

Statement by the Portfolio Holder For Environmental And Planning Services

5 April 2016

North Northallerton Development

At the time of writing this statement everything was on track for the S106 Agreement to be signed enabling the planning permission to be issued. The Council has also signed the funding agreement with the Local Enterprise Partnership for the £6m grant towards the link road and bridge. The first £1m has been transferred to the Council and this will be paid to the developers on evidence of expenditure. The first tranche of grant will be used for land purchase.

The developers anticipate that the junction works on Darlington Road and Stokesley Road will commence in August and house building will start before Christmas, with the first completions in late March 2017. The road and bridge are scheduled to be open to through traffic in December 2017.

Housing Options

The Council is seeking accreditation for its Housing Options Service under a national scheme administered by Government. The service is on target to achieve Gold Standard in July 2016 which is the highest standard attainable.

New Recycling Service

The new recycling service commenced on 29 February and the collections have generally gone smoothly. For the most part the new service has been well received by residents and the quality of recycling material on the whole has been excellent with little contamination. Issues have been a demand for bins from properties issued with clear sacks and a handful of missed collections.

Initial indications are that the changes should meet the objective in the Council's Waste Management Strategy to increase the recycling rate to 53%. Both participation rates and the tonnages collected have increased; in the first two weeks of operating the new system 258 tonnes of recyclables were collected compared to 178 tonnes in the same period in 2015.

Actual performance figures will be available at the end of Quarter 1.

New Local Plan

Preparation of the new Local Plan is on target and gathering pace. Currently the comments received in the Issues and Options consultation are being assessed and the outcome will be reported to Members in June. A total of 270 responses were received and 460 people attended the consultation events.

The next key milestone is for the Preferred Options to be reported to Cabinet in September and then to be consulted on. The Preferred Options will set out the Council's proposed strategy for development covering the scale of development, where development will take place, potential allocations and the broad scope and content of policies.

Work is continuing on assembling the evidence base which will support the new Local Plan. Currently an employment land review, open space, sport and recreation study and a traveller housing needs assessment are underway. Also the nature of highways and traffic evidence needed to support proposed development is being discussed with North Yorkshire County Council.

Councillor B Phillips
Portfolio Holder for Environmental and Planning Services