

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

13 NOVEMBER 2019

STATEMENT OF THE OPEN TO BUSINESS PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR ANDREW LEE (INCLUDING GROWTH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING, WASTE MANAGEMENT, TRADING STANDARDS AND BUSINESS RELATIONS)

Economic Development

The LEP is advanced in the development of its Local Industrial Strategy which will be submitted to government by Christmas. The process has included significant local engagement working in partnership with councils and stakeholders across the area and will set out ambitious plans to drive productivity across York and North Yorkshire. The overriding theme is good growth in distinctive places, capitalising on the unique assets of our region.

Waste Management

Allerton Waste Recovery Park (AWRP) Celebration Event

Around 60 people, including current and ex-members and other invited guests, attended the celebration event at Allerton Waste Recovery Park on 28 October. The day provided a useful reminder of the benefits to the Council and our residents that Allerton Park provides. The plant has been receiving waste for 2 years and has reduced our reliance on landfill to only a fraction of what it was. In doing so it has reduced our carbon emissions by 100,000 tonnes over this period. A reusable coffee cup was provided to attendees as a memento of the day, and they are also available today for any members who was unable to attend on the day. The on-site Education and Visitor Centre has already welcomed more than 3,400 people including schools and community groups, and if you, your families or your friends haven't already been then I recommend that you book places through the Amey website for an entertaining and thought provoking trip to learn all about how our waste is handled.

As well as processing waste the facility has provided other benefits including a Landscape and Cultural Heritage fund. Over £680,000 of funding has been approved and the fund is nearing completion but there is still some opportunity for local residents and land owners to apply for up to £25,000 worth of funding for projects such as landscaping or planting. Details are available from Two Ridings Community Foundation who administer the scheme on our behalf.

Trading Standards

Business Advice to Start Ups

The Trading Standards Service continues to deliver business advice to Start Ups. As part of the Trading Standards Business Advice Strategy the Service offers free business advice to those new businesses or new ventures who are starting out. A new initiative under the Better Business for All (BBfA) programme has seen the Service assign Trading Standards Officers to work in conjunction with the County's District Council Growth teams for the benefit of North Yorkshire Start Ups.

One example of this has recently seen Trading Standards Officers working with Richmondshire District Council to support businesses as part of Richmond Business Week. Officers delivered presentations on regulatory advice topics at a number of workshops.

These sessions attracted over thirty Start Ups with a good mix of business types and the advice given was well received.

Planning Services

Following Examination Hearing Sessions into our Minerals and Waste Joint Plan both last year and earlier this year, our appointed Inspector conducted a consultation in light of the Government's response (published in May) to a judgment handed down in the High Court in March to which the County Council has responded. Work is continuing on the production of an updated Schedule of Main Modifications and public consultation on that Schedule will follow shortly after.

ANDREW LEE