

**Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and
Waste Management**

23 July 2013

Review of the LDF

Member and Stakeholder Workshops will be held in July and August to discuss which LDF policies should be reviewed. This will be followed by a report to Cabinet in October to formally agree the scope of the review and the resources needed.

It is envisaged that it will be a selective review limited to those aspects of the LDF which are not working satisfactorily or where circumstances have changed since policies were approved.

It will be 2 years before the changes can be formally adopted because of the statutory processes which must be followed, although it is likely that they would be used for Development Management purposes before this time.

CIL

There was a Member workshop on 11 June to discuss the outcome of consultation on the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule and the Council's proposed responses. 75 responses were received and 50% of these related to the proposed £10 rate on agricultural buildings.

Before reporting to Cabinet the viability work is to be rechecked in the light of the responses, a definitive infrastructure list is to be drawn up and further consideration is to be given to the base charge for employment uses. It is likely that the proposed charge for agricultural buildings will be recommended to be dropped.

A revised timetable is to be drawn up taking into account the Government's proposal for an extra year of current Section 106 Agreements. A further Members' workshop is to be arranged on the Draft Charging Schedule prior to consideration by Cabinet.

Travellers Sites

The Action Plan agreed by Cabinet in April 2013 to deal with the unauthorised developments at Ings Lane, Great Broughton is being implemented.

The application to the Court for an injunction is likely to be made by mid-July and the area of the site covered by the injunction may be increased by the inclusion of additional plots. Court proceedings have been started on a prosecution on one of the residential sites for non-compliance with an Enforcement Notice.

The outcome of the public call for possible travellers' sites is to be reported to Cabinet in July, the report will seek approval for a strategy for meeting travellers need through the provision of private sites. Sites at Tame Bridge (Seamer), Bankside Close (Sowerby) and Goose Lane (Sutton-on-Forest) will be subject to further investigation and negotiation which may result in planning applications.

Relocation of the North Yorkshire Police HQ

Although the decision to relocate the Police Headquarters away from Newby Wiske has not been yet, potential sites around Thirsk and Northallerton are being evaluated. The aim is for the Council to assist with the evaluation to help ensure the Headquarters remains in Hambleton.

The proposed development involves accommodation for teams at Northallerton Police Station and a new custody suite alongside a new Headquarters.

Recycling

There is to be more promotional work done to encourage residents to use the recycling service and recycle more in order to improve the recycling rate and gain the maximum benefit from the current recycling contract.

On 8 August the service is to be extended to 440 properties at RAF Leeming. After a successful trial in Bedale, 20 old litter bins in the Market Towns will be replaced with new recycling/litter bins. Three new bins have now been placed in Northallerton on East Road and on the High Street; the rest will be rolled out to Thirsk, Easingwold, Stokesley and Great Ayton. The new recycling/litter bins have apertures for paper/magazines, plastic bottles/cans and litter. The street sweepers collect the separated materials and take them back to recycling bins in their storage area where they are then emptied by the recycling crews.

Review of Homechoice

Changes to Homechoice, the joint North Yorkshire housing allocations scheme have been agreed. The changes reflect experience since the scheme was introduced in June 2011, research on the operation of the scheme and changes to the law and Government guidance.

The changes cover the size of properties applicants can bid for, restrictions on applications from home owners and those with high incomes or savings or significant capital assets, restrictions on applications from people with no local connection to the partnership area and tighter restrictions on those who can bid for homes in villages.

Building Control Partnership

The Building Control Partnership Board met in June to consider operational and financial performance for 2012/13. Overall performance is good with clear action being taken to address any areas of slippage. However, the economic downturn and associated reduction in building projects along with the redundancies made within the Partnership have resulted in considerable financial pressures. Management and the Board have identified key measures to address these risks to enable the Partnership to minimise its costs and improve efficiency through technology, whilst taking action to increase the market share in competition with the private sector. Early indications for the first quarter of the year are showing a surplus for the Partnership. This is a positive signal of recovery and efforts will continue throughout the year to improve the Partnerships position.

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Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Waste Management