

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 MAY 2014

### STATEMENT OF THE HIGHWAYS AND PLANNING SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR GARETH DADD

#### Highways and Transportation

##### **Tour de France**

Members will be aware that full details of the traffic management arrangements including indicative road closure timings are now available at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/tour](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/tour).

The webpage has seen a significant number of visits and the information, which includes an interactive map, should help residents, businesses and spectators plan accordingly. There has already been direct engagement with businesses through the business rates mailing and a number of business seminars that have been attended by County Council officers. Closer to the event there will be further engagement with those residents on the route directly impacted by road closures.

The programme of highway maintenance works is on track and the route is being prepared for the race, for example by cutting verges and low hanging trees, emptying gullies and sweeping debris from the carriageway.

The County Council is now acting as event organiser for the route in North Yorkshire with assistance from the district councils and joint event organiser with Harrogate Borough Council for the stage 1 finish in Harrogate. The role of event organiser brings with it additional responsibilities and the County Council is leading on the preparation of an event management plan to ensure the safety of spectators and everyone involved in delivering the event.

With over half of the total combined route for stages 1 and 2 in North Yorkshire the event presents a substantial challenge, but members can rest assured that planning is progressing well. Officers will be in attendance at the next round of Area Committees in Craven, Richmondshire and Harrogate to update members on planning locally.

##### **Local Sustainable Transport Fund**

The Whitby park and ride site construction is well underway and the site was sufficiently complete to allow operation of the bus services to commence on Good Friday (18 April.)

Patronage over the Easter weekend had been strong and positive comments were received from users for the service. Mid week patronage has been lower, but due to poor weather and the parking management scheme not being fully operational until 1 May, this was to be expected. By mid May the roundabout, paths and main car park in the site will be complete. The overflow car park and terminus building will be complete by the end of June.

##### **Local Transport Plan (LTP)**

The County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP) prioritises funding for highway maintenance works and by reallocating much of our LTP Integrated Transport block along with support from other corporate funding we have been able to provide extra funding in recent years for highway maintenance activities, including this year where the County Council through its own decisions, will allocate a further £7m. As a result, we have been successful in maintaining our busier roads but in recent times the strain of the increasing frequency of severe weather events has resulted in accelerated deterioration of the minor routes. These minor routes are vital to the economy of North Yorkshire and, in my role as Chairman of the North Yorkshire Local Transport Body (NYLTB), I was pleased to recommend the inclusion of a bid for additional highway maintenance funding in the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) that was recently submitted to Government. The NYLTB was tasked with advising on the transport proposals to be included

in the SEP and it was reassuring to see the economic importance of good highway maintenance being recognised by public and private sector partners alike. Recently the Department for Transport has allocated approximately £3.2m additional highway maintenance funding for North Yorkshire from the Severe Weather Recovery Scheme and has also announced the details of a Pothole Fund totalling £168m. Highway officers are now working on the bid documents and I expect us to make the strongest bid possible for the Challenge Fund money.

### **Road Casualties in North Yorkshire in 2013**

The 2013 road casualty statistics have recently been confirmed and this has revealed that the number of collisions in North Yorkshire has reduced from 1677 in 2012 to 1605 in 2013 and the number of casualties has also reduced from 2367 in 2012 to 2273 in 2013 representing some of the lowest ever levels recorded. In contrast to these continuing and welcome reductions, the number of people killed in road crashes in North Yorkshire rose significantly last year from a record low of 31 deaths in 2012 to 51 people in 2013. The significant rises in fatalities were specific, mainly involving motorcyclists (up from 5 in 2012 to 16 in 2013) and older drivers (from 6 in 2012 to 11 in 2013), with smaller increases amongst cyclists and pedestrians too.

We have increased our focus on key motorcycling routes, installing temporary “Shiny Side Up” signs on the B1222 again and, this year, on the A170. The Police have increased enforcement on these biking routes too so that we are working together to inform and encourage the majority not to get it wrong whilst robustly protecting communities and individuals from the irresponsible behaviour of the small number of reckless riders who put themselves and others at risk.

### **Planning Services**

#### **Minerals and Waste**

A Minerals and Waste Joint Plan Issues and Options consultation exercise took place over an 8 week period during March and April 2014. The consultation contained detailed options for a range of new planning policies for minerals and waste development across the Joint Plan area (which comprises the three planning authority areas of NYCC, City of York Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority). The consultation also includes initial information on around 70 potential new sites put forward by developers, landowners and other interested parties for consideration for allocation in the Joint Plan. A substantial response to the consultation has been received, including a number of very detailed comments. Work is now taking place to record and analyse these to help with the next stages of plan preparation. The outcome of consultation will be subject to consideration during Spring and Summer 2014, including via the Minerals and Waste Plan Member Working Group, prior to launch of a further ‘Preferred Options’ consultation stage later in 2014.

#### **Middle Deepdale, Scarborough**

I am pleased to tell you that after many years, development is now underway at Middle Deepdale, Scarborough. This is one of the largest development schemes in North Yorkshire and will ultimately provide more than 1350 homes and associated facilities. This development has complex infrastructure needs, and through the County Council’s Infrastructure Delivery Steering Group (IDSG) coordination mechanisms, the authority has worked closely and positively with Scarborough Borough Council and its developer partners over recent months to address a range of critical issues, most notably in relation to highways design and land ownership. The first roads into the development are being laid, and the first new homes will take shape over the coming weeks.

GARETH DADD