

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

12 NOVEMBER 2014

**STATEMENT OF RURAL SERVICES, WASTE DISPOSAL, PUBLIC PASSENGER
TRANSPORT, TRADING STANDARDS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO
HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS METCALFE**

Waste Management

I am pleased to confirm that following the decision of the Council at the Extraordinary Meeting on 24 September, the long term waste management contract with AmeyCespa achieved Financial Close on 30 October. The preliminary enabling works have started and the construction contractor is being mobilised. Highway improvement works will commence shortly and construction proper will begin on site before Christmas. It will be nearly 3 years before we can expect waste to be delivered to Allerton Waste Recovery Park for the start of commissioning but I will keep Members informed regularly on progress. AmeyCespa have begun the process of forming their local liaison panel to ensure local residents are kept informed of progress, and I will take a keen personal interest to ensure the construction and eventual operation is carried out with as much respect and courtesy to local residents as possible.

At the July meeting of the Council I confirmed that we would begin charging for some types of construction and demolition waste delivered to household waste recycling centres from 4 August. We implemented a comprehensive communications programme to ensure as many people as possible were aware of the changes in advance, and we continue to field a range of enquiries. Despite the initial resistance and claims that we would suffer a huge increase in fly tipping, I can report that district and borough council colleagues have identified very little impact or increase in fly-tipping. We continue to monitor the scheme but initial indications are that it is a success and is achieving the required level of savings.

I am able to advise that improvements to the local road network have begun in preparation for the construction of a new waste transfer station at Kirby Misperton. The transfer station will provide a permanent local delivery point for waste collected in Ryedale and to enable the efficient transport of that waste to Allerton Waste Recovery Park when it opens in 2017.

Trading Standards

Investigations and Safeguarding

Safeguarding and the use of volunteers - Trading Standards are working with the National Trading Standards Scams Hub by undertaking welfare visits to those people susceptible to scam mail. To date, 767 North Yorkshire residents have been identified on 'suckers' lists which have been seized from offenders. It is recognised that it is not feasible for Trading Standards staff to visit this number of people and in order to ensure the vulnerable people are safeguarded against future victimisation, Police volunteers have been recruited to establish contact with each individual. The use of trained volunteers not only aims to ensure vulnerable residents receive assistance to prevent further victimisation, but it also enables a substantial function at a much reduced cost to the service.

Safety of sunbeds - Trading standards officers have tested the output of sunbeds in use in salons in Northallerton and Harrogate and found that the radiation emitted exceeds the safe permitted limit in 73% of beds tested. The permitted limit, set by the EU, is equivalent to the midday sun in a southern Mediterranean country, and in some cases the output was found to be twice that limit. All beds which failed the tests were suspended from use until they could be repaired or have their bulbs replaced and were re-tested before they were allowed back into

use. Work is continuing to test beds around the County and also to investigate issues of concern with the use of particular bulbs and certain trading practices.

Farming, Food and Health

Animal Health – The welfare of farmed animals and the supporting of reputable farmers continues to be a Trading Standards priority. We remain vigilant to any animal health risks and take robust action when contraventions of animal health and welfare legislation occurs. For example, on 22 October 2014, Pateley Bridge Auction Mart and one of its directors were prosecuted for failing to adhere to animal movement restrictions, for failing to complete the necessary movement documentation and for failing to take reasonable steps to prevent the spread of disease. The director received a fine of £1174 and the company was fined a total of £2687.88.

Food - on 13 December 2014, the introduction of the Food Information for Consumers Regulations will affect over 7000 North Yorkshire businesses. All food catering businesses such as cafes, restaurants, public houses, schools, hospitals, care homes etc and all food businesses selling loose foods such as sandwiches, cakes, deli foods etc will be required to advise consumers as to whether the foods they supply contain any of 14 listed allergens, the most significant of which is peanuts. There are a number of cases each year of consumers dying from anaphylactic shock after unknowingly consuming a meal containing peanuts or peanut powder and this is one of the main reasons for the introduction of the legislation. The Trading Standards service is currently prioritising which establishments require face to face advice whilst arranging electronic advice for the remainder.

Public Health - the service continues to contribute to the implementation of the NYCC Alcohol and Tobacco Control Strategies with a particularly interesting initiative involving the Local Alcohol Action Area. The programme piloted in Scarborough aims to address alcohol misuse and the sociological issues which occur as a result. As part of a wide range of initiatives we are currently evaluating the effectiveness of systems employed by the pubs and clubs of Scarborough which look to prevent the sale of alcohol to minors. We are supporting local businesses in an attempt to initiate strategies which will benefit both the establishment and the community as a whole.

Economic Development

Following the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEPs successful £110million Growth Deal announced in the summer, a further much smaller round of funding is currently being negotiated. It is expected that a further £6million could be secured.

Additionally the £3.8m business grant fund which was launched by the LEP in early 2014 is now fully committed. This has been a major success, supporting 32 businesses leveraging £28million private sector investment and creating 460 jobs. Investments have been made in every North Yorkshire district.

Finally, bids have been submitted for NYCC to be accountable body for two LEADER programmes. LEADER will provide bottom up community led economic development and the bids are for circa £3m each. They will cover The Dales and its hinterland and the North Yorkshire Moors and its hinterland.

CHRIS METCALFE

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STATEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER - LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS METCALFE

Council Statement October 2014

Libraries

New Supermobile is on the road

September saw the launch of North Yorkshire County Council's new Supermobile Library vehicle. The new vehicle replaces the previous Supermobile which has been retired after travelling some 233,000 miles serving towns and villages throughout the County since 2004.

The new vehicle comes complete with a stunning innovative artwork, the result of a countywide competition for young people, to find the most eye-catching way to represent the library.

On the new flagship vehicle customers have a choice of 3000 items of stock including books for all ages, audio books and DVDs. Two public access computers are linked to the internet by satellite technology so people can come on board and use the internet for emails, do some online shopping or browse the library catalogue. There is plenty of room for classes from local schools to be able to visit as well as for local partners such as the police or health professionals to run drop in information sessions.

The Supermobile serves some of the more remote communities in the County from Robin Hoods Bay and Sleights on the coast to Buckden and Kettlewell in the Dales, Danby and Rosedale on the North York Moors to Eggborough and Balne in the south. It is a popular service with around 8000 visits a year and with customers borrowing around 30,000 items.

Bilton Library

Residents in the Bilton and Woodfield area of Harrogate are now able to visit a brand new community library. Developed in partnership between North Yorkshire County Council and Bilton and Woodfield Community Library Group, it provides services designed for the needs of the local community in the 21st century.

The new Library opened on the site of Woodfield Primary School and Bilton Children's Centre on Monday 22nd September and is run by Bilton and Woodfield Community Library Group volunteers in partnership with North Yorkshire County Council. This project is part of North Yorkshire County Council's continuing drive to deliver a wide range of information and services through volunteer partners.

The County Council's investment has provided a wide range of new stock with public access computers providing free access to the internet. Customers are also able to make use of the free WiFi network to use the internet on their own mobile devices. Children have their own airy bright area with comfortable seating and space for exciting activities and stories.

Summer Reading Challenge

Once again over 10,000 young people in North Yorkshire joined in with this year's Summer Reading Challenge. This year also saw an increase in the number of young people volunteering in North Yorkshire – 118 volunteers in 27 libraries in 2014 compared to 90 volunteers in 29 libraries in 2013 with 25 of these young people continuing to volunteer with the library service.

“The whole experience throughout the summer has been very positive. It has helped my confidence by meeting and talking to different people every time I am present at the library. Everyone has been extremely helpful and understanding in helping me learn something new throughout the whole Summer Reading Challenge”

Registration Services

Changes to maternity unit at Friarage Hospital

The changes to the maternity provision at the Friarage Hospital came into effect on the 6th October 2014. In future, it is likely that about 400 -500 of the existing 1200 births will remain at the Friarage, with the rest taking place at James Cook Hospital in Middlesbrough. The Registration Service has now entered into special arrangements with Middlesbrough Council whereby staff at the Northallerton and Richmond offices in North Yorkshire will register births on behalf of Middlesbrough Council. This will provide a much more convenient and immediate service to parents who will receive their baby's birth certificate at the point of the registration.

Archives

Garrison Origins

The 'Garrison Origins' Project, funded by the MOD's Community Covenant programme to explore the history of Catterick Camp, has reached a successful conclusion. Three performances of the play 'Not About Heroes', commissioned by the project from Feelgood Theatre, were held at Catterick Library, Ripon Cathedral and Richmond Georgian Theatre in September and were well received by both the military and the civilian community. Pupils from Hipswell School worked with the project leader, a video artist and local residents to produce a short film exploring memories of the Camp and local schools received a resource pack to prompt further study. A listening post installed at Catterick Garrison Library will facilitate wide access to the oral history interviews recalling the history of the Camp which were collected by the project.

Parish registers online

Parish registers held by the Record Office are now available online for the first time. The registers have been digitised and published following agreement with leading UK family history website Find My Past. This is the first in a series of phased releases which will eventually make all the registers from the over 250 parish collections held by the Record Office accessible in this way.

The registers are fully searchable and available to view or download from the Find My Past website. There will be a cost to users of the site for viewing the parish register entries online from which the Record Office will receive a royalty and which will provide a valuable income stream. Free online access to the registers will be maintained at the Record Office and at North Yorkshire libraries.

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