

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**20 FEBRUARY 2019****STATEMENT OF THE OPEN TO BUSINESS PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY
COUNCILLOR ANDREW LEE (INCLUDING GROWTH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
PLANNING, WASTE MANAGEMENT, TRADING STANDARDS AND BUSINESS
RELATIONS)****Economic Development**

The York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) remains on track to fully deliver its Growth Deal. A priority at the moment is negotiating the agreed merge with Leeds City Region to create a single LEP covering North & West Yorkshire. This new LEP will be responsible for developing the Local Industrial Strategy and ensuring our rural, coastal and towns continue to receive significant investment in the future

Resources and Waste Strategy

The government published their Resources and Waste Strategy on 18 December 2018. The strategy will see a fundamental change in the way waste is managed in the future. The polluter pays principle is at the heart of the document, in a move that will see businesses and manufacturers taking on more responsibility to manage the waste arising from the goods they produce. Plastics waste features large in the strategy with measures to reduce single use plastics and incentivise more plastic recycling. Plans for separate collection of food waste from households are also outlined within the Government's strategy.

There will be implications for all Councils and our officers will be ensuring that we are in the best position to maximise benefits and mitigate risks from future changes. A series of consultations is expected in the next few months to guide what the future will look like in practice, and we will be providing responses where appropriate. We will also be lobbying government through relevant professional associations to achieve the best possible outcomes for the public sector.

We do not know what it will mean for us but we can be confident in our ability to respond. Allerton Waste Recovery Park has the flexibility to deal with varying amounts and types of waste, and already provides the technology to process separately collected food waste.

Trading Standards

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Team (MAST), hosted at Trading Standards, had an exceptionally busy and successful end to the year in 2018. Between August and December, they convicted a total of seventeen offenders for frauds against vulnerable and elderly victims. The convictions related to four separate conspiracy to defraud investigations.

The first, Operation Honeybee, in August, saw three males convicted of defrauding 27 victims across the country for roofing works and other property repairs. They were sentenced to a total of 11 and a half years imprisonment.

The second, Operation Vole, at the end of October, saw two males convicted of defrauding three victims for property repair works. This included an 80 year old vulnerable female from Filey defrauded of a total of £94,500 over a nine month period. They were sentenced to a total of seven and a half years imprisonment.

The third, Operation Kudu, in November / December, saw a three week trial for a tarmac gang from Darlington and York, convicted of defrauding 12 residents across North Yorkshire, East Riding and the North East for tarmac works conducted at their properties. The four males were sentenced to a total of 14 years imprisonment.

The final case, Operation Tapir, saw eight males convicted of conspiracy to defraud, money laundering and forgery offences in relation to roofing works conducted at the homes of five elderly and vulnerable males. This included an 89 yr old from Middleton Tyas, driven three times by the offenders to banks in Darlington to make bank transfers totalling £17,000. Six of the males were sentenced to a total of 18 years imprisonment in December. The sentencing results achieved a total of 51 yrs imprisonment in five months and brings the total achievements of the MAST to 84 yrs 8 months imprisonment since it began in April 2015.

eCrime

The Consumer Rights Act 2015 (CRA) was implemented following concerns by parliament regarding the online resale of tickets to sporting, recreational and cultural events and the information consumers were receiving during such sales. The CRA places a duty on an individual who re-sells a ticket for a recreational sporting or cultural event through a secondary ticketing facility, and on the operator of the secondary ticketing facility itself, to provide the following information to the buyer before the buyer concludes the purchase;

- The face value of the ticket
- The seat/row/block the ticket is for (if it is a seated ticket)
- Any restrictions on the use of the ticket

Where an enforcement authority is satisfied on the balance of probabilities that a person has breached this duty, the authority may impose a financial penalty on the person in respect of that breach. The amount of financial penalty to be imposed "may be such as the enforcement authority imposing it determines" but must not exceed £5,000.

The Department for Businesses, Energy and Industrial Strategy provided funding to the National Trading Standards (NTS) eCrime team which is hosted by North Yorkshire County Council and the City of York Council to undertake enforcement work and test out the legislation. In April 2018, the County Council Executive signed off a policy on the enforcement of the secondary ticketing provisions, which allowed enforcement work to be undertaken by trading standards, as the NTS eCrime team.

The NTS eCrime team have since issued 12 monetary penalties, each of £5,000 against businesses which had re-sold tickets without the information required by the CRA. Two of the penalties have been paid, and the remaining 10 penalties have been appealed to the First Tier Tribunal.

Planning Services

Following the Examination Hearing Sessions into the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan in February-April 2018, the Inspector decided that two additional Hearing Sessions should happen to discuss further matters relating to fracking and potash safeguarding. These took place on 24 and 25 January 2019 and the Inspector requested further information be provided by the Authorities and Industry. Additional information is in the process of being supplied and an updated Schedule of Main Modifications is being produced. It is expected that the consultation on the Main Modification will take place later this spring.

ANDREW LEE