

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

17 FEBRUARY 2021

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) remains on track to fully deliver on the £145m Growth Deal it agreed with government. All investments must be complete by the end of March.

As a consequence of Covid19, there has been a delay in the launch of the Levelling Up Fund prospectus announced in the November budget, and the Shared Prosperity Fund prospectuses, however the LEP continues to prepare potential submissions.

The LEP is also leading work in engaging businesses post EU Exit to understand the implications and opportunities and enable access to specialist support.

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 during the Summer.

Waste Management

Covid restrictions and national lockdown provisions have had a significant impact on the volume and type of waste generated in North Yorkshire. The Council is on track to receive 6,300 tonnes more municipal waste in 20/21 compared to 19/20. Behind this headline, there have been big changes in waste flows reflecting how society has responded to the global pandemic. Household Waste Recycling Centres were closed during the first national lockdown, reopening during May and June with new site rules to maintain social distancing to keep people safe.

Trading Standards

Farming, Food & Health

During November and December the Farming, Food and Health section responded to three cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in North Yorkshire.

Two incidents near Northallerton of H5N8 HPAI affected two commercial turkey premises, where in excess of 10,000 birds were affected at each site. The third incident was a small backyard flock in Richmondshire and the birds (chickens) were affected with H5N1 HPAI.

A 3 km protection zone and a 10 km surveillance zone were declared around each infected premises, with specific rules applicable in those zones.

As of 19 January, all local restrictions have been lifted however the UK remains an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone.

Growth and Heritage Services

Officers continue to be engaged in providing support to businesses and residents through Covid including development of the Buy Local website.

North Yorkshire County Council Economic Growth Plan: Workshops are planned in February to develop a new action plan of key NYCC projects to support Economic Growth and Covid recovery.

Environmental Schemes

Officers have continued to work on schemes to support the conservation and development of North Yorkshire's environment. This includes engagement in schemes to support farmers and landowners to make the transition from EU funded farm payments to a new Environmental land management scheme and leading projects supporting environmental resilience and carbon net zero projects such as tree planting through the White Rose Forest initiative and mitigation of flooding projects.

Farm Advice in Protected Landscapes

The Howardian Hills Area of Natural Beauty (AONB) team alongside other AONBs and National Parks have received a one off payment to provide Environmental Land Management (ELM) advocacy advice to farmers and landowners. The programme will support farmers and land managers so they can work with Protected Landscapes to deliver environmental outcomes, lay the groundwork for the new scheme, and contribute towards the delivery of recommendations in the Glover Review of National Landscapes.

Skell Valley Project Funding Success

North Yorkshire County Council has been part of the team that has successful with a £1.4m bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Skell Valley. The project is a partnership between the National Trust, Nidderdale AONB and a wide range of local and regional partners. The total project cost is £2.5m and will deliver environmental improvements to the Skell Valley aimed at attracting visitors to undiscovered parts of the valley.

The Foss Catchment Project

North Yorkshire County Council is providing leadership, project management and funding to the Foss Catchment Project which has the long term aim of addressing water quality issues and reducing flood risk throughout the catchment by reducing the quantity of sediment reaching York. By working with key stakeholders it aims to identify major issues and the remedial actions require.

The Living Leven Project

North Yorkshire County Council is a key partner and has provided funding for the Living Leven Project. The aim of the Living Leven project is to identify opportunities in the catchment associated with matters such as:

- sustainable water quality improvements,
- improved natural flood management through flow control and decrease in silt / gravel build up
- increase in species numbers and habitat improvement eg through improved fish passage in the catchment
- increased community stewardship and awareness of the local environment.

This project development is in its initial phase, working on producing a plan that identifies the opportunities for a Leven Catchment Restoration and Enhancement project that can then be delivered over the next few years.

ANDREW LEE