been very good progress towards achieving this and there is a continuing downward trend.

Whilst this trend will have a number of contributory factors such as increasing vehicle safety, Members acknowledged the valuable work done by the Partnership in targeted interventions and driver awareness campaigns and agreed that it will be a challenge for the team to continue to deliver an effective service against the backdrop of a significantly diminished budget.

5.0 Small Steps Big Difference – NYCC Internal Environmental Campaign

5.1 Members can feel proud that we have contributed towards a reduction of 41,544 business miles travelled by NYCC staff and Members compared with the previous year, resulting in a saving of 13.8 tonnes of CO2! The Small Steps campaign has included 'wear a wild woollie to work' day to highlight energy-saving measures and will continue this year with cutting waste and saving water themes. We look forward to receiving an end-of-campaign report in September.

6.0 Climate Change Action Plan Update Report

6.1 Members noted that the National Indicator set which has 47 targets is to be replaced by a single list of data and that work is progressing towards a revised Action Plan that has just 7 actions.

7.0 The provisional agenda for the **next meeting of the Committee**, on **30 March 2011**, includes reports on the following:

- a) An update on economic development matters
- b) The report of the working group on reducing street lighting
- c) Countryside Strategy

County Councillor David Jeffels
7 February 2011