

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

18 MAY 2016

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

The construction of Allerton Waste Recovery Park continues broadly on programme with approximately ½ million man hours worked since works started on site in January 2015. Anyone travelling past the site will have noticed the cranes and the steel frame of the Energy from Waste plant begin to show above the tree line as the building approaches its full height. A significant project milestone was passed on 24 April with the installation of the boiler for Line 1 of the EFW ahead of programme. A further significant milestone is planned for May 2016 with the installation of the electricity grid connection cables from the plant to the Coneythorpe sub-station. Commissioning remains on target beginning in June 2017, with full operation expected in January 2018.

I am especially pleased to advise members that Amey has begun recruitment for staff to work at Allerton Waste Recovery Park. They will be holding a recruitment fair in Boroughbridge on 8 June and are wanting to recruit into a variety of roles including management, support services, technicians and operational staff. When fully operating the plant will sustain 70 full time employees and will help contribute £220million at 2014 prices to the local economy over the life of the project. Further details of the recruitment fair are available on Amey's website at: <http://wasteservices.amey.co.uk/where-we-work/north-yorkshire/>

**Economic Development**

The York North Yorkshire & East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership has fully delivered on the first year of its £122m Local Growth Deal. This year has included investments in every North Yorkshire districts demonstrating its ability to support both urban and rural economies. It is now planning a further bid for capital funding as part of the £1.8bn announced by the Chancellor in the budget. The outcome will be announced in the Autumn Statement with funding 2019-2021.

**Rail Strategy**

New franchises for Transpennine (the future InterCity Operator of the North) and Northern (local operator of the North) started on 1 April 2016.

The franchises will deliver improvements in 4 key areas of service:-

## 1. Increased frequencies

- Harrogate line and Scarborough line will see doubling of the frequency and earlier and later trains (from 2 to 4 trains per hour between Harrogate and Leeds from December 2017)
- Hull – Selby – York and Scarborough – Hull (roughly hourly service)
  - New hourly Scarborough – York service in Northern Franchise to combine with Transpennine to provide 2 trains per hour
  - All other routes in North Yorkshire will have extra trains at key times of the day

2. Earlier and later trains and development of a 7 day railway
  - Earlier trains from Scarborough – York which will get people into London for 0900
  - An earlier train between Whitby and Middlesbrough which means for the first time people will be able to arrive in Middlesbrough for 0830
  - The Bentham line gets later trains to and from Leeds
  - Significant increase in Sunday services
3. Rolling stock over the next four years on the North's rail network will either be new or modernised to the latest standards, with the withdrawal of outdated 'Pacer' units by 2019.
4. Stations – all stations in North Yorkshire will see some investment and should reach a minimum standard.

Rail North is now becoming established and working well and has helped secure the positive franchise specification. On-going management arrangements for the franchise, through the Department for Transport/Rail North Partnership (NYCC is represented on the Rail North Board through Councillor Chris Metcalfe), have been established and the Council will be involved in the development and management of these franchises over the next 7-10 years.

It is expected that by 2020 the railways in North Yorkshire will be totally different from today, with investment in the East Coast Main Line (London – Yorkshire – North East – Scotland) and Virgin Trains investment in new trains on the route. First Hull Trains are also investing in new trains between Hull – Selby and London, and brand new Intercity express trains operating 7 direct daily trains between Harrogate and London

## **Trading Standards**

### **Farming, Food & Health**

#### **Public Health – “Healthier Choices” project launched in the Harrogate area**

In November, 2015 Trading Standards launched a “Healthier Choices” certification scheme in the Scarborough area. The scheme aims to recognise food manufacturers and food retailers' activities in providing healthier food and drinks to their customers. The objective is to change attitudes and perceptions of healthy eating with a view to improving the overall health of our communities and the desired outcome of reducing obesity levels in North Yorkshire. On 4 April 2016, the Healthier Choices certification scheme started in Harrogate with a promotional launch involving Councillor Chance and one of the food businesses in the area. The scheme now has 28 businesses in Scarborough and Harrogate going through the assessment process with the provider to Harrogate hospital and a Harrogate residential home also keen to participate.

## **Planning**

### **Planning Application on land at Kirby Misperton on behalf of Third Energy UK Gas Limited**

With regard to Third Energy's planning application, the County Council recently announced that an extraordinary meeting of the Planning & Regulatory Functions Committee will be held on Friday 20 May where the application will be presented to Members for their determination.

CHRIS METCALFE

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## STATEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER - LIBRARY, CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS METCALFE

### Libraries

#### Service reconfiguration

Members will be aware of the planned reconfiguration of libraries agreed by the Executive in July 2015, ie 7 core, 5 hybrid and a further 21 community managed libraries, to come into effect by the spring of 2017.

Work carried out by the service and Stronger Communities since my last report includes:

- 119 meetings involving officers from Libraries, Stronger Communities, Legal and Property with local communities and organisations across the County. These have included meetings with newly formed management groups; meetings with town and parish councils as well as community organisations and with volunteers. There have also been a number of meetings between groups and Property and Legal Services to discuss implications around leases, employment legislation and health and safety. Local members are involved in a number of the groups. Whilst groups are all at different stages, all groups have made progress. Development of
- A simplified generic Service Level Agreement, has been produced produced in consultation with existing community library groups and staff.
- Continued work on the production of the revised operations handbook and the volunteer training programme which will be launched in the autumn.
- Production and distribution of an up to date community library toolkit by Stronger Communities, who have also run community visioning events to explore potential partners and future service options; carried out option appraisals; trustee recruitment; management group skills audits; assisted with the preparation of constitutions and given support to groups who have started work on their business plans. They have also developed a project timeline with a number of key milestones which need to be delivered by April 2017 and have prepared individual project plans for each group which detail the activities that need to be completed.
- Work on staff restructure – the formal 90-day staff consultation period came to an end on Friday 22 April. There were meetings with staff across the county and FAQs circulated regularly. A final response was issued to staff on May 6<sup>th</sup>, comprising an information pack guiding staff through the next stages of the process.

#### Creative Residencies

Since its successful bid to Arts Council England; the service has completed the second phase of workshops. in Pickering and Sherburn in Elmet, and begun the third phase with art workshops in Stokesley, Leyburn, Catterick Garrison Library and Bilton and Woodfield Community Library. All of the workshops to date have been successful and beneficial to local residents, staff and volunteers.

At Pickering local families worked with Sight Support, Wilf Ward Trust, Ryedale Ukulele Club, and Roose, to produce feltwork, stop-frame animations, a photography book and a banner for the library. At Sherburn; Hungate School, Sherburn High School, Sherburn Photography club and local families produced a mural for the library, created artwork for the

Teen zone of the library as well as a photography book. During the workshops the library was transformed into a cinema space to view the animated films created by local children.

In Richmondshire artists have been working with Hunslet School, Catterick Veterans and The Beacon to create artworks following the theme 'This is me' in which children spoke to their families to find out about their ancestry. At Thornborough Hall in Leyburn artists and residents of to create poems and artworks based on their photographs of work and home life.

Ingleton Library once again are running and hosting events as a partner in the Overground Underground festival in June and at Stokesley residents from Yatton House, along with young people have participated in music and photography workshops. Eastfield has also established a monthly photography club and further music, creative writing, and felt making workshops have received financial support from Eastfield Parish Council.

Bilton Library held open music workshops for local residents and have done radio interviews for BBC Radio York and StrayFM to promote the upcoming photography and animation workshops taking place there.

### **Settle Library**

Settle Library enjoyed its official opening in April as part of the extra-care facility at Limestone View. Since opening; the Library has seen a 25% increase in business all areas including the number of visitors, book borrowing and computer use. The state of the art facilities have also organisations to run a wide range of activities and meetings including storytimes for under-fives, book groups, beginners' IT courses and regular IT help sessions as well as drop-in sessions by Craven District Council and Craven CVS. Recent events marked World Book Night and the Settle Stories Festival.

### **Reading habit**

As part of a government initiative to get more primary school children reading, libraries in North Yorkshire ran a promotion from Sept 2015-March 2016 to invite Year 3 school children to visit their local library. As part of the visit children were able to join the library and borrow a book, as well as finding out more about what is on offer. During the promotion 159 class visits took place across the county and over 900 children joined the library.

### **GCHQ Pop up Museum**

For the first time in its 102 year history GCHQ is having a pop up museum in the community and Scarborough Library will be the first community space to hold the exhibition, which will run from 27<sup>th</sup> June until 18 August 2016, and will follow the chronological history of GCHQ starting in at 1914. The exhibition is being curated by the GCHQ Curator and will have the theme of Coding through the years.

Highlights of the exhibition will include:

- Original code intercepts from the first and second world wars
- Listening machines, headphones and equipment from 1914 -18
- Museum of the Future (if you were looking back on today from the future what would be an exhibit?)
- Soil Radio- an interactive exhibit that demonstrates secure and insecure communications and how soil was used to conduct radio signals during the first world war.
- Children's puzzle solving activities.

The "museum" will have links to local history in the school curriculum with school visits and a pack for teachers.

As well as the above, events including an afternoon tea for former GCHQ staff and their families, a demonstration of one of the original Enigma machines and a talk by the GCHQ historian on the 'Myths of Bletchley Park'.

## **County Records Office and Archives**

### **Online Services**

The Record Office continues to improve its online service in response to user demand and the third release of parish register holdings via the commercial website, Find My Past, has made a further 1.3 million records available. This along with the publication of hundreds of school admission registers now provides an extensive new resource for family historians. The online Archives shop now contains over 2,500 maps, photographs and publications for sale and is providing valuable income for the service and an enhanced service offer to "virtual" visitors.

### **The Big Draw**

The Big Draw is an annual drawing festival which sees galleries, museums and heritage sites across the county hold events for anyone who loves to draw and last year the Record Office event drew its inspiration from historic mapping. The event was entered for the Big Draw awards and against particularly fierce competition won the Community, Participatory and Libraries award category, receiving a prize of £750 to be awarded at a ceremony in London later this month. The money will be used to support Record Office events and a second Big Draw day to be held later this year.

CHRIS METCALFE