

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

12 OCTOBER 2011

STATEMENT OF RURAL SERVICES, WASTE DISPOSAL, PUBLIC PASSENGER TRANSPORT, TRADING STANDARDS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS METCALFE

WASTE AND COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES

I am pleased to report that construction of the new household waste recycling centre at Penny Pot Lane, Harrogate is complete, and equipment is being delivered to the site as we speak. This brand new facility will open to the public on Thursday November 3rd, ending a long wait for this much needed facility in that part of the County. The site will offer the same opening times and same range of recycling facilities offered at the other 19 household waste recycling centres provided by the County Council. The site will be managed by May Gurney Ltd on our behalf.

LONG TERM WASTE SERVICE CONTRACT

Further to the decision of the Council on 16 December 2010, the contract for the long term waste service contract with AmeyCespa, and other ancillary documents were executed on 26 August 2011. AmeyCespa then submitted the planning application for the Allerton Waste Recovery Park to the Council for determination. As this is now a planning matter, progression of this proposal now comes under the remit of Cllr Dadd, and will ultimately fall to the Planning and Regulatory Functions Committee to determine.

COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE

As part of our work to promote responsible access to the countryside, the Council has worked together with the Ramblers Association and local landowners to produce and launch a new guide "Open Access Walks North Yorkshire – Ten Walks Across the Moors and Wolds" which is available from the Council's website. Each walk makes use of Open Access land – designated areas of mountain, moor, heath, downland and registered common land over which the public can walk freely. The publication is a good example of partnership working. It provides opportunities for people to make the most of the countryside and at the same time supports local businesses that often rely on the additional trade that visitors bring. It is already proving popular and local businesses in the vicinity of some of the areas included in the guide are reporting increased trade as a result.

INTEGRATED PASSENGER TRANSPORT

NORTH YORKSHIRE YOUTH COUNCIL

I have been invited to a discussion with the North Yorkshire Youth Council. The topic of course is public transport. Young people need access to affordable public transport to give them a sense of independence. Last month the Council helped make it possible for young people in Craven to make any bus journey for £1 – the response was excellent with young people making three times the number of journeys they would normally have made. My meeting with the Youth Council is an opportunity to hear first hand what the adults of tomorrow are looking for from the transport of today.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT IN RICHMONDSHIRE

Over the summer months community transport in Richmondshire has seen a significant boost. Most members will be aware of the Little White Bus service which has been introduced in the Upper Wensleydale area as part of the Richmondshire Area review. In addition the Council has provided funding for new and replacement vehicles for community transport providers in Reeth and Catterick. These providers are now working more closely together and this should offer improved access opportunities for the public in a more efficient co-ordinated way.

TRADING STANDARDS

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

Three more North Yorkshire businesses joined the statutory Primary Authority scheme operated by North Yorkshire Trading Standards & Planning Services.

The 3 companies are Cooplands of Scarborough, which includes 112 retail premises, Thomas the Baker of Helmsley which includes 34 retail premises and Whitakers Chocolates at Skipton, who supply the national supermarkets. All 3 are large regional businesses employing over 1600 staff. North Yorkshire Trading Standards & Planning Services will provide the hub for all other trading standards authority enquiries about these businesses. This approach is designed to reduce the regulatory burdens placed upon our companies from those Local Authorities based outside the North Yorkshire area.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The York & North Yorkshire LEP it has formally established its board and led by the businesses in the region agreed its priorities. The LEP has three strategic priorities;

- York as an economic driver
- Grow a sustainable rural economy
- Coastal Regeneration

To promote business growth the LEP has identified 6 key deliverables.

These will deliver the following in 2011/12

1. Support small and new businesses by developing a bank approved certificate in business growth to help them access the finance they need to grow.
2. Help more business owners to better networked and make the contacts they need to grow their business by improving collaboration between existing networks and improving the networking skills of business owners.
3. Help businesses meet their workforce needs by working with providers to better align skills provision with business needs and providing business intelligence to support the 14-19 agenda.
4. Help businesses become more competitive by raising awareness of the business benefits of the use of broadband and technology and targeting support at priority sectors and groups, for example tourism.
5. Supporting the key sectors of Agri-Food by helping small food producers trade beyond their local market and
6. The Visitor Economy by increasing the coordination and collaboration between existing partners to improve the experience of visitors.