

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

20 FEBRUARY 2013

STATEMENT OF THE HIGHWAYS AND PLANNING SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR GARETH DADD

Highways and Transportation

Whitby Park and Ride

Members will recall that at the meeting of the Executive on 24 July 2012 it was agreed to accept the DfT funding offer of £3.661m for the Whitby and Esk Valley Local Sustainable Transport Fund Package. A key component of this Package is the construction and operation of the Whitby Park and Ride scheme. I am pleased to inform members that planning permission for the scheme was granted by the North York Moors National Park Authority on 17 January. Land purchase is being finalised and the scheme progressed with a view to commencing work on site in autumn this year at the end of the peak holiday period. The Park and Ride site is programmed to be operational by Easter 2014.

Highway Structural Maintenance Funding 2013/14

Members will recall that in the Government's Autumn Statement in December the Chancellor announced an additional £333m for a dedicated fund to provide for essential maintenance to renew, repair and extend the life of the highway network in England. I am pleased to inform members that North Yorkshire has been allocated £3,939k for 2013/14 and £2,108k for 2014/15 respectively from this fund.

This is a welcome addition to the funding received through the annual Local Transport Plan funding and will help deal with the damage caused by the flooding events experienced over recent months and more recent winter damage. The DfT requires Local Authorities to publish a short statement on their websites at the end of the respective financial years setting out what the additional funding has been spent on.

I am also pleased to note the additional £2m funding for 2013/14 allocated by the County Council to assist in addressing the deterioration of highway network.

A174 Sandsend Slope Stabilisation Project

I am pleased to report to members that funding for the Coastal Defence and Slope Stabilisation works required for protection of the A174 at Sandsend was approved by the Executive on 5 February.

The project is being funded by the County Council and the Environment Agency. The scheme provides essential protection to the A174, but also contributes to the broader coastal protection measures for this stretch of our coastline. As such, the £9.334M scheme is eligible for a £4.768M contribution from the DEFRA Flood Defence Partnership Funding Programme. The Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee confirmed the programme allocation on 24 January 2013, and officers are now dealing with the final technical queries from the Environment Agency before final approval is granted.

A planning application to Scarborough Borough Council is currently being prepared. Discussions are also being held with key landowners and scheme beneficiaries, to ensure that this essential scheme can progress smoothly and to explore where additional contributions might be available. The exact timing of the scheme will be determined once detailed discussions with the delivery partner have been held.

Planning Services

Allerton Park Waste Recovery Park

Allerton Park Waste Recovery Park Planning Application (Waste PFI Project) was reported to Committee on 30 October 2012 following a Members' Site Visit on 23 October. Members supported the Officer recommendation and approved the application. The County Planning Authority has a duty to refer the application to the Secretary of State for consideration whether to 'call-in' the application for his own determination. This referral has been undertaken and the decision of the Secretary of State was received on 30 January. The Secretary of State indicates that he has carefully considered the impacts and key policy issues and decided that the development would not conflict with national policy on important matters; have significant long term impact on economic growth; have significant effects beyond the immediate locality; give rise to substantial cross-boundary or national controversy; raise significant architectural or design issues; or that there is any other significant reason to call the application in. He has therefore decided that the application should be determined at the local level and has not called it in. The permission can therefore now be issued subject to prior completion of the necessary legal agreement.

Minerals and Waste

Discussions have been taking place with City of York Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority on the potential for production of a joint minerals and waste plan for the three authority areas. Agreement on a revised project plan to deliver this is being sought within the respective authorities and, subject to this, it is expected that a revised project plan will be published in April 2013. A move to a joint plan is expected to lead to cost and efficiency savings to NYCC over the life of the project but is also expected to extend the overall amount of time required to produce the Plan.

Infrastructure Delivery Steering Group

Alongside positive feedback from District and National Park partners, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has recently approached Planning Services to learn about the work that the County is doing through its corporate Infrastructure Delivery Steering Group. It considered the County Council's approaches to infrastructure planning to be best practice and could potentially be helpful for two-tier authorities within the Midlands to learn from and adopt in addressing their own challenges.

York Potash

In relation to the proposed York Potash development, and following a Members Seminar presentation on the 9th January, the County Council has responded to a consultation relating to the pipeline to transport potash from the mine (at Sneaton near Whitby) to Teesside for processing. This element of the proposed development has been deemed a nationally significant infrastructure development and will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate. The response recognised the significant economic opportunities presented by the proposed development, whilst suggesting ways in which any negative environmental or social impacts of the pipeline could be avoided or mitigated. Consultation on the minehead itself (to be determined by the North York Moors National Park Authority) is expected in the next few months.

GARETH DADD