

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**11 NOVEMBER 2015**

**STATEMENT OF WASTE SERVICES, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
RAIL STRATEGY AND TRADING STANDARDS PORTFOLIO HOLDER  
COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS METCALFE**

**Waste Services**

Arrangements were put in place during September that have enabled the Council's waste management company, Yorwaste to carry out work for the Council without competitive procurement. Work is now in hand to migrate all County Council premises waste service contracts to Yorwaste so we can improve the service offer by working more closely with premises managers, as well as improving efficiency. The new 'teckal' approach to delivering waste services represents a significant opportunity for the public sector to join up for maximum efficiency and mutual benefit and discussions continue with district councils and other public sector bodies to make them aware of these opportunities.

I was pleased to observe progress on the construction of Allerton Waste Recovery Park with the Leader in July. The project remains on schedule with erection of steelwork due to start in the new year.

The Landscape and Cultural Heritage Fund for Allerton Waste Recovery Park was launched in October and is available to support works within 3.5km of the site. £840,000 is available from the fund which was secured as part of the planning permission for the development of the site. The fund is initially available for small scale grants (up to £1000) to help support a wide range of activities including planting, nature conservation and repairs to historic buildings. The fund is being managed externally by Two Ridings Community Foundation and full details are available on their website at <http://www.trcf.org.uk/grant/allerton-park-landscape-and-cultural-heritage-fund-small-grants-scheme/>

**Trading Standards**

**Multi Agency Safeguarding Team**

The team has now been operational for six months and already has a full caseload. An analysis of the on-going cases shows the total financial detriment to vulnerable adults on these cases alone exceeds £5m.

The unique work of the team has been recognised by the media, with BBC Radio 4 You and Yours running a series of four programmes about the work of the team in September and BBC Inside Out recording a piece about team for an article about phone fraud. Trading standards services and police forces around the country have also made enquiries with the team, to see if they can implement a similar initiative in their areas.

The team was also featured in an article in the Fraud Advisory Panel Annual Review 2015 in relation to supporting victims (<https://www.fraudadvisorypanel.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/FAP-Yearly-Review-2015-WEB.pdf> , page 16).

Additional funding has now been secured from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Fund. This funding is being used to purchase 100 digital call blocking devices to be installed into the phone lines of phone fraud victims or those at high risk of such fraud. In trading standards trials nationally, the call blockers have been found to block 95% of scam calls. Ten covert cameras that also record sound are also being purchased. These are to be

used in the homes of repeat victims of doorstep crime or distraction burglaries. In addition the funding is to be used to provide three seminars for the financial sector across North Yorkshire, to include bank and building society staff, post office managers, and solicitors managing the accounts of vulnerable clients. The seminars are aimed at improving the sectors' understanding of their role in protecting vulnerable clients and to improve joint-working with law enforcement.

## **Planning**

### **NY/2015/0233/ENV – Planning application on land at Kirby Misperton on behalf of Third Energy UK Gas Limited**

With regard to Third Energy's planning application, a formal letter of request for further information was issued to the applicant on 11 October 2015.

With regard to the number of representations including those in objection and those in support, the County Council had, up to 22 October 2015, received 3,938 representations.

The County Council has received responses from 24 of those with whom the County Council consulted and has yet to hear from at least 10 more.

Having received an interim report on the application on Tuesday 20 October, Members of the County Council's Planning & Regulatory Functions Committee resolved, firstly, to accept an invitation to receive training on Monday 2 November and, secondly, to undertake a formal Committee site visit on a date to be arranged.

### **Joint Minerals and Waste Plan**

It is expected that, subject to final member approval within the three authorities, consultation on the joint Minerals and Waste Plan for North Yorkshire, York and the North York Moors National Park will take place during the period mid November to mid January. The consultation represents a key stage in the process, representing a first full draft of the new Plan. It is now expected that the Plan will be finalised for submission for Examination in Public later in 2016, prior to final adoption early in 2017.

CHRIS METCALFE

## **NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**11 November 2015**

### **STATEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER - LIBRARY, CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS METCALFE**

#### **Libraries**

Work on the reconfiguration of the library service is progressing well with a series of volunteer information events being held in libraries between September to November, raising awareness and recruiting volunteers. The response has been excellent with an extra 340 individuals coming forward to date. County Councillors have met for discussions with officers from both the Libraries and Stronger Communities teams who have also been attending meetings with existing groups, Parish and Town Councils to discuss next steps. The Executive will receive a full report on progress on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **Summer Reading Challenge 2015**

This year's Summer Reading Challenge, "Record Breakers" saw participation by over 10,000 young people, with over 86% completing the Challenge reading 6 books. A wide range of events and activities were held across the county, with a record breaking attempt by Swarm Workshops, in which a eco art project with local artist Laney Birkhead attempted to set a record for the 'Largest Original Print of a Swarm of Bees' to raise awareness of the plight of our British Honeybees.

The service has also, once again, been held as a national example of good practice recruiting young volunteers who contributed over 3000 hours this summer. Many are continuing to volunteer helping with activities such as reading groups and other activities.

#### **Code Clubs**

Code Clubs are a fast moving trend, largely including libraries and schools, and are aimed at getting young people into writing software programmes rather than simply using computers as a tool to do a task or play games. A national scheme, "Code Club" links local volunteers to local clubs to share expertise, and following the success of the Thirsk club several more libraries are establishing clubs over the next few months including Filey, Harrogate and Boroughbridge.

#### **Reading Hacks**

"Hacks" are advocates for the service as well as volunteers and play a large role in the development of activities and events for young people as well as promoting reading as a skill for life. NYCC library service is one of a number of pilot authorities developing Reading Hacks across the authority, building on the Summer Reading Challenge and other volunteering and projects such as Skipton Rewind and Creative Residencies to use library resources in a different way.

#### **Wi-Fi funding**

The Library Service is pleased to inform members that we have been awarded funding from DCMS to install Wi-Fi in those libraries not currently providing this service, including many of our community managed libraries plus upgrading the system for the others. All installations will be completed by the end of March 2016.

## Archives

The Heritage Lottery Funded 'Attics and Acres' project based on the archive of the Graham family of Norton Conyers is now well under way with the appointment of project archivist. To date, 45 volunteers have shown an interest in helping with the project and the first group have been trained by Record Office staff in listing and simple conservation work. They have now begun the task of sifting through and sorting the over 70 boxes and tin trunks of records. Already links have been found to Charlotte Bronte, John Buchan and Capability Brown. The project will run for a further year and will develop a full online catalogue of the archive alongside exhibition, access and outreach work.

Media interest in the project has been high with interviews on BBC Radio Tees and Stray FM, a presentation based around recipes from the archive at a BBC Radio York Demonstration Day at the York Festival of Food and Drink and illustrated articles about the project in the Yorkshire Post, other local newspapers and online.

Early in October, the Record Office took part in The Big Draw for this first time. This is an annual drawing festival which sees galleries, museums and heritage sites across the county hold events for anyone who loves to draw, as well as those who like to think they can't! Over 40 keen artists visited the office to be inspired by the rich map collections and to personalise their own map of Northallerton. Historic to present day plans of Northallerton were projected and visitors were shown how to access historic maps online. The event showcased the creative use of archives and attracted many people who had not visited the office before. Activities used on the day have been adapted for use by school and youth groups and a display of historic maps remains on show at the Record Office throughout October.