

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 19 December 2012

TRANSPORT, ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Chairman's Statement

My Chairman's statement for this full council includes details of the Committee meeting on the 7 November 2012.

We had statements from three members of the public. Two statements were concerning the report on Renewable energy policy: Proximity of dwellings to wind turbines and these were from Mr Gerry Smith and Mr Derek Partington. One written statement was from Mr David Rice concerning the report; The Use and Management of Routes Currently Recorded as Unsurfaced, Unclassified Roads (UURs) in North Yorkshire – Feedback from the public consultation exercise and subsequent amended policy proposal.

Renewable Energy Policy: Proximity of Dwellings to Wind Turbines

After much debate on the matter of proximity of commercial wind turbines to residential properties the Committee will be recommending to the Executive that any North Yorkshire County Council policy statement on renewable energy and in particular the proximity of commercial wind turbines should base itself on the draft model proposed by Wiltshire Council.

As yet there is no date set for the report to be presented to the Executive but we look forward to this matter being progressed.

Public Rights of Way Overview

The report gave us an overview of the Public Rights of Way maintenance service and we agreed with his sentiment that well maintained network is vital to support both the visitor economy of the county and also in providing a key tool in addressing the health and wellbeing of its residents.

We look forward to considering the draft North Yorkshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan before it is presented to the Executive.

The Use and Management of Routes Currently Recorded as Unsurfaced, Unclassified Roads (UURs) in North Yorkshire – Feedback from the public consultation exercise and subsequent amended policy proposal

The Committee had received a written statement from a member of the public and responses were provided as part of the meeting. We will be scheduling a report back once the pilot schemes on the UUR management strategy and the service delivery strategy have been completed.

Climate Change Update

The report provided us with an update on the NYCC Climate Change Strategy and the underpinning action plan, showing how the County Council is tackling climate change and provided the context in which those actions are being taken with focus particularly on the carbon reduction activities of the County Council. This includes the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC), the draft Carbon Management Plan, the energy efficiency property improvement programmes, Small Steps BIG Difference Campaign, transport issues and other proposed schemes.

Biodiversity Update – Bees Task Group

The County Council's biodiversity officer Matt Millington reminded the Committee of the work undertaken by a Member and Officer task Group looking at the decline in the bee population set up by the previous Environment and Heritage Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

He went on to update us on progress with schools with at least one school in each District area being visited. He also tabled a draft version of a 4 page leaflet that was being developed for

schools. The leaflet includes different management options that can be adopted by schools to increase biodiversity.

NYCC Representatives on Airport Consultative Committee Report

The NYCC representatives on the Airport Consultative Committees of Leeds & Bradford Airport, Robin Hood Airport and Durham Tees Valley Airport; County Councillors Cliff Trotter, Chris Pearson and myself gave our reports to the Committee.

County Councillor Pearson addressed the Committee and in addition to the information in his written report he wished to ask Members to promote the heritage of the Selby District to encourage visitors travelling via the Robin Hood Airport.

Well another year is nearly done and it's been another full year for the Committee. We are already looking ahead to our January 2013 meeting which is to focus on economic development. Certainly no time to rest on our laurels!

County Councillor David Jeffels
December 2012