



**Councillor Richard Musgrave**

**Deputy Leader of the Council**

**Report to Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020**

This report covers the period from the Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020. During this period, I have attended virtual Executive and represented the Council at local and regional virtual meetings including deputising for the Leader as required.

Reporting on the key items:-

**1) Development Management**

In the period between 01.07.2020 to 31.08.2020, all 7 major applications determined were within the statutory period or agreed extension of time. These figures are significantly higher than the national designation targets set by the Government for majors which is 60%.

In the period between, 01.07.2020 to 31.08.2020, 71.7% of non-major applications (minors and others) were determined within the statutory period or agreed extension of time. This equates to 92 determined, 26 within the statutory 8 weeks and 40 within the extension of time period agreed and 26 out of time. These figures are slightly higher than the national designation targets set by the Government for minor applications which is 70%.

We have undertaken an exercise to look at comparable data of application received, and applications made valid from the months of July and August 2019 and 2020. This has highlighted that there has been a 30.2% increase in valid applications and 40% increase in received application in August 2020 compared to the same period 2019.

With regard to performance at appeal, in the period between 01.07.2020 to 31.08.2020 a total of 5 were determined and they were all dismissed.

At the 1st September 2020 the Planning Enforcement team had 360 live enforcement cases open. We received 77 new cases and closed 75 within the two month period. In July and August 2020 the Planning Enforcement Team served a TRN (Tree Replacement Notice) for the removal of a Protected tree and an Enforcement Notice was served in relation to the unauthorised siting of a static caravan and change of use of land to residential.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> August we had our first virtual planning and enforcement virtual hearing at the Viners station for a biomass development. This application was refused at Planning Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The virtual hearing went well, and we expect a decision within the next couple of months.

At Planning Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> September Members of the Committee made a minded to approve decision subject to referral to the Secretary Of State for demolition and redevelopment of the

Eggborough Power Station site for approximately 211,000 Sqm B1(c); B2 and B8; 500 jobs during construction, up to 4,100 when in operation; and the replacement excellent sport facilities.

## 2) Planning Policy

In September 2019 Council gave approval for work to begin on the preparation of a new Local Plan for the District. Consultation on the first stage, the 'Issues and Options', ended on March 6th.

Through lockdown we have held a total of eight Local Plan Programme Board meetings on Microsoft Teams which has ensure significant progress has been made on the preparation of a Preferred Options Consultation Document.

The Preferred Options document will be presented to Executive in December to seek approval for an eight-week consultation in the New Year in accordance with the Local Development Scheme.

To support the preparation of the Local Plan a range of supporting evidence has been undertaken. A Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment, Retail and Leisure Study, the first stage the Highways Modelling work and the Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities study are nearing completion, with the Local Plan Viability and CIL Review and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment well underway. NYCC and the Data Partnership have also been commissioned to undertake a review of Sites of Important Nature Conservation, which will provide important information not only for the Local Plan, but will help to shape future plans for biodiversity offsetting and tree planting.

The Call for Sites Exercise for consideration in the next consultation stage closed on 31<sup>st</sup> August. A total of 436 sites were submitted as part of this exercise and are being assessed in accordance with the Site Assessment Methodology.

A new Statement of Consultation is being recommended for adoption as part of the Full Council Agenda. The preparation of this document is an important step to ensure that the Local Plan is being prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements and whether they are sound.

Officers are currently preparing detailed responses to the Government's Planning Reforms as set out in consultations on "Planning for The Future White Paper" and "Changes to the Current Planning System". These consultations set out radical proposals to overhaul the current planning system and we are proactively engaging with this process through the Planning Advisory Service.

We have appointed consultants to undertake 12 Conservation Areas Appraisals across the District. Consultation on the four Conservation Area Appraisals for Selby Town are planned to take place prior to Christmas. The updated appraisals will form key evidence to inform the work of the Selby Town High Street Heritage Action Zone Project.

We have now appointed a Project Manager to oversee the four-year High Street Heritage Action Zone Project which aims to recognise the special character of Selby Town Centre through an exemplar approach to heritage management; working with local communities and business to revive the historic fabric, improve the public realm, and instil a growing sense of local pride in our heritage.

**Richard Musgrave  
Deputy Leader of the Council**