

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 12 October 2011

TRANSPORT, ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Chairman's Statement

The Committee met on 21 September 2011 and the following items were considered:

1. Highways Maintenance Contract (HMC) 2012 and Road Lighting & Illuminated Traffic Signs

It was very important to the Committee to be able to question and comment on the processes and procedures surrounding the award of the HMC before it was presented to the Executive and therefore I would like to take this opportunity to thank officers for engaging with the Committee. After all this is a 10 year contract worth £250 million so it is important that the County Council gets it right!

The report summarised the process and procedures followed in the procurement of the Highways Maintenance Contract 2012-2022 (HMC 2012) and Road Lighting and Illuminated Traffic Signs.

After a useful discussion and question time where Members were reassured that:

- Full consideration had been given to the percentage split between finance and quality assessment
 - There was sound reasoning in running two separate tender exercises
- and
- That it would be made clear to the successful bidder that maintaining high performance is paramount

We endorsed the processes and procedures followed in the procurement of the Highways Maintenance Contract 2012-2022 (HMC 2012) and the Road Lighting and Illuminated Traffic Signs contracts.

NB

The Executive at its meeting on 27 September 2011 took on board the comments of this Committee in their consideration of the HMC report and decided to award the contract to company 'E' which is Ringway Infrastructure Services Limited.

(This decision will be implemented on the expiry of five days after publication of the notice (27 September) , unless any six Members of the Council object to the decision and call it in by notice in writing to the Assistant Chief Executive .)

2. Parking Strategy and Countywide Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) Project

We welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Strategy and a wide ranging discussion took place.

- We considered that improving access to public transport should be an integral aim of the Strategy whilst also discouraging long-stay on street parking.
- Members felt that the review should seek to establish the appropriateness of CPE in the other areas (although it was accepted that these issues are discussed more fully in the Local Transport Plan (LTP3)).
- The Strategy will influence the provision of off-street parking and consequently there is a need to work closely with the District Councils.
- That the driver for the Strategy should not be raising revenue through on-street parking charges but rather part of a much broader strategy for managing the road network.

- We could see that CPE would discourage long-stay on-street parking and provide opportunities for shops and businesses to increase turnover and consider that this is also a step forward to overcoming inconsiderate on-street parking
- The Committee felt it would be useful for enforcement officers to have local knowledge.
- Finally we endorsed the need for a prioritised level of enforcement responsive to local factors, as summarised by Barrie Mason (Assistant Director Business & Environmental Services).

3. small steps big difference

The Committee was pleased to receive such a positive report on the effect that the small steps big difference environmental campaign had on the county council particularly with reducing the use of energy and reducing mileage. This campaign is very much about winning the hearts and minds of staff and Councillors and we would encourage all to get involved in any way you can. One way that Overview and Scrutiny Members can support it is to use video conferencing for smaller meetings such as mid cycle briefings. We look forward to a further update report in 12 months time.

4. Work Programme

As part of our discussions around the work programme we considered whether we should refer to the Executive a request that economic development be considered as a regular agenda item at the meetings of Area Committees. This is something we thought might keep economic development on local agendas. We will be discussing this further with the Portfolio holder County Councillor Chris Metcalfe as part of our next scheduled mid-cycle briefing which takes place on the 26th October.

5. Next in-depth scrutiny review

The next in-depth scrutiny review for the Committee was decided as; The Criteria for Highway Maintenance (carriageway) Scheme Identification, Assessment and Prioritisation. The Member Task Group for this piece of work will be myself; County Councillor David Jeffels along with County Councillors John Savage, Mike Cockerill and Robert Heseltine. We look forward to what I am sure will be an interesting and challenging review.

County Councillor David Jeffels

September 2011