



Councillor Mark Crane, Leader of the Council

Report to Council 21 March 2023

This report covers the period from 21 February 2023. I have attended meetings of the Local Government Association (LGA) and District Council Network (DCN).

In my last report to Council, I would like to reflect on my time as Leader of the Council and Lead Executive Member for Leisure, Strategic Matters, Place Shaping and External Relations and Partnerships. When I joined the Council I never imagined that 24 years later I would have been Leader for 20 years. I can honestly say that it has been a pleasure and a privilege. I have enjoyed working with all Councillors and understand that whatever our political differences we wish our communities to be great places to live and work. The new hospital and leisure centre are highlights of my time, but there are so many other initiatives that we have completed in that time.

I wish all my fellow Councillors all the best for the future and hope that we stay in touch.

Leisure

Selby District Council has agreed a licence from 1 March 2023 for four local GP surgeries to hold joint clinics at the summit building which will enable the four surgeries to work together and assist more residents with similar medical conditions to access the health support network. It is also planned for the surgeries to work closely with IHL to access leisure facilities to assist treatment and support. This is a trial to assess the wider health benefits of working closer with local surgeries and will form part of the new Council's strategic review of leisure across North Yorkshire.

Planning Policy

At the Executive meeting held on 2 March 2023 Members agreed that given the changes to local governance that any future decisions on the Selby District Local Plan should be made by North Yorkshire Council. It is anticipated that the Selby District Local Plan will be considered by North Yorkshire Council's first Strategic Planning Committee in May 2023.

The Planning Policy team have been involved in preparatory work for the development of a new Local Plan for North Yorkshire which includes input into the development of a new consultation database, Statement of Community Involvement and draft Local Development Scheme. The team have also led on the preparation of North Yorkshire Council's response to the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Local Communities consultation on planning reforms.

Planning Development Management

For the period 1 January to 28 February 2023, 80% of 'major' applications were determined within the statutory period or agreed extension of time. This equates to 5 determined, of which 4 were within the extension of time period agreed. The figure significantly exceeds than the national designation target set by the government for majors which is 60%.

In the same period, 76.5% of 'minor' applications were determined within the statutory period or within an agreed extension of time, equating to 34 applications determined, 26 within the statutory or agreed extension of time periods. The figure exceeds the national designation target set by the government for minor applications which is 70%.

Of 'minor other' applications, 84.8% were determined within the statutory period or within an agreed extension of time. This equates to 46 determined of which 39 were within the statutory or agreed extended time period. The figure significantly exceeds the national designation target set by the Government for minor other applications which is 70%.

In addition to the above, there were a further 87 applications determined during this time period which are not reported to DLUHC. These include the following application types:

HENS (Larger Household Extensions), Agricultural Prior Approvals, Prior Notifications, Telecommunications, Discharge of Conditions, Minor Amendments, Works to Trees, Overhead Line Notifications, County and other Consultations, Scoping Reports and Screening Opinions for EIA applications.

There were also 26 Permitted Development Enquiry submissions dealt with and 8 Certificates of Lawfulness determined.

A total of 9 appeal decisions were received during January and February, of which 8 were dismissed and 1 was allowed.

During this same time period, 72 new enforcement cases were received, and 1 Planning Contravention notice was served.

Joint working continues with North Yorkshire County Council on the 5 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project falling with the Selby District, which are at various stages with the Planning Inspectorate through the Development Consent regime. The most advanced of these is Drax BECCS, which was subject to preliminary meetings about the DCO and scheme in January prior to more involved meetings in March 2023.

Quarter 3 Performance

At the final meeting of Executive, we considered Quarter 3 performance. Considering the significant challenges over recent years, colleagues and I were very pleased to note that performance continues to hold up across a range of services. Notable performance in Quarter 3 included Benefits processing, Planning, Housing voids and Leisure centre visits.

Almost two thirds of KPIs were showing improvement over the longer term whilst 84% were either on or close to target performance. Progress continues on many of our priority actions and work on a number of these will go on into the new council.

We are confident that the services we are handing over to the new council are in good health. Colleagues and I expressed our grateful thanks to all staff for their commitment to the residents of Selby over recent years and to Stuart Robinson and the team for their support in helping Executive manage performance.

Mark Crane, Leader of the Council