

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

9 November 2016

### STATEMENT OF TRANSPORT, WASTE & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, RAIL STRATEGY AND GROWTH, PLANNING & TRADING STANDARDS PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS METCALFE

#### Waste Services

Since the last County Council, operatives have completed over a million construction hours at Allerton Waste Recovery Park. I am pleased to report that the construction programme is still on schedule and we are still planning for a full service commencement date of 31 January 2018.

The 70m stack was installed in September and the majority of the Energy from Waste building steelworks are now in place. Major equipment including the turbine has been installed and the boiler pressure tests were completed ahead of schedule. The Anaerobic Digester is being clad and the foundations for the gas engines are being constructed.

Works to connect the plant to the National Grid are almost completed and directional drilling to install the cable duct under the A168 and A1(M) successfully took place in September without any issues. Amey is currently assessing the tenders for construction of the Visitor Centre and offices.

Household waste recycling centres introduced charges on April 1<sup>st</sup> which included reduced opening hours. I'm pleased to report that this has been implemented successfully over the summer months and that the sites have now reverted to their winter closing hours of 4pm. The HWRC contract transfers to Yorwaste from 1 April 2017 and we are working closely with both Kier and Yorwaste to start the handover of the sites.

#### Economic Development

From an economy perspective understanding the impact of brexit has been a priority. Whilst there remain many significant risks, these have been mitigated by some government announcements and other developments.

- Government have confirmed that all EU funded contracts signed up to leaving the EU will be honoured. This should result in the full York, North Yorkshire & East Riding LEP area committing its full €110m allocation.
- Government have announced the development of a comprehensive industrial strategy which will have a significant place element. That could mean we are able to address some of the key drivers in our area.
- York Potash have announced to the financial markets that they have secured £300m investment into phase one of the development from an International Investment fund.

From a delivery perspective the LEP is on track to deliver its 2016/17 objectives, both from a business support and capital investment perspective. In addition the LEP will hear at the Autumn statement if it has been successful in its latest bid to government for capital investment.

#### Trading Standards

Farming, Food and Health

Public Health – “Healthier Choices” Scheme

Trading Standards launched the Healthier Choices scheme last year and has found some areas of the food industry “hard to reach” in respect to their engagement with the scheme. One of

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those groups is the takeaway retailers. Trading Standards officers have had to be creative in their approach towards these businesses. The officers have developed a "Takeaway Masterclass" engagement model.

On Monday 3rd October, the first Takeaway Masterclass workshops took place in Scarborough. The workshops sought to engage Scarborough takeaway food establishments in the health agenda by motivating them to improve the healthiness of the foods they provide.

This "Masterclass" approach has attracted high media interest at both local and national levels. The intention is now to provide further masterclasses across the whole of North Yorkshire as part of activities attempting to reduce obesity levels.

## Multi-Agency Safeguarding Team

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Team has recently secured the conviction of five local doorstep crime offenders who preyed upon vulnerable and elderly residents in the county.

On 6 September 2016 Simon McArthur, Rocky Allen and Geoffrey Smith, all from York, were sentenced at Teesside Crown Court after defrauding an 84 year old, wheelchair bound and partially sighted woman from Easingwold and her son who has mental health problems for maintenance and gardening work. McArthur and Allen were sentenced to 10 months imprisonment, and Smith to 8 months.

On 23 September, two brothers from Knaresborough, Shane and Kofi Hooton, were sentenced at York Crown Court for defrauding multiple vulnerable and elderly victims in the county for roofing and gardening work. They were both sentenced to 20 months imprisonment and now face asset recovery proceedings under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

M Verby Ltd and Michael Verby from Tadcaster, director of M Verby Ltd trading as MV Mobility, were convicted of four offences under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations at Northallerton Magistrates' Court on 25 October 2016.

Trading standards officers brought the case after complaints from four consumers who had bought mobility scooters from Mr Verby. Mr Verby had failed to provide the consumers with a statutory notice of their right to cancel their contracts and had also prevented one consumer from fully exercising that right.

Mr Verby and his company were ordered to pay fines, compensation and costs totalling £5,994.

## **Planning Services**

### **Minerals and Waste Local Plan**

Work is progressing towards the production of a final draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan for formal publication. Having secured the requisite approvals from Members of each of the planning authorities, ourselves, the City of York Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority, it is expected that the Plan will be published early November. This is in order to facilitate a 6-week for representations to be made on the soundness of the Plan before the festive period. Following consideration of representations early in the New Year and any consequent minor changes, Officers will then seek further approval to submit the Plan for Examination in Public. It is expected that the examination process will take a number of months to complete before the Plan can be formally adopted. As we move through the process, we'll start to see the policies of the new Plan being given increasing weight in decision-making by the County Council; although this will, of course, be dependent upon on the nature of any unresolved objections.

CHRIS METCALFE

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

9<sup>th</sup> November 2016

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS METCALFE

#### Libraries

##### **Library Service reconfiguration**

Since my last statement; work with local communities has continued throughout the summer months. Members have been receiving regular updates as to the progress of the planned reconfiguration of libraries; i.e. 7 core, 5 hybrid and a further 21 community managed libraries, due to come into effect by April 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.

The library service along with the Stronger Communities team continue to make progress and since my last report have attended over 40 meetings with community groups and organisations across the county. Issues for discussion have included terms for leases and service level agreements, and alongside these, 4 seminars have been offered to community groups covering volunteer recruitment and management; expectations and training for volunteers; utilities management and health and safety. These were well attended by over 50 board members, trustees and other volunteers. A further seminar is planned for Hybrid library community groups on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

A number of groups have already begun their training which is assisting staff in improving the sessions. In several libraries, members of the community management groups have shadowed staff on their daily duties to enhance their understanding into the work of a modern library service.

At the same time, training is now being provided to volunteers on use of a new web based library management system, which will enable volunteers to deliver the full range of library services to customers in community libraries.

Members will be aware that Pateley Bridge Library was already successfully transferred to community ownership in September 2015. This is shortly to be joined by Boroughbridge where the Community Library Association (BACLA) will be delivering library services from 1 December 2016.

The Stronger Communities team has continued to work with remaining groups on their constitutions and charity registration, and several groups have already been successful in having their applications approved by the charity commission. The team have also been helping groups to prepare their business plans for consideration by a multi-disciplinary assessment panel established by the library service. The panel, comprising County Council Officers from finance, legal, property, contracting, stronger communities and libraries have approved 5 plans to proceed to detailed negotiations, with a further 12 approved subject to additional work in particular areas. It is

anticipated that the 3 plans that are outstanding will be submitted for assessment by the final panel on the 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Milestones for the next 3 months include agreement on property matters and continuing SLA discussions as well as starting to deliver volunteer training sessions and I will be reporting on further progress on these at next Full Council.

## **GCHQ Exhibition**

In July and August Scarborough Library made history hosting an exhibition put together by GCHQ. Originally suggested by the Lord Lieutenant, this was the first time that GCHQ had put on a museum exhibition outside Cheltenham. The exhibition, entitled *Code and Chips* which featured wartime communications, was promoted widely and included organised visits by local schools. Over 16000 people visited the exhibition and 885 school children enjoyed looking at code books, soil radios, morse code machines and of course an enigma machine. A public lecture by GCHQ's own historian entitled "The Myths of Bletchley Park" was delivered at a packed Scarborough Library concert hall and attended by over 220 VIPs and members of the public. The event was picked up by TV, radio and local newspapers and was even the subject of a tweet by the CIA.

## **Whitby Birthday**

Whitby Library celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in September. An event featuring a local ukulele orchestra, displays celebrating the library's 50 years, treasure trails and refreshments provided by local businesses was attended by the Chairman Cllr Val Arnold and local County Councillors . Over 700 people attended the event, and the service took full advantage of the opportunity to sign up more volunteers to support the continued delivery of services at Whitby which is scheduled to become a "Hybrid" library after April.

## **Summer Reading Challenge 2016 – The Big Friendly Read**

North Yorkshire Libraries are celebrating another successful year for the Summer Reading Challenge run in partnership with The Reading Agency for children aged 4-11 to help maintain their reading skills and confidence over the summer break. This year's theme was The Big Friendly Read delivered in collaboration with The Roald Dahl Literary Estate to celebrate 100 years of this ever-popular storyteller. 10,345 children across the county took part in this year's challenge, with 8,764 of those finishing their 6 books and being rewarded with a medal, certificate and dazzling pair of rainbow spectacles. Children borrowed over 123,000 books over the summer and 523 children joined the library as new members to take part in the challenge.

Alongside the achievements of the young participants, the library service is proud to report that this was a record year for Summer Reading Challenge volunteers with 160 young people between the ages of 13-24 providing 3,434 volunteer hours to help support delivery of the challenge. 50 of those volunteers intend to continue volunteering with the library service beyond the summer.

Events included using a child sized smoothie bike where children provided the peddle power to make a healthy smoothie and creating giant chocolate buttons!!

## Archives and Records Management

The Record Office has been **working with children and young people** to open up non-traditional ways for them to engage with the archive. As part of the office's second annual Big Draw event in October, entitled *Invented in Yorkshire*, younger children from local schools and after-school clubs were invited to learn about Yorkshire's inventors, scientists and engineers of the past and to take inspiration from exhibitions of historic plans, drawings, calculations and sketch books to draw their own futuristic inventions.

Earlier in the summer, several young people took part in volunteer work placements as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, gaining useful skills in cataloguing, conservation and digitisation as well as an awareness of the importance of preserving our shared heritage.

The **Attics and Acres project** which has purchased and catalogued the archive of Norton Conyers is coming to a successful conclusion. Combined HLF (£96.5k) and National Library (£10k) funding has created an accessible, **online catalogue** and a **travelling exhibition** that has toured libraries and other community venues around the county reaching over 10,000 people. A series of talks have attracted audiences of over 200. Forty volunteers have assisted archivists to sort 70 boxes of records and have contributed 2000 hours of time to the project, learning new skills and forming a group which will continue to work with the Record Office on new initiatives over the coming months.

## Registration Service

September saw the retirement of North Yorkshire's Superintendent Registrar, Susan Lewis, bringing to a close civil registration career spanning 34 years. Throughout this time Sue has conducted thousands of ceremonies and has seen many changes due to the modernisation of the service; including civil partnerships and same sex marriages. Sue retired after conducting her final ceremony in her District of Selby on the last day of September.

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