

Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning

Local Plan

I am pleased to report that the preparation for the submission of the Local Plan in March this year is on track and will be submitted in line with the recommendations approved by Cabinet and Council last year.

In support of the Local Plan submission, a Cabinet paper will be presented to gain approval of the Local Plan for Development Management purposes, setting out the weight that may be given to the emerging plan policies when determining planning applications.

Development Management

The full Planning Service review has now concluded and a number of recommendations are being drawn into an action plan which will develop a best in class planning service for Hambleton. This includes looking at developing more effective communication and more efficient processes, improving ways of working, installing a new planning software system and staff training and development. A seminar for Members will be held in March and will provide an overview of the work to be undertaken, allowing an opportunity for questions and for Members to meet the Chief Planning Officer, Jon Berry, who commences his post on 24th February.

Planning Committee gave approval this month for the design details of the North Northallerton Link Road Bridge. This is a key element of the infrastructure that is necessary to deliver the North Northallerton Masterplan and we can expect to see a start on site by the end of March with an expected completion by the end of October 2020.

Housing

I am pleased to report successful performance in the completion of house builds, a recent report to the sub-regional Housing Board identified that Hambleton had completed 101% of its 2019/20 target by the end of quarter 2. This equates to 292 completions in the period against an annual target of 290, 34% of which have been delivered as affordable housing.

Similar successes are being seen in the delivery of the Disabled Facilities Grant with 45 completed adaptations delivered by 31st January. Compared to the 24 delivered last year we have seen a significant increase in the number of schemes that have been completed and this has been contributed to by the council appointing a dedicated DFG Officer.

Councillor David Webster
Portfolio Holder for Planning

25 February 2020