



**Councillor Richard Musgrave**

**Deputy Leader of the Council**

**Report to Council on 18 February 2021**

This report covers the period from the Council meeting on 15 December 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:-

**Development Management**

In the period between, 01.11.2020 to 31.12.2020, 76.6% of non-major applications (minors and others) were determined within the statutory period or agreed extension of time. This equates to 94 determined, 16 within the statutory 8 weeks and 56 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%

In the period between 01.11.2020 to 31.12.2020, 50% of major applications were determined within the statutory period or agreed extension of time. This equates to 4 determined, 1 within the statutory 13 weeks, 1 within the extension of time period agreed and 2 out of time. These figures are lower than the national designation targets set by the Government for majors which is 60%.

During the period in question Covid has had some impact on site visits and we are continuing with Planning Committee as a virtual meeting. In addition, we have undertaken an exercise to look at comparable data of applications received, and applications made valid from the months of November and December 2019 and 2020. This has highlighted that there has been a 11% increase in received applications and 14.3% increase in valid applications compared to the same period in 2019.

With regard to appeal which effectively provides external scrutiny of our decision making performance remains high. In the period between 01.11.2020 to 31.12.2020 a total of 6 were determined, 1 was allowed and 5 were dismissed.

The significant Public Inquiry at Main Street Church Fenton for the reserved matters of 50 dwellings started on 9th February and ran for four days. The Inquiry was also held on teams. Members will be updated on the decision.

Work has started on the Bio-economy Carbon Capture Storage Project (BECCS), Drax which will go through the national Development Consents Order (DCO) regime for approval which will be overseen by the Planning Inspectorate. We will be working together on this project with NYCC using Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs). This will include joint working from pre-application stage all the way through to Examination. We have found it extremely beneficial to work

collaboratively particularly in the past with NYCC on such schemes given the impacts these projects have had on resources/workloads for both the District and the County Council.

At the 1st January 2021 the Planning Enforcement team had 403 live enforcement cases open. We received 76 new cases and closed 37 within the two month period. In November and December 2020 the Planning Enforcement Team served 1 Enforcement notice. The team are currently involved with significant high profile cases.

## **Planning Policy**

A significant milestone has been reached in the preparation of a new Local Plan for the District with consultation on the Council's preferred approach. The Local Preferred Options consultation began on the 29 January and ends on the 12 March 2021. The plan sets out the preferred approach to accommodate at least 8040 new dwellings and 110 hectares of employment land to meet the housing and economic growth of the District up to 2040. The Preferred Options also sets out the preferred policy approach for a range of issues which will seek to ensure Selby District is a great place to live and enjoy.

As part of the public consultation a leaflet has been distributed to every household in the District to inform residents that we are preparing a new Local Plan and how to get involved. The consultation is being advertised through articles in the local press and through social media.

Work has commenced on the preparation of 12 Conservation Areas Appraisals across the District and I have agreed that this work will be extended to include all Conservation Areas in the District. An eight week consultation on the 4 Conservation Area Appraisals in Selby Town ended on the 28th February and consultation on the Conservation Area Appraisal for Tadcaster will begin this month.

We have also completed consultation on the Submission Draft of the Church Fenton Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan will now be examined by an independent Inspector to determine whether the plan should proceed to referendum.

Across the service as a whole we currently have eight vacancies: four within Development Management; two within Policy and two with PPU. We are in the process of advertising and recruiting to these posts.

**Richard Musgrave**  
**Deputy Leader of the Council**