

North Yorkshire County Council

16 May 2012

Statement of Rural services, Waste Disposal, Public Passenger Transport, Trading Standards and Economic Development Portfolio Holder County Councillor Chris Metcalfe

Waste Disposal

Waste Management Operations

Since the last meeting of the full Council, Yorwaste Ltd has been successful in securing planning permission for a waste transfer station to serve the Craven area. This facility will be operational in late summer and will replace the existing Skibeden landfill site which will be full at around the same time. Waste will be delivered there by Craven District Council for bulking and onward transport. Rubbish will be taken for disposal at Harewood Whin landfill site and garden waste will be taken for composting at Esholt Waste Water Treatment Works. The building is big enough to accommodate recyclable material and we are talking to our district colleagues about using it for this purpose in the future. We have also let a new contract to provide our monthly mobile household waste recycling centre service in Pateley Bridge. H W Martin won the contract to provide the service, and provided a seamless transition on their first visit at the beginning of April.

A Local Nature Partnership for North Yorkshire

Work is continuing to establish the viability and benefits of a possible North Yorkshire 'Local Nature Partnership'. The County Council was successful in securing Defra funding to help it investigate the feasibility and interest from other organisations in establishing a Local Nature Partnership for North Yorkshire. The Government set out its intention last year to see these partnerships established across England and initial discussions demonstrate that there is great interest in working together to benefit the natural environment.

The overall purpose of a Local Nature Partnership is to bring businesses and organisations together to demonstrate local leadership, develop a shared set of environmental priorities for the area and a plan of action and to help contribute to the Green Economy. There are already very positive signs of the close relationship and synergies between a Local Nature Partnership and the priorities of the Local Enterprise Partnership. Submissions for LNPs have to be with DEFRA by 6 June 2012.

Economic Development

The York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Enterprise Partnership is approaching the end of its first year of operation. Starting from a position of a new start up with a Board of Directors with the objective to stimulate growth, but with no defined products or services to offer, it has developed a strong reputation and by the end of its first year in June it will have delivered:

- An online toolkit to help new start up businesses create a bank ready business plan
- Four visitor economy pilots:
 - 1) How tourism businesses can learn from other sectors to innovate
 - 2) Promoting the Y brand with Welcome to Yorkshire
 - 3) Supporting the development of Welcome to Harrogate ensuring clear links to Welcome to Yorkshire
 - 4) Working with small tourism businesses in Scarborough to cluster together to create a better offer to visitors.
- Two broadband pilots resulting in a broadband business support programme delivered alongside Connecting North Yorkshire
- A small food producer's growth programme delivered by Deliciously Yorkshire.
- Working with the private sector to create a range of support offers for small businesses. These are being developed with professional networks (primarily chartered institutes) covering finance, sales and marketing and workforce development yet will be delivered by their local members. This will connect local businesses with the local professionals
- A bespoke employment and skills database including employment forecasts and business survey results for further use and reference
- Developed the website www.businessinspiredgrowth.com to promote our activity and the support available to business
- Developed an active database of 18,000 SME's which we communicate with at least once per month
- Signed up 40 business networks to work alongside the LEP giving access to their 20,000 plus members.

Trading Standards

On 16 April 2012 the Government announced the findings of its Consumer Landscape Review which has implications for trading standards services. In April, provision of the Consumer Direct (CD) telephone advice line moved from the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to Citizens' Advice. There should be no change to the level of service to consumers or the referrals to local trading standards services for enforcement action.

Since the 1970s, the OFT has undertaken national consumer protection work with an emphasis on such issues as consumer credit and unfair contract terms. In future a new National Trading Standards Board (NTSB) comprising representative Heads of Trading Standards Services will oversee all regional and national consumer protection work and directing the work currently done by regional Scambuster and Illegal Moneylending teams. The Board will also be responsible for allocating government funding for those teams, the safety of consumer goods at major ports, and the provision of a specialist internet crime unit (operated on a national basis by North Yorkshire and City of York trading standards). In 2013/14 the Board will take on more of the work currently carried out by the OFT. Local trading standards services which will continue to be wholly delivered, funded and managed by councils. However, the NTSB will be run by senior local government officers with oversight from local government politicians. This will ensure that national work is better joined up and serves the needs of local authority trading standards services.

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Statement of the Portfolio Holder Library and Community Services

County Councillor Chris Metcalfe

Libraries

Members will be aware of the work that has been ongoing with community groups across the county who have established groups of volunteers working towards a “community ownership” model of service delivery after 31 March for those libraries in Category 3. Following the successful opening of the library as part of the Mashamshire Community Office, a further six groups at Great Ayton, Bilton, Gargrave, Embsay, East Ayton and Barlby are on course to re-open “under new management” at various dates throughout May.

Partnership working also continues with communities with libraries in Categories 1 and 2. All elected Members have been copied into, and are aware of, the further consultation that has been undertaken with local communities and frontline staff during January and February this year. This has helped to determine the final “staffed” hours for libraries in **Categories 1 and 2** and reflects those localities where partnership arrangements have resulted in either maintaining or extending current hours. These **new hours will be implemented week beginning 4 June**. Work continues with local groups who want to extend their library’s opening hours beyond these revised hours and, in localities with strong Member involvement, this has achieved a positive impact. Examples of this include: **Kirkbymoorside** where the library will be able to maintain its opening hours and extend its community information services as part of a partnership arrangement between the Town Council, North Yorkshire County Council and Ryedale District Council. The councils have agreed to pool staff, so that current library opening hours will be sustained and frontline access to County and Town & District services will be extended through an arrangement whereby staff from the three councils will work as partners offering a full range of information services for more hours.

The Library Service has also partnered with Ryedale District Council to relocate the Tourist Information Centre into **Malton** Library which has increased library opening hours from 40 to 46 hours.

The events and activities of the **Scarborough Literature Festival** was held over 12 days during April and included four days of author and performer events held at Scarborough Library and other venues in Scarborough. Over the 12 days, there were 61 events involving 72 authors, artists and performers with the best ever attendance of 4,000 attendees to the events this year. An initial review of the evaluation that festival goes completed shows an overall high level of satisfaction and indicate a significant number of people coming to Scarborough from other areas of England specifically for the festival.

Archives

The Pavilions of Harrogate was the venue for the Record Office's second annual Local and Family History Fair held on Saturday 10 March. The event attracted over 60 people and won a great deal of positive feedback. Keynote speaker was Dr Nick Barratt, TV family historian and editor of "Your Family History" magazine, and talks and film presentations ran throughout the day. More than 30 voluntary societies and traders attended, including internet genealogy company FindMyPast, which sponsored paid advertising for the event on Stray FM Radio. The Fair was opened by County Councillor John Fort, Chairman of the County Council.

The Record Office has also been appointed a regional centre for the Yorkshire Rapid Response Network. A grant of almost £10,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund will support the provision of training and equipment for a wide range of local museums, libraries and archives, from a newly established base at the Record Office in Northallerton. This will ensure that the keepers of historic collections are able to respond appropriately in case of fire or flood, helping to secure irreplaceable museum objects and archives in North Yorkshire, an initiative of value both to the Record Office itself and the wide range of District Council, independent and voluntary heritage organisations in the County.

'Garrison Voices', a partnership project to collect and celebrate memories of Catterick Garrison, has been awarded £26,800 by the MOD's Community Covenant Fund. Led by the Record Office and the Library Service, partnership activities will involve NYCC's Adult Learning Service, the Green Howards Museum, the Catterick Garrison History Group and local schools, voluntary and veterans' organisations. The grant will pay for a part-time project officer and for facilities and equipment to support the gathering of memories, intergenerational learning, and enjoyment of heritage by non-traditional audiences. The project will aim to make a positive difference for both the service and the civilian communities in Catterick.

County Council Statement, April 2012 Library and Community Services