



Councillor Richard Musgrave, Deputy Leader of the Council

Report to Council on 28 September 2021

Planning Policy & Strategy

Consultation on the Local Plan Preferred Options took place between January and March this year and alongside over 1270 responses, a further 44 sites were submitted for consideration. All of these sites were assessed in accordance with the Site Assessment Methodology and public consultation on these additional sites took place between 2 August and 12 September. Parish and Member briefing sessions and three virtual public sessions have been held as part of the consultation, which has been widely advertised via social media.

Consultation is now also underway on a number of important pieces of evidence which will help to inform the next stage of the Local Plan, including a Green Space Audit, Stage One Green Belt Review, Indoor and Outdoor Sports Studies and the Local Plan and CIL Viability Report. Consultation on the additional evidence base documents will end on 15 October 2021.

Following an independent examination, a referendum was held on 6 August on whether the Church Fenton Neighbourhood Plan should be used by Selby District Council in helping it to decide planning applications. There was a turnout of 20% of those eligible to vote and 88% voted in favour of the proposals. A decision to “make” the plan part of the Selby District Development Plan is being considered at this meeting.

Consultation on the draft Conservation Area Appraisals in Selby Town, Tadcaster, Appleton Roebuck, Brayton, Cawood, Escrick, Hemingbrough, Monk Fryston and Riccall have been completed and are currently being updated to reflect the comments received. It is hoped that the final versions of the Conservation Area Appraisals can be recommended for formal adoption towards the end of the year.

In December 2020 Members adopted a new Statement of Community Involvement. The new document proposed the removal of the requirement to send neighbours notifications letters concerning planning applications adjacent to their property. Officers agreed to carry out a consultation with Parish Councils six months after the changes were introduced to assess the implications arising from this change in procedure. Consultation has now taken place with all Parish Councils and the responses will be reported to Members in due course.

Planning Services

In the period between 1 June.2021 to 31 August 2021, 100% of major applications (N1 – N6) were determined within the statutory period or agreed extension of time. This equates to 4 determined, 0 within the statutory 13 weeks, 4 within the extension of time period

agreed and 0 out of time. These figures are higher than the national designation targets set by the Government for majors which is 60%.

In the period between, 1 June 2021 to 31 August 2021, 70.5% of minor applications (N13 – N18) were determined within the statutory period or agreed extension of time. This equates to 51 determined, 8 within the statutory 8 weeks and 28 within the extension of time period agreed and 15 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, 1 June 2021 to 31 August 2021, 74.8% of minor others (N20 – N25) applications were determined within the statutory period or agreed extension of time. This equates to 147 determined, 39 within the statutory 8 weeks and 71 within the extension of time period agreed and 37 out of time. These figures are higher than the national designation targets set by the Government for minor applications which is 70%.

In addition to the above during the same period we also dealt with 110 other applications which are not reported to CLG which include the following types:

HENS (Larger household extensions), Agricultural Prior approvals, Prior Notifications, Telecommunications, Discharge of Conditions, Minor Amendments, Works to Trees, County and other Consultations, Scoping reports and Screening opinions for EIA applications.

We also assessed 50 Permitted Development Enquiries (PD's) and determined 13 Certificates of Lawfulness. In addition, on 23 August a new Tree Preservation Order (TPO) was also confirmed.

With regard to Planning Committee in person meetings have continued. In the period between 1 June 2021 to 31 August 2021 we have had 4 Planning Committees. We have taken a total number of 14 planning applications for a committee decision within this period.

With regard to performance at appeal, in the period between 1 June 2021 to 31 August 2021 a total of 14 were determined of which 5 were allowed, 8 were dismissed and 1 was a split decision. We also received 10 new appeals. This includes complex appeals relating to the refusal by committee of the Gypsy and Traveller application at Hillam and the Enforcement Action relating to the unauthorised traveller site on the A63.

Since the week ending 7 May we have reduced the backlog from around 269 applications to 205 applications. This is the caseload minus the estimated capacity of the organisation. We have therefore reduced the backlog by 64 application which is around a 24% reduction against the initial figure.

On 1 September 2021 the Planning Enforcement team had 348 live enforcement cases open. We received 119 new cases and closed 169 within the preceding three-month period. The Planning Enforcement Team also served 4 Enforcement notices, 3 Planning Contravention notices, 1 Breach of Condition notice, 2 Stop notices and 1 Temporary Stop notice. A significant piece of work for the Planning Enforcement Team during this period related to an unauthorised gypsy and traveller site on the A63 with the Council taking action through the Courts.

Since the week ending 7 May we have reduced enforcement backlog from around 162 to 105 cases. We have therefore reduced the backlog by 57 applications which is around a 35% reduction against the initial figure.

To ensure that the Planning Service is adequately resourced the *Quarter 1 Finance report considered at the Executive on 9 September 2021 approved additional funding for the planning. The purpose of this funding was to help address the following current significant work pressures:*

- *the impacts of Covid and vacancies leading to a backlog and increased costs linked to the use of agency staff;*
- *pressures arising from large strategic applications particularly relating to the energy sector, they include both NSIPs and other commercial projects; and*
- *the significant amount of work relating to appeals on unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller sites.*

Low Carbon

Our work towards a low carbon future continues to progress well and a draft Low Carbon Strategy, developed by the Low Carbon Working Group, will be presented to the Executive for approval at the October meeting.

I have now asked the Low Carbon Working Group to work with our Low Carbon Officer to enhance the Action Plan to include a range of short- and long-term initiatives which will reduce our carbon footprint, taking into account feasibility around costs and timescales. Clearly, in the light of local government reorganisation, this Action Plan will need to dovetail with the County Council's work on the low carbon agenda.

In the meantime, I have agreed that the Council will work with its partners to offset its direct carbon footprint (Scope 1&2), identified at 1348t per annum by APSE, for the period 2018-2023 when the Council will cease to exist.

Richard Musgrave
Deputy Leader of the Council