

## North Yorkshire County Council

19 February 2014

### 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 meetings held on 22 January 2014 and 7 February 2014, and the local bus services review.

#### Committee – 22 January

##### Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRCs) Savings - consultation

- 2 Members discussed the feedback from the consultation proposals to charge for disposal of soil and rubble etc. Not surprisingly some of the public concerns centred on the risk of increased fly-tipping. We discussed this concern at the Committee but were reassured that whilst there may be a slight increase after the initial introduction of charging, this will decline over time. Previous changes made to the service in 2008 and 2011 suggest this to be the case. The HWRC operators will however need to be reasonable in the way in which they apply the charging regime especially if customers bring only small amounts of non-household waste. Enforcement agencies should also ensure that the message hits home that there is a zero tolerance approach to those who do fly-tip in the county and that prosecutions will be brought.

##### North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership (LNP)

- 3 The Committee received the consultation draft of the North Yorkshire and York LNP strategy. We welcomed the fact that the LNP will seek to link the priorities of the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing strategies. It also will seek to join up local projects and lever in external funding. Members suggested that mention should be made of the legacy benefits of the Tour de France in the strategy both in terms of the economic benefits that it will bring with increased tourism and in terms of the health and wellbeing benefits of cycling.

##### Ringway Performance 2013/14 (April to September 2013)

- 4 Senior representatives from Ringway gave us an interim update on the performance of the Highways Maintenance Contract. The interim report related to Q1 and Q2 of 2013/14.
- 5 When compared to the end of 2012/13, the overall performance against the Primary Performance Indicators (PPIs) has improved whilst performance against the Secondary Performance Indicators (SPIs) has marginally dropped. If the Q1 and Q2 performance levels were taken as the position at the end of

this financial year (March 2014), County Council officers would be likely to recommend that the Contract Term should be reduced by one year. Ringway's anticipated performance for Q3 and Q4, however, is projected to improve; this is due in part to changes in management. Ringway has also said that it would be committed to 'win back' any years lost if this scenario were to arise.

- 6 The Committee raised a number of concerns in relation to the lack of information to Members about highways works in their Division. Ringway is proposing to introduce a Member's portal so that we can track the progress of planned and current works. The issue at present though is that in order for this to operate effectively work needs to be carried out in the agreed timescales.

### **Committee – 7 February**

- 7 The Committee considered the call in of the decision of the Executive taken on 21 January 2014 regarding Reduction in Bus Subsidies. The Committee recognised the concerns expressed by those present but was not persuaded by the reasons put forward by the signatories to refer the decision back to the Executive for reconsideration or to the full Council.

### **Local Bus Services Review**

- 8 The Committee has set up a task group to consider the access needs of communities in North Yorkshire and how these might best be met using a range of transport options. This will include looking at community-led solutions. The review follows on from the Committee's meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> December which was devoted to scrutinising the bus subsidy reduction proposals.
- 9 The task group has good representation from Members with rural and urban divisions in the county. There will be a wide range of participants in the review such as the VCS, passenger transport users, commercial bus providers and parish councils. We are aiming to complete the review by early summer to help inform future budget savings from 2015/16 onwards.

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

Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

7 February 2014