



**Councillor Richard Musgrave**

**Deputy Leader of the Council**

**Report to Council on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

This report covers the period from the Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019. During this period I have attended Executive and represented the Council at local and regional meetings including deputising for the Leader as required.

Reporting on the key items:-

**Planning Policy**

In September Council gave approval for work to begin on the preparation of a new Local Plan for the District. We are currently consulting on the 'Issues and Options' document which is the first formal stage in the preparation of the new Local Plan. The consultation period closes on the 6<sup>th</sup> March and has included a number of public drop in sessions and formal public meetings. The responses to this initial consultation will help to inform a Draft Local Plan, which is scheduled for consultation in early 2021.

A number of pieces of supporting evidence that will inform the Local Plan have been commissioned including consultancy support for the Habitats Regulation Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities. Work on the preparation of a district wide highways assessment is underway; this will provide key information to inform the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

The Call for Sites exercise is also well underway with landowners and developers encouraged to submit sites for consideration as allocations in the Local Plan.

Consultation has taken place on the Council's draft Statement of Community Involvement. The response to the consultation was positive and it is hoped that the final version will be presented to Council for approval in April.

The Annual Report on the receipts from the Community Infrastructure Levy has been published on the Council's website in accordance with the relevant regulations. The report from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 sets out the total receipts received during the reporting year, total receipts held by the Council and the total passed on to Parish Councils. During this period a total of £695,699 was collected for the strategic fund with a further £130,444 collected for the Parish/Town Council projects.

**Development Management**

Sustained progress has been made in the following areas:

In the period between 01.11.2019 to 30.01.2020, 100% of major applications were determined within the statutory period or agreed extension of time. This equates to 5 determined, 2 within the statutory 13 weeks, 3 within the extension of time period agreed and 0 were out of time. This is

compared with 80% in the same period last year and significantly higher than the national designation targets set by the Government for majors which is 60%.

In the period between 01.11.2019 to 30.01.2020, 86% of non-majors applications (minors and others) were determined within the statutory period or agreed extension of time. This equates to 156 determined, 58 within the statutory 8 weeks and 77 within the extension of time period agreed and 21 out of time. This is compared with 78% in the same period last year. This equates to 137 determined, 54 within the statutory 8 weeks, 53 within the extension of time period agreed and 30 out of time. It does however represent an improvement in performance when compared to the last report to Council. These figures are higher than the national designation targets set by the Government for minor applications which is 70%.

It should be noted that both the application types listed above include allowances for the Extension of Time within the figures. An extension of time allows the timetable for dealing with development applications can be extended beyond the statutory period so long as the council and the applicant agree. Provided the council is then able to meet the new mutually agreed date, an application will be counted as satisfying the timeliness requirement for development applications. This allows for a positive outcome to be negotiated.

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. 7 appeals were determined in the period between 01.11.2019 to 31.01.2020 of all 6 were dismissed. Since April 2019 our Appeal success rate stands at 90%.

The Gascoigne Wood Public Inquiry ran for a further three days from the 8th January and the decision is expected by early March 2020.

On 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 it was confirmed that environmental law charity Client Earth is taking the UK Government to the High Court following the energy secretary's approval of plans to modify coal-fired generating units to gas-powered ones at Drax Power Station, Selby. Members will be kept updated on how this case progresses.

### **West Yorkshire Combined Authority Place Panel**

I attended the meeting in Leeds on 30<sup>th</sup> January, which included agenda items on the important role of culture in place making and the region wide efforts to emphasise the quality of design. I was pleased to be able to update the Panel of the work that the Council is doing on both of those priorities.

### **Climate Change**

There was a positive first meeting of the Low Carbon Working Group in January where the scope and timescales for the review were agreed. There was broad agreement on the importance of understanding the Councils current carbon footprint first, focussing on what the Council can directly influence and working with partners to deliver. There is a second meeting of the group at the end of February.

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