

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.

ADDENDUM TO ITEM 8 (b)

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

12 October 2011

STATEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS METCALFE

Libraries

In line with the outcome of the Executive's decision of 14 June 2011 there has been a range of activity within the Library Service. The following provides an update on progress.

Efforts on static libraries have, to date, largely been concentrated on Category 2 and 3 libraries. Intensive work has been ongoing in developing local solutions to enable more community ownership and input into the running of local libraries. This has involved local Members, community groups, County Council staff and independent support from voluntary and community sector organisations. As a result, there are good grounds for optimism that Category 2 libraries will be supplemented by volunteers from the local community and that community led proposals will be forthcoming for Category 3 libraries. There has been a tremendous response and credit should be given to those local communities who are doing their utmost to maintain and enhance the library service that they clearly value. Proposals from all 8 communities with Category 3 libraries are anticipated by 31 October 2011. These proposals will then be reviewed and will form the basis for informing the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Executive on the future of those libraries on 14 November and 29 November respectively.

Local Members have recently been advised on the new schedule for the Supermobile library which will provide a two hour visit once a fortnight to more remote areas. This visit will also provide a valuable opportunity to bring together a wider range of community activities. We are already working actively with partners to think about using these visits as a focal point to involve other agencies and community activity and I would encourage Members to extend this approach..

Work also continues in exploring library outlets / book corners and "reading rooms" where communities have expressed an interest in running their own collection and there is already demonstrable demand. In addition, further volunteering activities are being pursued including the extension of the already successful Home Library Service. To date all former users of the mobile service

who have been unable to access the library service by any other means will now be receiving the Home Library Service.

I am also pleased to note that HRH The Duke of Gloucester performed the opening ceremony at the state of the art Harrogate Library which has undergone a complete transformation thanks in part to Big Lottery Funding. Harrogate Library now has more than 250 square metres of additional space, 37 public access PCs and WiFi throughout the building. Members of the local community have been involved in volunteering from the outset of this project and activities include working on the photographic collections, running computer taster sessions, providing children's story times. The Friends of Harrogate Library Group has been established and has further raised the profile of the library by arranging and hosting an extensive programme of events. Since its opening the library has seen an 80% increase in new members as well as over 50% increase in book borrowing. This type of approach, I hope, will soon be replicated elsewhere around the County.

Registration Service

In the Craven District the registration service in Skipton has now moved into Belle Vue Square along with other County Council and Craven District Council services. This means that the public now have access to a modern and fit for purpose space including a new wedding room and private interview spaces. This demonstrates further the County Council's policy to co-locate and enhance public access to services in partnership with other providers. The first wedding ceremony at Belle Vue Square took place on Monday 3 October.