

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

18 NOVEMBER 2020

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 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) secured £15.4m from the Get Building Fund. This funding has been allocated to 11 projects across the region for completion by 21 December 2020.

In addition, the LEP has published a plan to help the region reshape its economy following the impact of Covid-19. The plan, developed in partnership with Local Authorities and wider stakeholders is focused on what needs to happen in the next 18 months and is based around 10 pledges which will

- Protect jobs and businesses
- Create new job opportunities and
- Reshape the York and North Yorkshire economy to be greener, fairer and stronger.

Planning Services

Work toward the adoption of our Minerals and Waste Joint Plan with the City of York Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority continues albeit in somewhat more limited form over recent months due to Covid. Upon the work being finalised on the production of an updated Schedule of Main Modifications and the completion of accompanying statutory assessments, a public consultation will take place shortly thereafter with the anticipation of adoption before the end of this financial year.

Insofar as our processing of planning applications, the performance of the County Council, as Minerals and Waste Planning Authority, has remained buoyant during these unprecedented times of Covid and has seen the latest national published percentages consistently and comfortably above the 60% national threshold at 87.5% for the year to June 2020. Our current cumulative/rolling two year performance to the end of September 2020 for minerals and waste application processing is running at 93% (Planning Authorities achieving less than the 60% national threshold risk potentially being placed in 'special measures').

Changes to the Planning System:

In August the Government launched two major consultations on changes to the planning system, including a technical consultation and a White Paper on Planning for the Future. BES Executive Members have considered responses to both elements.

Local Plans

North Yorkshire County Council has been engaged on a number of Local Plan consultations; - Scarborough's Issues and Options consultation and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Local Plan 'Ambitions'. Harrogate Borough Council's Cabinet has approved the Regulation 18 consultation on its [new settlement Development Plan Document](#). This will include the vision, objectives, site boundary and concept plan which will require consideration. Additionally, officers continue to work with Selby District Council on the preparation of the Preferred Options for its new Local Plan and providing support to Hambleton District Council as its Local Plan progresses through its examination.

Economic Recovery Planning

Work has progressed on the development of a North Yorkshire Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery. This sits alongside the Y&NY LEP's Plan to Reshape the Economy, which addresses the challenges and opportunities arising from the Covid pandemic.

Together with North Yorkshire County Council and District Councils' recovery plans and programmes, a holistic economic response is taking shape for North Yorkshire. North Yorkshire County Council's Economic Growth Plan is being refreshed to reflect plans to address Covid recovery and the challenges and opportunities arising in the next few years.

MOD developments:

Officers are collaborating with the MOD and Local Planning Authorities to assist major development schemes come forward. An outline planning application for Clothholme urban village which will deliver 1,300 new homes and supporting infrastructure on the site of the former Claro & Deverell barracks in Ripon is now being processed. Project initiation meetings have been taking place on plans to expand Catterick Garrison as part of the Army's rebasing programme.

Waste Management

Temporary arrangements to help ensure the safety of staff and customers were introduced when HWRCs reopened in May but many have now been relaxed as the operation settles down and customers get used to new ways of working. Traffic controls were removed shortly after sites reopened and limits on the numbers of vehicles on site have been relaxed on many sites. Other controls are being kept under constant review to ensure they remain necessary, and will be removed as soon as it is possible to do so.

A cluster of Covid cases has affected operation of Allerton Waste Recovery Park. The first positive case was confirmed on 29 August 2020 with a total of 10 staff subsequently testing positive. Service continuity was maintained by permitting direct deliveries from Harrogate Borough Council however, the number of staff self-isolating (39) meant that the remaining loads were diverted to contingency disposal points. Allerton Waste Recovery Park commenced accepting waste deliveries on 19 September 2020 following the return to work of isolating staff. The visitor centre reopened with appropriate social distancing measures in place on 14 September following an agreed closure in March.

Trading Standards

Proceeds of Crime Act – victim compensation:

Following the previous successful prosecutions of offenders, the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Team has now secured Proceeds of Crime Act asset confiscation orders in relation to six offenders over the past month. As a result, sixteen vulnerable and elderly victims will receive back the monies they lost as a result of the offender's frauds. In total, just under £140,000 will be repaid to the victims over the next three months.

The victims include:

- A 92 year old male defrauded of £17,000. This victim has already received £9,000 back after trading standards worked with his bank to stop a payment and refund the monies to him. He will now receive a further £6,451.62.
- A male in his 70's who was defrauded of £18,500. He will receive £14,919.36 in compensation.
- The estate of a 73 year old male who was defrauded of £10,700. This male sadly died before the trial. His estate will receive compensation of £8,629.02.
- The estate of an 80 year old female who was defrauded of £94,500. This lady also sadly died before the trial. Her estate will receive compensation of £68,336.30.
- A vulnerable and disabled couple in their 60's who paid a total of £56,000, where an expert surveyor valued the works as being worth no more than £38,000. They will now receive compensation of £12,375.87.

- An elderly couple in their 70's who paid the males £35,000 for driveway and landscaping works to the front and rear of their property where an expert surveyor valued the works at their property as being worth no more than £25,000. They will now receive compensation of £8,609.30.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR ANDREW LEE