

Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning

18 September 2012

Shared Services

Repatriation of Planning Services

The repatriation of the Development Management and Planning Policy Services is well advanced. The effective date for the separation of the Planning Policy Service is 1 September with staff formally transferring back to Richmondshire District Council on 1 October. From 1 September the Hambleton Team will focus exclusively on Hambleton work.

The effective date for the separation of the Development Management Service is slightly later on 1 October because of the need to run down and redistribute officers' case loads.

Planning

Sowerby Gateway

On 21 August the planning permission for the Sowerby Gateway development was issued following the Highways Agency lifting its holding Direction.

Since the Local Development Framework (LDF) Allocations document was adopted 18 months ago planning permissions have been granted for about 1500 dwellings.

Gypsy and Traveller Sites

The Public Inquiry into the refusal of planning permission for the gypsy site and the enforcement action at Ings Lane, Great Broughton is scheduled for 25 & 26 September.

A Traveller Housing Needs Study has been completed to provide robust, defensible and up to date evidence on the need for new pitches over the period until 2027 in 5 year periods. The Study will be available for the Public Inquiry.

Bagby Airfield

In September Planning Committee will consider the actions it should take in response to the Ombudsman's report on how the Council has handled planning matters at Bagby Airfield and the impact that this has had on local residents. In particular it will look at the Ombudsman's recommendation that the Council seeks to recover planning control over the use of the airfield and consider the implications of making a Discontinuance Order.

The Inspector's decision letter on the Public Inquiry into the Enforcement Notices issued by the Council so far was received at the end of July. The Council was almost entirely successful in the enforcement action and as a consequence the owners will have to do a number of things over the coming months. Failure to comply with the requirements of the upheld Enforcement Notices could lead to prosecutions.

Resources for Enforcement

Staff resources for Enforcement are to be increased from 1.5 officers to 2.5 officers in order to improve the effectiveness of the service,

Waste and Street Scene

New Waste Vehicles

Orders have been placed for 10 new Refuse Collection Vehicles; these will be delivered in batches throughout October. Options are being considered for a flexible and cost effective advertising system for the sides of the vehicles

Councillor Mark S Robson

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning