

## North Yorkshire County Council

23 July 2014

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

#### Chairman's Statement

- 1 The Committee's 16 July committee has yet to take place at the time of writing. However I will be able to provide feedback to the County Council meeting on the 23 July. My statement also includes a progress update on the Committee's local bus services review and refers to the recent meeting of the Member Working Group on the Minerals and Waste Development Framework. A number of Members from the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee sit on the group.

#### Committee – 16 July

- 2 The items to be considered at the meeting will include Ringway's performance under the Highways Maintenance Contract for 2013/14 plus an annual update from the Highways Agency.

#### Local Bus Services Review

- 3 As reported to the County Council in February, 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. Since then the Task Group has been busy holding a series of themed meetings and consulting with community transport schemes and other local authorities about their passenger transport plans. The group has also undertaken visits to examples of best practice Community Transport provision in our county.
- 4 Our meetings have been based around the essential services that people need to access and the range of transport solutions available for people without access to a car. For example in early May the group met with bus operators to discuss how bus services can be put on a more sustainable footing and how we can work better together. The meeting threw up lots of practical ideas including exploring opportunities to jointly fund a publicity campaign to promote bus travel in the county.
- 5 Later on in May the group met with health partners to see how they, the County Council and community-led patient transport schemes could work more effectively together to ensure people with limited mobility can either get to health appointments more easily or are able to access healthcare more locally. At the same meeting we met with the Federation of Small Business to discuss if and how small businesses could help to keep transport services sustainable. We also met with groups representing disabled people to discuss access needs and the transport problems that they face in trying to access essential services.

- 6 The report with recommendations will be submitted to the Committee in October. The recommendations will centre upon: frequency of access to essential services; making best use of existing passenger transport services; and exploring additional opportunities and developments.

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

- 7 The Members Working Group met on Monday 23 June 2014 to receive consultation feedback on the 'issues and options' stage of the process for developing the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan with the City of York Council and the North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority.
- 8 The various stages of the process for developing the Plan are complex with a lot of information and views to feed in to the process. There is a need to produce a robust evidence base and for the Plan to take account of other planning issues affecting the county, including housing growth.
- 9 The issues and options consultation has shown that there is quite a lot of pressure for the County Council to have a 'no fracking' policy. As discussed at the meeting though, it's unrealistic to have such a policy. This is due to national government policy and the fact that existing areas are licensed for oil and gas developments in North Yorkshire. Rather, the County Council will need to have a robust local policy in place to guide its decision-making on planning applications on a case by case basis in relation to environmental impacts. The minerals industry has also called for further work to be undertaken on assessing future demand for aggregates minerals.
- 10 70 sites have been submitted for consideration - most are mineral sites. A methodology is being put in place to assess each of the sites, with a round of visits being undertaken to all. A list of preferred sites will be produced for the next round of consultation, which will form the first draft of the Plan. The final draft version is scheduled to be submitted to government later in 2015.

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

Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

10 July 2014