



**Councillor Richard Musgrave**

**Deputy Leader of the Council**

**Report to Council on 13 April 2021**

This report covers the period from the Council meeting on 18 February 2021. 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 & Enforcement**

In the period between 1 January 2021 to 28 February 2021, 75% of major applications were determined within the statutory period or agreed extensions of time. This equates to 4 determined, 0 within the statutory 13 weeks, 3 within the extension of time period agreed and 1 out of time. These figures are higher than the national designated targets set by the Government for majors which is 60%.

In the same period 66.7% of non-major applications (minors and others) were determined within the statutory period or agreed extensions of time. This equates to 96 determined, 11 within the statutory 8 weeks and 53 within the extension of time period agreed and 32 out of time. These figures are slightly lower than the national designated 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 for the months of January and February 2020 and 2021. This has highlighted that there has been a 5.4% increase in received applications and 4.9% decrease in valid applications compared to the same period in 2020.

Appeal performance remains high. This is a good indicator of the robustness of our decision making. In the period between 1 January 2021 to 28 February 2021 a total of 9 were determined, 2 were allowed and 7 were dismissed.

Planning Enforcement's workloads remain high. At the 1 March 2021 the team had 424 live enforcement cases open. We received 65 new cases and closed 46 within the two month period. In January and February 2021 the Planning Enforcement Team served 1 Enforcement notice and 2 Planning Contravention notices.

During this period within Development Management & Enforcement we have had six vacant posts, four within DM and two within PPU. We have now filled four posts; two of which have started.

## Planning Policy

The Planning Policy team continues to make significant progress on the preparation of the Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plans and associated evidence.

Consultation on the Local Plan Preferred Options took place between 29<sup>th</sup> January and 12<sup>th</sup> March. As part of this process three Member briefing sessions and five Parish Council sessions were held via Microsoft Teams. In addition, two public consultation sessions were held via Teams where members of the public were given the opportunity to ask questions via the chat function, all of the questions raised and Officer responses were subsequently published on the Council's website for information. A specific telephone line was set up so that members of the public could contact policy officers directly and discuss the plan proposals and this was very busy throughout the consultation period.

Consultation on the plan was widely advertised through social media and press releases which led to a total of 17,040 views on web pages during the consultation period. In the first week of the consultation there were 4,578 views which made it the Council's most visited website page by a significant amount. The Local Plan animation was viewed 994 times via twitter, with 7908 impressions (how many times it has been seen).

We have received a total of 1,215 responses to the plan and the team are now busy ensuring that all the responses are dealt with according to data protection legislation before being made public. As part of the consultation further sites have been submitted for consideration as alternative sites all of which will need to be assessed against the criteria in the Site Assessment Methodology. All of the comments received will be fully considered in preparing a Publication version of the Local Plan, which will be subject to public consultation prior to being submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.

Officers are continuing to engage with a range of stakeholders including neighbouring authorities and utility providers in preparing the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, which includes working closely with North Yorkshire County Council in developing a highways model for the District which will be used to assess the highways interventions required to support the plan.

Work continues on the preparation of 12 Conservation Areas Appraisals across the District. Public consultation has already taken place on the four Conservation Area Appraisals in Selby Town. Consultation on the Tadcaster Conservation Area Appraisal will end on 16<sup>th</sup> April. Local Members have been briefed on the appraisals for Escrick and Appleton Roebuck which will be consulted on shortly.

In response to the consultation on the Church Fenton Neighbourhood Plan a total of 28 responses have been received and all the relevant information has been sent to the independent inspector for examination. We expect to receive the fact check report by mid-April, with the main report to follow with a potential referendum in mid-June.

Good progress is being made in the Selby High Street Heritage Action Zone Project. Consultants have now been appointed to develop a shop front design guide, which will be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document once the Local Plan is adopted. An architectural consultancy team has also been appointed to provide advice to property owners and support the grant scheme for the improvements to buildings and the public realm.

During this period we have had two full time vacancies in Planning Policy with one member of the team seconded to Development Management. We have now appointed to both these posts and awaiting start dates following the serving of notice periods.

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