

North Yorkshire County Council**Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee****22 January 2015****Establishing a joint sub-committee with the Scrutiny of Health Committee****Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the agreement of the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to establish a joint sub-committee with the Scrutiny of Health Committee to inform publication of the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan for North Yorkshire, York and the North York Moors National Park, with regard to Hydraulic Fracturing.

Background

2. At its meeting on 10 June 2015 the Ryedale Area Committee considered a petition demanding that the North Yorkshire County Council publicly oppose fracking and all other forms of unconventional fossil fuel extraction in North Yorkshire, and that this anti-fracking position should be reflected in all decisions relating to mineral planning applications in North Yorkshire.
3. The Area Committee resolved to note the petition and to recommend that further investigation on the matter is commissioned by the Executive from the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
4. At its meeting on 7 July 2015 the Executive resolved to consider taking the action the petition requested after hearing the views of the two scrutiny committees.
5. As the range of organisations both committees would need to consult and the evidence they would be seeking are very similar, it is proposed establish a joint sub-committee comprising all members from both committees.
6. An extract from the County Council's Constitution confirming that setting up a joint sub-committee is within the powers of both committees is shown below:

Sub-Committees and Task Groups

- (c) Any two or more overview and scrutiny committees may establish a joint sub-committee, the membership of the sub-committee being determined by the appointing Committees. Such a joint sub-committee will appoint its own Chairman. Such a joint sub-committee will have the powers of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and is empowered to express a view on a particular matter on behalf of the overview and scrutiny committees which appointed it, and Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 11 shall apply to any reports from a joint sub-committee.
7. In this instance, Procedure Rule 11 relates to Access to information. In essence the joint sub-committee will be subject to the same rules as all other committees of the County Council.

Recommendation

8. That the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees to establish a joint sub-committee with the Scrutiny of Health Committee to inform publication of the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan for North Yorkshire, York and the North York Moors National Park with regards to Hydraulic Fracturing.

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Background Documents: None