

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

15 FEBRUARY 2017

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, one of our major waste delivery points closed after Impetus Waste Management based in Teesside went into administration. It is understood that the company was affected by a combination of factors including the decision last year by Air Products Limited to withdraw from the construction of a waste treatment plant on Teesside, and the recent fall in the value of the Pound against the Euro meaning that the costs of exporting waste derived fuels to Europe increased. These factors are believed to have resulted in the company being unable to honour its contract commitments to the Council and its other customers.

The Council received no notice of the closure and officers worked closely with Yorwaste to invoke service continuity plans to ensure no impact on the provision of services. I have previously briefed Members on new ways of contracting services with Yorwaste using the 'Teckal' exemption. Being able to deal with the closure of Impetus efficiently with no impact on services is an unexpected early benefit of these new arrangements.

Construction continues at Allerton Waste Recovery Park. I am pleased to report that the construction programme remains on schedule and we are still planning for a full service commencement date of 31 January 2018. The testing and commissioning period is planned to start in July this year with the first organic waste expected to be delivered to the site this April to prepare the Anaerobic Digestion plant for operation. Limited amounts of residual 'black bag' waste will be accepted from July.

Management of the council's 20 household waste recycling centres transfers to Yorwaste on 1 April 2017. Staff from the Council, Kier and Yorwaste are working closely behind the scenes to ensure that none of our customers, residents and businesses using the sites notices any difference beyond a change in uniforms. The site staff will transfer to Yorwaste, thereby ensuring continuity of customer-focused services. These new arrangements will deliver greater efficiency.

Trading Standards

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Team (MAST)

MAST has recently secured the conviction of a further three doorstep crime offenders who preyed upon vulnerable and elderly residents in the county.

On 29 November 2016 Darren Swales, from Bedale, was sentenced at Teesside Crown Court, and his nephew, Luke Cooney, from Dorset, at Bournemouth Crown Court, after they defrauded an 80 year old female from Morton on Swale of £8800 for tarmac work to her driveway. Swales received six months' imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, and was ordered to pay £1,000 in compensation to the victim and £500 costs. Cooney was sentenced to three years imprisonment. He was also convicted for five further offences following an investigation by Dorset Trading Standards.

On 9 December 2016 Sean Ayres pleaded guilty to eight charges of fraud and consumer protection offences. He had targeted an elderly couple in Scarborough, demanding payment upfront for drive-washing and roofing work, which was never completed. Even after being

charged with these offences, he went on to target a 93year old female in Harrogate for roofing work in August 2016, defrauding her of £1000. The magistrates considered that their sentencing powers were insufficient and he was sent to Teesside Crown Court, where he was given 12 months' imprisonment.

On 11 January 2017 two males were sentenced at Teesside Crown Court for contempt of court for breaching a restraint order issued under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, freezing their assets. The males were sentenced to four months' imprisonment each. Brothers Nathan and John King, face trial at Teesside Crown Court on 6 March 2017 for offences of conspiracy to defraud and money laundering in relation to their business Guardian Park Homes Ltd, which undertook work to individual properties at residential park home sites. This work is alleged to have been unnecessary, grossly overcharged and poorly carried out.

Farming, Food and Health

Avian Influenza Outbreak in North Yorkshire

On 6 January, 2017 a confirmed case of Avian Influenza was declared on premises in Kirby Malham, near Settle. The premises contained a small "backyard flock" of 17 chickens and ducks. Several of these birds had died from the disease and the remainder were humanely culled. A 3km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10km Surveillance Zone (SZ) have been put in place around the infected premises to limit the risk of the disease spreading.

Our Trading Standards Service initiated an immediate response and worked over that weekend with Defra, Animal & Plant Health Agency, other NYCC Services and NYLRF partner agencies to implement disease control measures. The Trading Standards Service is co-ordinating the response to the outbreak on behalf of the County Council.

Trading Standards officers are undertaking a number of disease control activities. This includes undertaking foot patrols in the Protection Zone to identify all poultry keepers in the zone, which have now been completed. Officers are now undertaking monitoring patrols within the PZ & SZ in order to support poultry keepers who may require advice on disease control measures, and to follow up on any breaches of the restrictions.

Planning Services

Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Work is continuing on the production of the Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Having secured the requisite approvals from each of the planning authorities - NYCC, City of York and North York Moors National Park - the Publication Draft of the Plan was published in early November and made available for a period of six weeks for representations to be made on the soundness and legal compliance of the plan.

The County Council has received nearly 1,500 representations. These are being considered with a view to producing a document setting out the County Council's response to those representations and, where relevant, any proposed amendments. We continue to move ever closer to the submission of the Plan for Examination in Public. Given the complex nature of the issues, the examination process may take a number of months to complete before the Plan can be formally adopted. As we proceed, we will start to see the policies of the new plan being given increasing weight in decision-making by the County Council subject to the nature of any unresolved objections.

CHRIS METCALFE

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

15 February 2017

**STATEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER -
LIBRARY, CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITY SERVICES****COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS METCALFE****Libraries****Library Reconfiguration**

Members will be aware of the planned reconfiguration of the libraries agreed by the Executive in July 2015, ie 7 core, 5 hybrid and a further 21 community managed libraries which will come into effect by April 2017. One library, Pateley Bridge, was taken on by Nidderdale Plus in September 2015 and a further library, Boroughbridge, was successfully taken on by the local community library group on 1 December 2016.

The Executive and Corporate & Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committees received update reports on progress on 8 December and 14 November respectively.

The Library and Stronger Communities teams have continued to work with members and groups in local communities and a great deal of progress has been made by all the groups towards the work to be completed before 1 April 2017.

In summary there have been over 180 meetings involving officers from Libraries, Stronger Communities and Property and community groups, potential partners and volunteers across the County. Key areas of work with community library and potential partners in this period have been visioning meetings, governance, volunteer recruitment, project planning and business plans.

All community library groups have now prepared and submitted business plans and a county wide volunteer campaign was launched in November 2016. Bedale and Easingwold libraries had particularly successful events with in total almost 400 volunteers signing up to offer help. To date 17 events have been held. Volunteer training sessions are now underway across all libraries, with 101 sessions attended by just 250 volunteers.

At the same time work progressed with the staff re-structure which is now completed and ready for implementation in April.

Comic Relief for Sporting Memories

Following the recent visit by a reporter from Comic Relief to the Sporting Memories group at Northallerton Library, their planning and communications team were very impressed by what was reported back, in particular what those in caring roles had to say about the impact of the group has had on their own wellbeing as well as that of their partners. As a result their filming unit came along to the library on January 26th to make a feature film, including Dame Penelope Wilton, which was screened by the BBC on Monday the 30th January.

Creative Residencies

The Creative Residencies programme is an exciting and innovative partnership project between the North Yorkshire County Council Library Service, Youth Service and NYMAZ and supported by Arts Council England.

The project has centred around eight locations across North Yorkshire and over the past three years has worked with 24 different artists to create new pieces with members of the community.

During the three years communities have met in their local libraries to explore new skills in music, mosaic, felt making, stop frame animation, photography, creative writing and machine embroidery to name but a few, new partnerships have been developed and new groups and friendships have been established.

Already, locations from year one and two have shown that there is a growing audience for arts workshops in library settings and that activities and groups facilitated by library teams are sustainable after the initial funding has been used.

Catterick Garrison Library will host an event to showcase the works created throughout the 3 years of the project on 1 March (2-4)pm. Stokesley and Leyburn libraries will showcase local work on 20 February (2-4pm) and 16 March (2-4pm) respectively. A further event is to be held at Bilton Library (date to be confirmed)

Archives

Explore Your Archive

In November, the Record Office took part in *Explore Your Archive* week, a national campaign to showcase the archival collections held by organisations across the UK. Pop-up archives were set up in Scarborough and Harrogate where researchers were able to view examples of records relating to their community and to learn more about Record Office holdings and collections. Record Office staff were on hand to answer questions and offer advice on local and family history.

As part of the campaign and to explore the creative use of archives, audiences were also invited to take part in a day of textile crafts entitled *The Fabric of Yorkshire*. A local eighteenth century damask weaving book, preserved in the archives, was used to inspire members of local craft groups to create their own pieces. Group members were also on hand to encourage beginners to start to develop their own work in response to the archival material on show. An exhibition of the work is on display at the Record Office.

Grounds for Appeal

The Record Office is now half way through its £8,500 Heritage Lottery Funded *Grounds for Appeal* project which is cataloguing a rare surviving collection of 6000 North Riding World War I appeal tribunal papers. Thirty five enthusiastic volunteers have catalogued almost 3000 case files, details of which are now being published online. Volunteers have also begun to research further into the lives of some of the appellants in preparation for an exhibition and have helped the project leader to deliver talks to interested community groups.

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