

**North Yorkshire County Council**

**13 November 2013**

**Transport, Economy and Environment  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Chairman's Statement**

- 1 My Chairman's statement for this full council includes details of the Committee meeting held on the 30 October 2013. The meeting had an economic development theme. My statement also refers to the recent meeting of the Member Working Group on the Minerals and Waste Development Framework.

**Committee – 30 October**

Tour de France Grand Départ 2014

- 2 Members discussed the arrangements for the Yorkshire stage of the Tour de France Grand Départ 2014, in particular the work that the County Council, North Yorkshire district councils and Welcome to Yorkshire are doing in preparation.
- 3 We were particularly pleased to hear about the ways in which businesses are being helped to get the most out of the event. There will also be the opportunity for other events being held around the same time as the Tour to increase their visitor numbers. And we were reassured that there will be a good level of co-ordination between the organisers of the Great Yorkshire Show and the Tour. Some concern was expressed about the potential for bike thefts to increase during the Tour. So it was interesting to hear about the ways in which local communities are being encouraged to open up church halls to provide secure arrangements as well as some temporary campsites providing storage facilities.
- 4 The numerous road closures during the event will obviously cause inconvenience but to my mind this will be far outweighed by the immediate and longer term economic benefits that the event will bring.

Strategic Economic Plan

- 5 The draft Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) produced by the York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership was presented to our meeting. In my view the priorities set out in the plan are the right ones for our county. It will be useful though to see baseline figures incorporated into the outcomes for each of the priorities so that their success can be measured over the lifetime of the SEP, and we were assured that this will be the case.
- 6 The Committee was supportive of the fact that the SEP recognises that a co-ordinated approach needs to be taken towards improving and building

infrastructure – roads, houses, broadband provision etc. - in order to attract new businesses. Achieving this in practice is obviously going to be difficult but improving our east-west travel connections and trying to resolve traffic congestion in and around some of our towns are the starting points. It's pleasing to note therefore that improvements to some of our east-west roads, including the A64 and A59, will be submitted to the Local Transport Board for potential inclusion in the SEP, albeit not all would be completed within the plan's lifetime.

### Apprenticeships

- 7 We were heartened to hear about the range of apprenticeships that the County Council is providing and the leading role it has taken in terms of working with local employers and young people to increase take up of apprenticeships and improve the overall employability of young people. The Committee was of the view that the Council should continue to sustain its level of investment in apprenticeships as, judging by recent results, they provide a sound investment for the North Yorkshire economy.

### **Member Working Group on Minerals and Waste Development Framework**

- 8 The Member's Working Group met on the 30 September to discuss the initial consultation that has been undertaken on the Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan with the City of York Council and the North Yorks Moors National Park Authority. The Group will meet again early next year to consider the responses to the more in-depth 'issues and options' consultation.

### **County Councillor David Jeffels Chairman**

Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1 November 2013