

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

18 MAY 2011

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

In my last statement I told you that construction of West Harrogate Household Waste Recycling Centre had started. I am pleased to update you that work is progressing well, and we hope that the centre will open in the Summer. A more precise date will be announced nearer the time.

From 1 July 2011 all household waste recycling centres in North Yorkshire will be closed on Wednesday of each week. Members have received information about this directly from officers explaining the background and how we are working to ensure the change will cause as little inconvenience as possible. The closures are regrettable but are an important contribution to our savings requirements.

Long Term Waste Service

It is anticipated that our long term waste management contractor, AmeyCespa, will submit the planning application for the Allerton Waste Recovery Park within the next week or so. I understand the application is comprehensive and has been influenced by work the contractor has been doing in the community and with key consultees to ensure the impact of the proposed development is kept to a minimum.

AmeyCespa propose to raise awareness of the proposal through public exhibitions, website updates, press releases and newsletters. It is understood that AmeyCespa will also provide all Members with details of the application as it is submitted but any Member wishing to know more in the meantime should contact AmeyCespa direct.

Waste Prevention

The North Yorkshire Rotters volunteer programme has been recruiting new volunteers to support our campaigns. The North Yorkshire Rotter volunteers have been active in the community attending a range of events such as gardening club talks, school visits, compost doctor surgeries and manning stands at events such as Northdale Horticulture's Environment Day, and as part of Richmond eco-week. The volunteers are invaluable in providing an efficient and effective way to engage with residents. In March alone, Rotters donated 127 hours of their time encouraging people to produce less waste – at no cost to the Council.

INTEGRATED PASSENGER TRANSPORT

In the middle of April the planned reductions to evening and Sunday Services were introduced. As part of that process we have worked with Arriva North East to retain an evening service between Whitby and Sleights and Whitby and Robin Hoods Bay on the basis that users would pay an additional fare of £2 per journey and that if the amount of revenue collected was sufficient then the service will be retained on a commercial basis. I will report progress at a future meeting.

On 1 April 2011 the Council became responsible for the funding and management of concessionary fares. Although this comes with a £10m per annum bill but only £5m per annum income it is essential that we are able to ensure that the application and pass issuing process is simple and effective. As a result of pre-planning and hard work by our officers and colleagues in the Districts the transition was a seamless process. Over the next few months we will continue to promote the Council's role in issuing passes. We are currently looking at areas where a reduction in expenditure on concessionary fares could be made and have started a consultation process to determine whether we should exclude the Scarborough Seafront Services from the schemes. This would reduce our expenditure by over £200k per annum. The consultation period is for 12 weeks from 1 May 2011.

TRADING STANDARDS

A number of operations have recently proved successful, with the courts making confiscation orders to the value of approx £340,000 against five people. The offences being the sale of counterfeit goods on ebay, money laundering in relation to doorstep crime, another sale of counterfeit goods and the fraudulent sale of internet domain names.

The County Council is due to receive £121,000 as a result through the Home Office Recovery Incentivisation Scheme and through costs. A successful conclusion to the operations last year.

CLARE WOOD