



Councillor Richard Musgrave

Deputy Leader of the Council

Report to Council on 15th December 2020

This report covers the period from the Council meeting on 22nd September 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 Service

In the period between 01.09.2020 to 31.10.2020, 90% of major applications were determined within the statutory period or agreed extension of time. This equates to 10 determined, 1 within the statutory 13 weeks and 8 within the extension of time period agreed and 1 out 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, 01.09.2020 to 31.10.2020, 80% of non-major applications (minors and others) were determined within the statutory period or agreed extension of time. This equates to 110 determined, 38 within the statutory 8 weeks and 50 within the extension of time period agreed and 22 out of time. These figures are 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 applications received, and applications made valid from the months of September and October 2019 and 2020. This has highlighted that there has been a 5.6% increase in received applications and 5.4% increase in valid applications compared to the same period in 2019. This is on the back of around a 40% increase for August.

With regard to performance at appeal, in the period between 01.09.2020 to 31.10.2020 a total of 7 were determined, 3 were allowed and 4 were dismissed.

At the 1st November 2020 the Planning Enforcement team had 363 live enforcement cases open. We received 60 new cases and closed 58 within the two month period. In September and October 2020 the Planning Enforcement Team served 1 Temporary stop notice and 3 Planning Contravention notices.

Enforcement Officers have been dealing with a significant case at Hilliam relating to an illegal Gypsy and Traveller encampment. The service responded quickly serving a Temporary Stop Notice on the day the site became occupied and are now pursuing action through the courts.

In terms of the helping to reduce the backlog in Development Management and Planning Enforcement we have a new Planning Solicitor to work in Enforcement for two days a week for 6

months, we have appointed a new temporary Principal Planning Enforcement Officer for 6 months and we are in the process of appointing two temporary Senior Planning Officer for 4 months. These posts will be crucial to assist us in dealing with increased workloads in the service.

A date has been set for a Public Inquiry for to the reserved matters application relating to appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for erection of 50 dwellings at land to the south of Main Street, Church Fenton. This is scheduled on the 9th February for 4 sitting days. Members resolved to refused this application at Planning Committee on 4th March 2020.

On 30th October we received the Planning Inspectors decision for the Viners Station which was for the respective permission of four biomass boilers in the open countryside. The appeal was a joint planning and enforcement appeal, which the Inspector dismissed and upheld the enforcement notice.

2. Planning Policy

The Planning Policy Team has made significant progress in a very short timescale on the preparation of the Preferred Options Local Plan. The consultation document will be presented to Executive in January with a view to public consultation commencing at the end of the month in accordance with the challenging timescales set out in the approved Local Development Scheme.

The Preferred Options Local Plan will set out the Council's preferred approach for where new housing and employment will be provided to accommodate growth in the District up to 2040. In addition to preferred sites the document will also include the development management policies against which applications will be assessed. The preparation of the document has involved the assessment of 436 sites against an extensive Site Assessment Methodology. As part of this exercise Officers undertook site visits and arranged virtual meetings with Parish Councils to seek local input on the submitted sites.

To support the Preferred Options Local Plan a range of supporting evidence has been undertaken. This includes a Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment, Retail and Leisure Study, the first stage the Highways Modelling work, the Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities study. A Local Plan Viability Study and CIL Review, Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulations Appraisal, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and a review of Sites of Important Nature Conservation are progressing.

Work has commenced on the preparation of 12 Conservation Areas Appraisals across the District. Member briefings on the draft Selby Town and Tadcaster Conservation Area Appraisals took place prior to the current public consultation, which ends in the New Year.

Officers have been undertaking an extensive review of the District's natural environment to help inform the emerging requirements in the Environmental Bill for bio-diversity offsetting and tree planting strategies. Discussions with local landowners has resulted in Escrick Park being chosen as one of a number of national pilot schemes by Natural England.

As part of the new CIL Regulations Officers have prepared an Infrastructure Funding Statement, which will be published on the Council's website.

3. Low Carbon Working Group

The Policy Review Low Carbon Working Group (LCWG) have met on a number of occasions to discuss ways in which the Council can contribute to the low carbon agenda. Work has included calculating the Council's annual direct carbon footprint and research into the work of other local

authorities, including North Yorkshire County Council, and partner organisations e.g. York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership. A draft Low Carbon Action Plan has been developed which focuses on those actions which the Council can directly deliver, as well as those it can influence, through collaboration with others. I am considering the recommendations and will feedback in 2021 but based on the LCWG's report I am confident that the Council will be carbon neutral by 2030.

Richard Musgrave
Deputy Leader of the Council