

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**18 May 2011****STATEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER
(Adult Social Care, Library and Information Services)****Derek Law MBE Corporate Director - Adult and Community Services**

Derek Law MBE, the Corporate Director for Adult and Community Services, has taken the decision to leave the authority after 7 years and this is his last County Council meeting. Through his vision and leadership he has transformed Adult and Community Services into a high performing Directorate which has rightfully earned a national reputation for modernisation, sound budgetary management and a track record for delivering value for money. During his tenure there have been many considerable achievements which include an "Excellent" rating for Adult Social Care, a maximum score for Library Services and also many examples of pioneering thinking which has led to national exemplars such as the Strategic Commissioning, the Libraries Strategy, Telecare, Harrogate "Big Lottery" development and Extra Care Developments to name but a few. On behalf of the County Council, I wish Derek well for the next phase of his life and thank him for his outstanding contribution to the people and communities of North Yorkshire.

Future Delivery of Library Services

A report giving an overview of the results from the 3 month consultation on the proposals for the library services is currently in preparation and will be considered by Executive Members on the 14th June. This report will make recommendations as to how savings will need to be delivered over the next 3 financial years.

Financial Position of the Adult and Community Services Directorate

I am pleased to announce a very positive financial position for the Adult and Community Services Directorate in 2010-11. Set in the context of a £131m budget, the Directorate has underspent by £72k. This is highly commendable considering the Directorate predicted a £3m overspend at the beginning of the financial year arising from additional demographic pressures and a savings target of £4.8m.

This is a considerable achievement against a background of increasing demand for services and an ageing population. The challenge of delivering services in rural areas is well known, particularly in respect of higher costs and accessibility. The Directorate will continue to improve and modernise services with its local health partners.

Everyone understands that there are greater financial challenges ahead, however, the actions taken by the Directorate in transforming services, including introducing reablement and increasing the use of Telecare, place the Directorate in a strong position to start the next financial year.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff within the Directorate, on this fantastic achievement.

Adult Social Care Operations- restructure

The restructure in Adult Social Care Operations is near completion. The overall aim is to reshape the current 4 localities to 3 which will result in a significant decrease in the number of tiers of management and managers. Costs will be reduced without affecting front line care services and the Adult and Community Services Directorate will be better placed to address the new considerable statutory requirements of the Mental Capacity Act (2005). All interviews

for key posts have now been completed. The next steps in the restructure will be a roll out of a comprehensive 12 month training and development programme for the newly created roles.

National Archives Ratings

I am very pleased to announce that the Council has received confirmation that the North Yorkshire County Record Office has been awarded the maximum four stars in the national star ratings scheme for local authority archive services, which is overseen by the National Archives. All aspects of the Record Office and its services, from physical accommodation to customer satisfaction, from governance to outreach work, are examined in great detail as part of the star ratings exercise. We are delighted to have joined the 'premier league' whilst remaining one of the most cost-effective archive services in the country.

This extremely positive result is well earned and the County's Record Office continues to receive national recognition. It recently staged a very successful History Day at the Hambleton Forum in Northallerton, which took the form of a Local and Family History Fair supported by two dozen local groups and societies. Ruth Goodman, star of the BBC's Victorian Farm and Edwardian Farm, delivered a remarkable address entitled "The Cycle of Life", about what life was like for ordinary people in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Scarborough Literature Festival

A record numbers of visitors turned out for top writers as well as a whole series of entertaining workshops and master classes. Over 3,000 people attended the festival in April otherwise known as the Long Weekend – which was celebrating its fifth anniversary. The Long Weekend patron, award-winning author Kate Atkinson praised the welcome and professionalism of the Scarborough library staff who run the festival and their passion for books and reading. Other authors included Joanna Trollope, Margaret Drabble, Jodi Picoult and Michael Holroyd.

This year's festival included a number of lead-in activities which included a student conference and a chance for groups of children to work with a variety of artists in their reinterpretation of a traditional folk tale. This was delivered in partnership with Rollercoastival. The festival works with a number of different partners such as Woodend Creative Workspace and the Friends of Scarborough Library to make this a truly inclusive event. The festival was funded through "Grants for the Arts" awarded by the Arts Council England.

The success of the festival has been due to the hard work and the enthusiasm of the library staff in Scarborough. I would like take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in yet another very successful long week end.

County Councillor Chris Metcalfe