

**North Yorkshire County Council****12 November 2014****Transport, Economy and Environment  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee****Chairman's Statement**

- 1 My statement for this full council includes details of the Committee meeting held on 15 October 2014.

**Committee – 15 October**Local Flood Risk Strategy

- 2 The Committee received the various consultation documents relating to the Local Flood Risk Strategy, which has now been launched for a six weeks public consultation.
- 3 The Committee was pleased to note that the strategy is intended to be more than a tick box exercise undertaken to meet a statutory duty! The approach taken in North Yorkshire means that it provides a basis for the County Council, the Environment Agency and other key partners to develop flood alleviation plans in a consistent, coordinated and complimentary fashion. By working in partnership in this way it will be more likely that we will be able to exploit funding opportunities for flood alleviation measures. The challenge though will be to secure local sources of funding – including from businesses - alongside government funding for local capital projects. The government is clear that funding from Whitehall should not be the only source.

Outcome of the 'Initial Phase' of the Temporary Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) Protocol

- 4 The Committee was instrumental in the County Council introducing a Temporary VAS Protocol. The 12 month pilot phase has now come to an end.
- 5 We heard that of the 31 communities that took part most of the feedback was very positive and demand for the signs in the future is high with a further 25 communities expressing an interest to use the Temporary VAS.
- 6 The County Council absorbed the capital costs of purchasing the initial batch of signs in the pilot phase. It also provided a lot of officer time in setting up and supporting the schemes – far more than anticipated. The proposal now is that communities located in areas with a history of low speeds and low casualties should fund all the costs associated with the project.
- 7 We expressed our support in principle for the continuation of the Temporary VAS protocol as it provides useful reassurance to communities concerned about speeding in their local area. It also has led to a tangible speed reduction in before and after speeds. However because the County Council will no longer be subsidising the purchasing/leasing costs of the Temporary VAS for some areas,

we suggested that a questionnaire be sent out to parish councils to find out their level of interest.

#### Grass-cutting reductions

- 8 The Committee was provided with an update on the planned consultation with parishes for County Council reductions in grass-cutting in their area. A report detailing the outcome of the consultation will be provided at the Committee's meeting in January. Members urged the need for maps showing the grass cutting areas to be sent out to all parishes as soon as possible and we were assured that they would be provided with this information by the end of October.

#### Local Bus Services Review

- 9 The Committee agreed the final report including the recommendations to be presented to the Executive.
- 10 The review came about because of the planned future reductions in the bus subsidy and the recommendations are intended to influence the forthcoming review of the contracted bus network. However our review went wider than just looking at bus services funded by the County Council. We looked at the access needs of communities in our county in general and how these might best be met using a range of transport options. Consequently the findings and recommendations have wider merit in terms of working with commercial bus operators, community transport providers and local communities.
- 11 The report was presented to the Executive on 28 October 2014 and the recommendations were supported.

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

Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
County Hall  
Northallerton

29 October 2014