

**22 JULY 2014**

**1. LDF Review – Consultation on Settlement Hierarchy**

As part of the selective review of the Local Development Framework all Parish Councils and Parish Meetings have been consulted on possible changes to the Settlement Hierarchy in Hambleton. This was discussed at the Member Workshop on 6 May 2014. The review of the Settlement Hierarchy arises from concerns that the current policy is too restrictive with regard to development in smaller villages. The aim is to allow some development in smaller settlements and align local policy more closely with national policy.

Two key questions are being asked:

- Should the Settlement Hierarchy be amended to include a new category of “Other Villages” to allow some development in these settlements proportionate to their size?
- What form of policy should be used to guide and control development in villages in the hierarchy; Development Limits as at present or a new criteria based policy?

The consultation also asks about the presence of various local services within each village. This information will help determine where villages should sit within the hierarchy.

Responses have been requested by 31 August 2014 and then a Member Workshop will be held on the outcome of the consultation and the form of the proposed changes to the Settlement Hierarchy. Once a preferred policy has been agreed there will then be a need for wider community and stakeholder consultation.

**2. North Yorkshire Building Control Partnership**

For the financial year ending 31 March 2014 the North Yorkshire Building Control Partnership has made an operating surplus of £71,000. This is the first year in the last three that the Partnership has made a surplus and that no additional contribution from the partners has been required. The surplus arises from increased income from inspection fees, plan fees and notice fees and is a result of increased confidence in the construction industry and building projects moving forward which have been on hold during the recession. Over the past year the Partnership also achieved most of its performance targets.

The Chairmanship of the Board is taken up on a rotational basis and at the Board Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> June I was elected Vice Chairman.

**3. Waste Management Review**

Shortly work will commence on a comprehensive review of the Council's Waste Service to inform how the service should be delivered in the future. White Young Green has been appointed to provide technical expert support on this project following a tender process.

The aims of the project are:

- to improve the service to customers;
- to improve recycling tonnages;
- to improve the efficiency of collections;
- to ensure that Health and Safety is a core consideration in any service redesign;
- to ensure that the Council is prepared for future developments that will impact on waste management including changes to the Regulations.

The review will also enable plans to be made for the increase in the number of homes built over the next few years.

The project will run from July 2014 and be completed by January 2016 when a new contract for the sale of dry recycle will need to be in place. Throughout the project there will be close consultation with Members through a series of workshops.

The project covers support on procuring a new recycling contract and on this element the Council will seek to bring in other local authority partners to share the cost of procurement and maximise the prices by increasing the volume of material brought to the market. At this point there are 5 other authorities interested in joining in with the procurement.

#### 4. **Environmental Health Service Level Agreement**

The Service Level Agreement with Richmondshire to deliver the Council's Environmental Health Service will be ended a year early on 31 March 2015 by agreement.

Discussions with Richmondshire on the division of resources and consultation with staff are underway.

#### 5. **Community Infrastructure Levy**

The Council has submitted its CIL Draft Charging Schedule for independent public Examination. The Examiner appointed for the examination has requested a hearing session to be scheduled to take place on Thursday, 7 August 2014. This will start at 10am and be held at the Civic Centre. The session is not expected to last more than one day. One respondent (GL Hearn acting for Gladman Developments) has indicated a desire to attend the hearing session.

The Examiner will shortly be publishing his Main Issues and Questions which will form the content of discussion at the hearing. Once the hearing has taken place, the Examiner will consider the evidence and present an initial report to the Council with his findings. Timescales for this have not yet been confirmed, however, guidance from the Planning Inspectorate sets a timeframe of 8 – 10 weeks from the hearing date. It is still anticipated that the target date for adoption of CIL will be November 2014.

Cllr Brian Phillips  
Portfolio Holder for Environmental and Planning Services.