

Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning

18 July 2017

Local Plan

Local Plan preparation continues and is including additional work for a proposed increase in employment land. Engagement with Members continues through the Local Plan Member Working Group and the draft plan will be brought to Cabinet in December.

Housing

Preparations are underway for the Hambleton Small Business and Self-Build Conference on 25 July at the Town Hall in Stokesley. This is the second of such events in the area and aims to raise awareness of the Community Housing Fund and Council's Self-Build Register. The event will also create an opportunity to match landowners, developers and builders and offer access to advice on planning process and mortgages. These events are being viewed with interest as sub-regional pilots.

The policy for the allocation of the Council's Community Housing Fund has been agreed in July. This ring-fenced grant of £195,277 will be used across the district to develop community led housing, supporting the set up costs for community organisations, initial feasibility work and project management costs.

Development Management

Progress is being made with the application to the High Court for an injunction to end the unauthorised use and to prevent re-occupation of a plot of land in Great Broughton, this has been an ongoing issue for a number of years and despite previous enforcement the occupier has remained in residence on the land. Having exhausted all other enforcement options this is the necessary step to remove the risk to highway safety caused by a dangerous site access.

A newly appointed Planning Officer commenced her role within the Development Management Team on 10 July; this role will assist the existing team in focussing on continued improvement and is in response to the government's intention to increase planning fees to ensure better quality service.

Councillor David Webster
Portfolio Holder for Planning