

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

10 OCTOBER 2012

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

Members may be aware that in recent years we have been developing a network of Waste Transfer Stations through our contractors to replace landfill sites as they become full and are restored. We already use transfer stations in Catterick, Thirsk, Whitby and Scarborough. Construction of a waste transfer station to serve Skipton has begun and this will be operational at the end of November. We are also consulting on a new transfer station proposed for Kirby Misperton.

These essential, local facilities are designed to receive waste and recyclable materials for onward transport to either disposal points or recycling markets. The main benefits of a waste transfer station are that they guarantee a local delivery points, and allow efficient transport to the final destination.

We are also consulting on proposals for a new household waste recycling centre to replace the existing Catterick Bridge site. The planning application is likely to be submitted within the next 2 months.

**Natural and Historic Environment**

In July the Government announced that we had been successful in our application for formal recognition as a Local Nature Partnership. The County Council led on a bid on behalf of a number of interested partners that saw 41 areas across the country being granted LNP status. The LNP will focus the efforts of many organisations into agreed priority areas and target resources, both monetary and staff to deliver better outcomes for nature and for the local community. The first shadow Board meeting took place on 7th Sept and the group considered governance arrangements, priority areas and strategy development. Proposals will be finalised over the next few months and projects to benefit nature and local communities will begin to be delivered. I will advise on priority areas and the key work of the LNP in my future statements

**Supporting North Yorkshire Agri-Businesses**

During August 2012 officers from Trading Standards & Planning Services assisted three North Yorkshire businesses to ensure they maintained their export markets into Russia. The three businesses were exporting animal feeding stuffs into Russia. Last month the UK Food Standards Agency (FSA) contacted the County Council notifying us that the Russian Government had increased their Customs import controls and the specifications that had to be met in order for our businesses to continue with exporting their products. The Trading Standards Officers with expertise in feeding stuffs were asked at very short notice by the FSA to assist the 3 businesses by undertaking verification inspections to ensure that the businesses complied with the more stringent controls. The inspections were carried out successfully and the FSA were advised that the 3 businesses were fully compliant. Last week the FSA reported back that the Russian Government had accepted our findings and the three businesses were allowed to remain on their list of approved exporters. The FSA were very complimentary of the efficient work carried out by the Trading Standards Service.

**Supporting Business Growth**

The Trading Standards service has seen a significant increase in the number of businesses contacting the service for advice. In the first six months of the year, the service received 705 requests for advice and help, with 172 of those being from new or recently established businesses. Many of these requests are from people setting up "kitchen table" business, often following redundancy from a career in a different field to the one they intend to take. The types of new businesses involve manufacture of cosmetics, soaps, body lotions, bath oils and gels. It

is important for a new business to understand the rules that apply to it and the service is committed to providing quality advice and guidance in a manner that suits the business needs but also ensures safety and protection for consumers. Many businesses are now trading via the internet and increasingly use social media such as Twitter to promote their business. As a result, the service has launched a Business Advice Twitter account under the umbrella of the North Yorkshire County Council Twitter account, providing another avenue to interact with businesses.

### **Economic Development**

At the end of its first year the LEP has undertaken a review of its activities. This has allowed the LEP to reflect on progress to date and the government direction of travel and review the strategic objectives and measures of success.

A new plan has been developed which provides the focus of activity with a vision to 'Grow Businesses Faster' and Mission to 'support businesses that want to grow, to achieve their ambitions and create good quality sustainable jobs'

There are three objectives

1. **Short term growth** - Ensure there is good quality help and support that small businesses can easily access. This includes;
  - 1-1 advice via business mentors
  - Business support events delivered through business networks
  - Online tools for key growth issues e.g. HMRC tool for tax, planning compliance
  - Support for key sectors – food manufacturers & tourismAll these are being delivered at **no cost** to the public sector.

This financial year over 590 businesses have been supported to date.

2. **Medium Term Growth** - Support major business growth opportunities to maximise the benefits felt locally; Specifically the focus is on;
  - **Potash** – If successful the potash mine will create a £1billion+ per annum company creating 1000 direct and c.3000 indirect jobs. The investment is £4billion+. Our work with potash is focused on
    - ensuring local people are best placed to secure the jobs
    - develop supply chains to benefit local businesses
    - working with potash to gain commitment to the construction spend being spent locally
  - **Offshore Wind** – The aspiration for the North Yorkshire coast, is for Whitby in particular to host the operations and maintenance businesses. Whitby is the nearest port to the Dogger Bank wind farm site. Our primary focus is;
    - working with Scarborough to develop Whitby Business Park.
  - **Agri/Food/Biomass Innovation** – This is to capitalise on the world class science based at the Food & Environment Research Agency at Sand Hutton and the commercial opportunities associated. We are;
    - working to create a science & innovation park at FERA delivering growth and which will benefit the wider agri community.
3. **Long Term Growth** - Be a strong voice for local businesses with government, championing the issues that matter to them.
  - In particular we are exploring the potential to work with at a LEP wide level and secure a deal with government based on innovation, skills & investment.

CHRIS METCALFE

# **NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**10 October 2012**

## **STATEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS METCALFE**

#### **Libraries**

Members will be aware that, following the successful transfer of six libraries to community management, work has been targeted to the use of volunteers at 'Category 2' libraries, and a number of celebratory events have been taking place across the county where communities have established steering groups and volunteers in order to develop greater community involvement in, and ownership of, library services.

July saw a week of celebrations at Kirkbymoorside with partners delivering a number of activities to highlight the introduction of Kirkbymoorside Town Council services, enabling the library to retain its opening hours.

At Eastfield, the library has also retained its opening hours through joint working with Yorkshire Coast Homes and a stakeholder group of local organisations, including the Parish Council. Community groups have also enabled extended opening hours at Tadcaster and Boroughbridge libraries since mid-June, and Bentham library held a launch event to promote increased hours starting in September. Members will know that partnership with Richmondshire District Council led to an increase in opening hours at Leyburn, resulting in an increase in use of around 25%. A partnership with the Ingleton Community Centre has meant that Ingleton library has also been open over 40 hours per week since the end of May. In order to celebrate this arrangement, Ingleton library staff and Ingleborough Community Centre will be holding an official open day on Monday 22 October.

At West Ayton, Scarborough, the community-run Derwent Valley "Bridge" Library and Community Resource Centre, which is supported by 60 volunteers, was opened by the Mayor of Scarborough on 22 September.

#### **Summer Reading Challenge**

It has been another busy and successful summer with the annual Summer Reading Challenge. This year's challenge, Storylab, meant reading six books to receive an 'Olympic' medal. Just under 9,856 children took part with 84% completing the challenge. An important part of the scheme is the volunteering opportunities it presents for young people in North Yorkshire. This was highlighted as an example of best practice by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals who featured an article on the experiences of a young volunteer helping with the Summer Reading Challenge in Harrogate library. This summer, a total of 76 young volunteers worked a total of 1,514 hours in libraries across the county, helping children enrol on the scheme, talking to them about the books they have read and assisting with activities.

Also at Harrogate, the Library BIG Lottery project and its outcomes have been given gradings of outstanding and good, having successfully delivered on its outcomes. This reflects areas such as achievement of the project milestones and development of good partnerships, as well as sustainability of the service into the future.

The Lottery funders stated: "it is clear that the wide range of opportunities Harrogate library is now able to offer shows growing satisfaction levels from across the local community, increases in library membership, greater community engagement - including groups that are sometimes difficult to reach - and strengthened community involvement".

## **Archives**

A 12-month project to tell the story of Catterick Garrison through the words and pictures of the people who lived and worked there began this summer. Garrison Voices will record the history of the largest British Army base in the world through oral history recordings, maps, photographs and written documents. The project, led by the County Record Office and the Library Service, has been granted £26,000 by the Ministry of Defence Community Covenant Fund.

Other partners involved in Garrison Voices include the County Council's Adult Learning Services, the Green Howards Museum, the Catterick Garrison History Group, local schools and voluntary and veterans' organisations.

The project will enlist the help of volunteers and invite veterans, local residents and members of the services community to participate by recording their memories and experiences with special reference to aspects of life where the civilian and service communities intersect, such as sport, leisure and entertainment, education and transport. It will culminate with a website, a travelling exhibition suitable for libraries, museums, galleries, supermarkets, pubs, village halls and clubs, as well as a commemorative book and a "time capsule" of memories for permanent preservation and future reference.

## **COUNTY COUNCIL STATEMENT, OCTOBER 2012 LIBRARY & COMMUNITY SERVICES**