

Leader's Statement for Full Council 14th April 2016

We have a very full agenda tonight so I do not intend to make a long statement.

I attended the Leaders meeting of Local Government for North Yorkshire and York on March 11th. The major item on the agenda was the progress on a devolution deal for York, North Yorkshire and East Riding of Yorkshire. The possibility of the inclusion of Hull in the deal was also discussed. The same presentation was given to Members of our Policy and Resources committee on the 31st March by James Farrar – the CEO of our LEP. That power point presentation has been circulated to all Members for information. This topic features on our agenda tonight – if after that Members feel that a further presentation would be useful, then we can arrange a Member Briefing on the subject.

On Tuesday of last week, along with other local representatives, I met the Chairman of the National Flood Resilience Review and the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency at the flood defences in Pickering. We were able to put various points about the way forward to continue to improve flood protection in our district. The slowing the flow project continues to generate a lot of interest nationally. It was a great opportunity for us to push for support to roll out the wider Derwent catchment scheme and promote the excellent community and partnership work this project has delivered. Undoubtedly this scheme has helped businesses in Pickering to thrive and the project has been a superb example of what this council can do to help grow the economy in our district.

Our transformation programme is underway and we are working Towards 2020, (this is referred to as the mandate for change). The purpose of the transformation is to build on what we have achieved, work through the financial reductions and changes to Local Government funding in order to create a viable authority for the future which can deliver the services the residents of Ryedale need, now and in the future. Some of the decisions we will make tonight are a part of that process and are necessary to deliver the transformation.

So, back to our agenda which has a great emphasis on economic growth. The range of the work we can deliver is well illustrated in the items we shall be discussing tonight. From the community grants that we give, through Ryedale's Economic Action Plan to the even wider concept of the Northern Power House and the part we shall play in that through a Combined Authority.

Finally I would like to add my congratulations to Les Chapman. Les has been the driving force in the North Yorkshire Building Control Partnership for 15 years. Without his vision it would not be the brilliant organisation that it is now.