



Councillor Christopher Pearson - Executive Member for Housing, Leisure, Health, & Culture

Report to Council on Tuesday 24th April 2018

WRAP Litter innovation grant award

Selby District Council's application for grant funding from WRAP's litter innovation fund was successful and the Council received the grant offer letter in February 2018. The main part of the application was for funding to work with businesses and haulage companies based at our industrial estates to tackle roadside littering from commercial vehicles. This is to be done through a corporate accreditation scheme, in cab recycling boxes / bags and education and awareness.

Public finance innovation award for community engagement project of the year

The Council's Don't be a Waster campaign has been shortlisted for a national award under the category of "Best community engagement project". The awards ceremony is to be held in London on 25th April.

World Autism Week Event at Summit Indoor Adventure

An event was held in support of World Autism Week which has been well received with positive comments on social media.

Housing Delivery Programme

Work continues to bring forward several sites as part of the Housing Delivery Programme, approved by the Executive on the 4th January 2018

- The construction of 13 new homes for Selby District Council has now commenced at Byram Park Road in Byram, which are due to be completed in January 2019.
- The construction of 5 new family homes, delivered in partnership with the Selby and District Housing Trust on a former Council owned garage site at Landing Lane Riccall are progressing well and within the agreed Programme.
- The Housing & Regeneration team are continuing to assess potential development options for the Edgerton Lodge site in Tadcaster, which was formerly used as a homeless hostel and is now surplus to requirements. Due diligence is currently being finalised and it is anticipated that a report will be brought to the Executive in July 2018, setting out recommended actions to develop the site.
- The next phase of new build sites is being agreed with a view to a development partner being procured by the summer of 2018

Olympia Park, Selby

Following the Housing and Regeneration Team's successful £8.878 million bid for funding from the Homes and Communities Agency's (now Homes England) Housing Infrastructure Fund to support the delivery of the Olympia Park strategic mixed use development site, the Council is working closely with landowners to develop detailed proposals for the site.

Visitor Economy Strategy

The Visitor Economy Strategy and action plan have now been approved at Executive on 1st March 2018. This is a great step forward in our Economic Development agenda to work on one of the priority growth sectors for the district to make the district a great place to live and enhance our visitor economy businesses. The plan commences through establishing resources to support tourism development and arts, heritage and culture development. The initial focus is going to be on Selby950. This will be a partnership approach with the Abbey, Town Council and local business and community and heritage groups to offer a range of information, events and activities across 2019 to celebrate the Abbey's 950th anniversary.

The Community, Partnership and Customer team has been supporting the Selby Abbey Trust to submit a national funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The application is an important step in showcasing our Abbey as the central element in our heritage vision for Selby Town Centre. The Selby950 celebrations will be a platform to this longer term development.

Private Sector Housing Assistance

A new Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy has recently been approved by Executive.

The new policy continues to offer the Mandatory Disabled Facilities grant but introduces some new discretionary grants and loans including the repairs assistance loan, grants and loans for empty homes and adds some discretionary elements to the Disabled Facilities Grant.

Delivery of Disabled Facilities Grants is financially supported by the Better Care Fund, a programme seeking to join up health and care services. The changes introduced with this policy seek to support their ambitions for people to manage their own health and wellbeing and live independently in their communities for as long as possible whilst supporting our own corporate priorities and improving housing conditions across the district.

Housing Support & Enforcement Services team

The team provides the housing rent collection service, sundry income collection and enforcement for environmental crime which includes fly tip investigations when evidence has been found on site, littering, urinating, dog fouling, provision of commercial waste contracts, removal of abandoned vehicles and access for gas safety checks to our housing stock. They also provide housing enforcement to deal with tenancy breaches and ASB, tenancy fraud and licensing enforcement.

The Housing Support and Enforcement Services Team have had a very productive year with some very successful outcomes. They dealt with 380 cases during 2017/18 as shown in the table below:

Area of Enforcement	No of cases
Environmental crime	169
Abandoned vehicles	62
Gas safety access	39
Licensing Enforcement	37
Housing Enforcement inc. ASB & tenancy fraud	66
Illegal traveller encampments	7

Investigations were completed on all these cases and over 150 formal sanctions have been applied. These include prosecutions, fixed penalty notices, Gas Abatement Notices served, warning letters, Notice Seeking Possession served for housing offences and ASB, Notices to Quit , injunctions & an eviction warrant issued to recover housing stock and cases submitted to Licensing Committee for disciplinary & improper conduct issues where licences have been revoked and suspended. Informal sanctions and resolutions have also been applied to conclude cases which include, tenant engagement to resolve issues, advice given to premise licence holders, taxi & hackney carriage drivers, advice given out about littering and fly tipping with regards to the kind of evidence we require to investigate and advising of householder duty of care.

Housing Rent Collection this year is 98.52% which is 0.42% over target and equates to an additional £52K income. We issued nearly 3500 sundry debt invoices during 2017/18, with a collection rate of 98% and a total collected of £3.56m.

The team have also carried out some joint projects with Immigration and NYP visiting takeaway premises in the area and worked with HMRC & the Gambling Commission to carry out visits to premises with illegal gaming machines which were subsequently removed. They have also carried out private hire operator checks in conjunction with the licensing team. All these actions have helped to increase awareness in the District of the responsibilities of Licence holders.

Councillor Christopher Pearson