

Statement by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

13 December 2011

Bagby Airfield Enforcement

On 15 September, 14 Enforcement Notices have been served on Bagby Airfield in respect of breaches of planning control. Mr Scott, owner of Bagby Airfield has until 20 December 2011 to appeal.

Neighbourhood Planning, Huby

The Council has made a bid for CLG Front Runner Grant of £20k to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for Huby, following a request from the Parish Council. The Parish Council is seeking to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan that has majority community support to address its local affordable housing needs and to improve its community facilities, including the village and sports halls. As the current Hambleton LDF does not provide for this, the best way forward is for the Parish Council to produce its own Neighbourhood Plan which would then take precedence over the adopted Hambleton LDF. Appleton Wiske is undertaking a Parish Questionnaire about the future needs and development of the village that may result in a Neighbourhood Plan.

York LDF Core Strategy

The Council has submitted formal representations on the York LDF Core Strategy. We are concerned that York's plans have sufficient flexibility to ensure that long term development needs can be met without adversely impacting on neighbouring parts of our District lying outside the Green Belt.

We look forward to working with the City of York Council in planning for future needs.

Community Infrastructure Levy

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a new levy that local authorities can charge on new developments with the money collected being used to support development infrastructure that the Council, local community and neighbourhoods want. There is a requirement for local authorities to have their CIL tariffs in place by April 2014 and from this point, Section 106 Agreements will no longer be able to be used. Work is therefore about to start on developing the Council's proposals for CIL. The possibility of working in partnership on this with other York and North Yorkshire authorities is being explored.

Shared Housing Service

The shared housing service with Richmondshire continues to develop. Work is underway to put in place new partnerships for the delivery of housing related support, and the management of temporary accommodation for homeless.

Homelessness

I was concerned to note the increase in homelessness presentations to the Council in recent months. In the year to the end of October, the Council has dealt with 145 applications for assistance – this represents a 46% increase compared to the same period last year. The reasons for this increase relate primarily to increased evictions from the private sector, increasing levels of parental exclusion and higher levels of domestic abuse. Officers report increasing difficulty in placing homeless clients in the private sector in order to prevent or alleviate their homelessness and as we are all aware, there is a significant shortage of affordable accommodation to meet local needs.

It is my view that the delivery of more and better affordable homes is more important than ever in these difficult times, and as the most extreme manifestation of housing need – homelessness – continues to rise, I will be promoting further improvements in this priority area.

Councillor Mark Robson
Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning