

Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning

17 September 2019

Local Plan

A significant milestone has been reached in the completion of the Council's Local Plan, setting out the long term development strategy for Hambleton. The Council's Publication Draft Local Plan, published on the 30th July has been available for viewing and comments on whether it can be considered 'sound' and legally compliant; today marks the final date for submission of comments.

This version of the Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination along with the comments received; this is currently scheduled for November.

Planning Service Review

The Planning Service is currently being reviewed so that improvements can be made to service delivery. A team of external consultants from iESE, a not for profit organisation owned by member local authorities, have been undertaking a range of diagnostics to understand existing ways of working including getting feedback from Members, customers, agents and developers and staff as well as baselining the service with neighbouring authorities.

As the diagnostic phase comes to an end, iESE are working with myself, Cabinet and Management Team to develop the design principles that will be used to develop a 'Best in Class' Planning service for Hambleton. A final report on findings and proposals will be brought to Cabinet at a future date.

Homelessness Prevention Service

Changes to the way that support services are delivered to homeless people in Hambleton will commence in October this year. Homelessness related support services have been commissioned on a county-wide basis by NYCC but recent changes to funding have resulted in this service becoming at risk.

The delivery of such services helps Hambleton District Council to reduce the numbers of those who are affected by homelessness and is a core element of the Council's Homeless Strategy, helping the Council to meet its statutory duties.

A five-year grant proposal from NYCC allows Hambleton to bring this service in-house and guarantee that those who have found themselves in the unfortunate position of being in temporary accommodation or homeless are able to receive support from specially trained support workers.

Councillor David Webster
Portfolio Holder for Planning