

**Local Plan**

Work on the Local Plan is progressing well. Work on the evidence base has almost been completed with background studies on Traveller Housing Needs, Employment Land, Retail and Leisure Development, Landscape Appraisal, Strategic Housing Market Assessment, Open Space Sport and Recreation Study and Flood Risk. These studies will be available to inspect on the Council's web-site.

Over 500 proposed development sites, mostly for housing, have been put forward in response to the Council's "call for sites" and all are being individually assessed against site assessment criteria. Members will be involved in the site assessment process and to assist this five area based Member meetings are to be arranged in July and early August to discuss the site assessments and the choice of sites to be included as suggested allocations in the Preferred Options document. The Preferred Options document will set out the Council's proposed strategy for development covering the scale of development, where development will take place and the broad scope and content of policies. Once it has gone through consultation this document will provide the basis for a full draft Local Plan.

**Building Control Awards**

The North and East Yorkshire Building Excellence Awards 2016 were presented on 8 June at The Royal York Hotel, York. There were two winners from Hambleton, Barkers Furniture Store in Northallerton under the best commercial building and also Harland Builders from Thrintoft who won the local builder/traditional craftsmanship of the year award.

**Housing Options Service Award**

The Housing Options Service has been awarded Silver Standard under a national accreditation scheme for housing services administered by Government. The service is on target to achieve Gold Standard by the end of July. To achieve this it will have successfully demonstrated excellence in 10 areas related to the quality of the service.

**Development Management Resources**

As a consequence of staff turnover the opportunity has been taken to improve and strengthen the structure in Development Management. Two Senior Planning Officer posts have been created with the aim of assisting the drive to improve quality and customer service. These posts sit below the Area Team Leaders and will provide more support for Team Leaders in managing the caseload and they will attend Planning Committee. One is already in post (Kevin Ayrton), the other (James Turner) is completing the recruitment process. In addition a new experienced Enforcement Officer (Patrick Costar) has been recruited and is in post.

**Neighbourhood Plans**

Several communities are either on with preparing a Neighbourhood Plan or are considering preparing one. The list is Appleton Wiske, Huby, Easingwold, Hutton Rudby, Ingleby Arncliffe and Stokesley. Council officers are providing advice and support and will keep Ward Members briefed about progress and any issues that arise.

An issue that must be worked out is how, taking into account the scope of each Neighbourhood Plan, they will dovetail with the Council's Local Plan to ensure the documents are in conformity and support one another to provide a strong, clear and up-to-date Development Plan. Discussion will take place on this issue with each community preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Brian Phillips  
Portfolio Holder for Planning