



Councillor Richard Musgrave, Deputy Leader of the Council

Report to Council on 17th September 2019

This report covers the period from the Council meeting on 16th July 2019. During this period, I have attended Executive meetings and represented the Council at local and regional meetings including deputising for the Leader as required.

Reporting on the key items: -

Development Management

In the period between 01.06.2019 to 31.07.2019,

- 80% of major applications were determined within the statutory period or agreed extension of time. This equates to 5 determined; 1 within the statutory 13 weeks, 3 within the extension of time period agreed and 1 which was out of time. This is compared with 100% in the same period last year. These figures are significantly higher than the national designation targets set by the Government for major applications which is 60%.
- 70% of non-major applications were determined within the statutory period or agreed extension of time. This equates to 111 determined; 19 within the statutory 8 weeks and 59 within the extension of time period agreed and 33 out of time. This is compared with 85% in the same period last year, although the figure meets the 70% national designation targets set by the Government target for non-majors and does represent an improvement in performance on my last report to Council.

Performance at Appeal is a measure of how successful local decision hold up to scrutiny external to the Council. Performance remains high in terms of winning planning appeals. 5 appeals were determined in the period between 01.06.2019 to 31.07.2019 and they were all dismissed in line with officer recommendation.

The Gascoigne Wood Public Inquiry will be held from 22 October 2019 for three days. This application was for outline planning permission with all matters (scale, appearance and layout) except access and landscaping reserved for the demolition of existing colliery buildings and construction of up to 186,000 sq m (approx. 2,000,000 sq ft) of Class B2/B8 and associated Class B1 floor space with supporting container storage area and associated buildings, trackside facilities, access and landscaping. It was refused at Planning Committee on 20th March.

We currently actively recruiting a Planning Officer and a Senior Planning Officer for the Development Management team. This isn't an easy task as demand for candidates with this experience and skillset remains high in both the public and private sector.

Planning Policy

A report on the preparation of a new Local Plan for Selby District will be considered as part of this meeting.

The Council adopted the Core Strategy in October 2013 and have since been working on the preparation of a Site Allocations Local Plan to identify specific sites to meet the delivery of the current spatial strategy. Following this it was the intention to prepare a Development Policies Plan which was anticipated to be adopted in 2021. This has been a sound approach supported through ongoing legal advice however the context has now changed, and a different approach needs to be considered.

Recent changes to National Planning Policy published in July 2018, updated in February 2019, and the Council's strong position relating to housing land supply, put the Council in a strong position to begin the process of writing a new local plan. As the report outlines, there will be significant benefits to Selby District of producing a new plan which reflects current government advice to prepare a single Local Plan for an area.

The short timescales remaining post adoption of both the emerging Site Allocations Local Plan and the Development Policies Document means that a tipping point has now been reached and consideration should be given to commencing preparation of a new comprehensive Local Plan for the District, which better reflects the Council's Corporate Priorities and its social, economic and environmental ambitions.

The Council's 2019-2024 Five Year Housing Land Supply Report, which uses a base date of the 31st March 2019, has been published on the Council's website alongside the 2019 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. The report states that a total of 625 dwellings were completed between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2019 and the Council has 6.4 years of housing land supply.

The Annual Monitoring Report for the period between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018 has now been published on the Council's website. Work is already underway on the report for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2019. This report will also include the outcomes of the Town Centre Surveys and Local Facilities Survey which have been undertaken by the Policy Team over recent months.

Olympia Park

The Council is still working with the Olympia Park landowners to try and resolve the outstanding conditions relating to the £8.87m HIF Grant. This is difficult and complex work, but it is necessary to protect the Council's position.

Meanwhile the principal developer of the site, OPD Limited, continues to work on a comprehensive masterplan for the site which will take account of the updated flood risk. Understanding the flood risk mitigation measures which will be required is crucial for assessing the site's deliverability and viability.

Over the last few months the Council has done everything possible to facilitate the site's delivery, but it remains a difficult and complex proposition.

Climate Change / Low Carbon

At full Council on Tuesday 16th July the Leader of the Council set out a proposal in his report to address the low carbon agenda by setting up a cross party working party of 7 Members who will work with officers and report their recommendations to the Executive. The Leader has asked me to take this work forward and I have begun work with Officers to draft the terms of reference and scope for this work, which will be agreed by the Executive.

I propose to ask Policy Review Committee to lead on the development of the Council's policy and to report to Executive with recommendations for actions with targets for delivery in line with the Government's 2050 target.

The work will include a review of what the council is currently doing and identify opportunities for further action on climate change for example what can the Council do to offset emissions, or to invest in solar energy. The outputs should include prioritised proposals for current and future activities.

North Yorkshire County Council has also established a Climate Change Scrutiny Sub-Committee, the group has identified four work streams, which could also form the focus of the work in Selby and can be summarised as:

- Understanding the council's and district's carbon footprint
- Climate change action plan setting short/medium/long term priorities
- Develop an impact assessment tool to ensure climate change priorities are integrated into all council functions and policies.
- Governance and policy - to identify an appropriate level of governance to ensure leadership and oversee the necessary changes in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Richard Musgrave
Deputy Leader of the Council