

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**24 JULY 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) continues to discuss the future geography of LEPs with Leeds City Region. Parallel to this they are developing the future Local Industrial Strategy for York and North Yorkshire and a range of local consultations are taking place throughout July.

Waste Management

I am pleased to announce the construction of Kirby Misperton Waste Transfer Station is nearly complete and the site is due to become operational on 1 August 2019. Work on site commenced on 25 September 2018 and the cost of construction was £3.8m. This is a significant development for North Yorkshire County Council, Ryedale District Council and Yorwaste Ltd who are working in partnership to give a secure, long term outlet for the reception, bulking and transfer of waste and recyclables collected in the Ryedale area. This transfer station has been developed using principles of One Public Estate where the County and District Councils have worked together to ensure the best outcome for the taxpayer as a whole, with both parties sharing in the benefits. The facility will replace two existing facilities, one at Knapton Quarry and one on Showfield Lane, Malton, and will be operated by Yorwaste Ltd under contract to NYCC. The waste will be bulked up and delivered to Allerton Waste Recovery Park for processing and the recyclable materials will be bulked up and sent for reprocessing.

Trading Standards**Farming, Food & Health**

Trading Standards contribute to the North Yorkshire Public Health Tobacco strategy by tackling the prevalence of illicit or counterfeit tobacco across the county. Trading Standards activities have included a zero tolerance approach to its supply, promotion of the regional Keep It Out campaign and the use of disruption techniques such as illicit tobacco detection dogs to identify suppliers. The North Yorkshire Illicit Tobacco survey 2019, found that illicit tobacco prevalence across North Yorkshire has reduced from 19% in 2016 to 11%. This reduction can be attributed to the enforcement and disruption activities carried out by Trading Standards. It is estimated that there are a remaining 8,800 North Yorkshire users, and using the results of the 2019 survey a revised action plan will be created with the aim of achieving further reductions to illicit tobacco supply across the county.

eCrime Team:

The team was presented with an award for "Outstanding contribution to industry and enforcement" at the annual Chartered Trading Standards Institute conference in June. This was in recognition of the team leading Operation Jasper, a three year programme of enforcement and disruption activities to tackle the sale of counterfeit and unsafe goods on social media platforms. The work has been internationally recognised and is regularly cited

by Government as being at the forefront of the UK's efforts to tackle social media based sales of illicit goods. It is now used as a template for similar operations being carried out by Europol.

Planning Services

Examination Hearing Sessions into the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan took place between February and April last year, later followed by two additional Hearing Sessions on 24 and 25 January this year to discuss further matters relating to fracking and potash safeguarding. Since then further information, requested by the Inspector has been provided by the Joint Authorities. Work is continuing on the production of an updated Schedule of Main Modifications, however, public consultation on that Schedule will now follow after a further consultation in light of the Government's response (published in May) to a judgment handed down in the High Court in March.

ANDREW LEE

