

## **Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning**

**13 April 2021**

### **Local Plan**

The Inspectors continue to engage with the Council to support progress of the Local Plan. Most recently they have set out how the increased needs shown in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment require the Council to take action stating that:

“without an identified supply of deliverable sites we are concerned that relying solely on windfall proposals will not meet the needs for gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople defined by the GTAA. In the absence of a positively prepared strategy, this aspect of the Plan is unsound.” (Inspectors Post hearing letter 22 March 2021)

The Inspectors indicate three options to amend the Local Plan to address the issue. Of the three options presented (to allocate sites, to carry out an urgent review, or to remove the Policy HG 6 and prepare a new Development Plan Document), the most appropriate option is considered to be a modification to include a commitment to carry out an urgent review (with 6 months of adoption) of this Local Plan to ensure that there is a supply of specific, deliverable sites to meet the needs for gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople (as identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment January 2021) over the plan period. The urgent review will have regard to the equality impacts of the Local Plan in accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty contained in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

Consultation on the amended policy HG 6 and the additional evidence is expected to run from April to mid-May 2021. Thereafter the Inspectors will consider the representations, possibly by hearing session(s) in June or July 2021, leading to the preparation of Main Modifications to the Local Plan and further consultation prior to receipt of the Inspectors report and finalising the Local Plan for adoption later in 2021.

### **Ingleby Arncliffe Neighbourhood Plan**

The period of consultation on the Ingleby Arncliffe Neighbourhood Plan has closed, examination arrangements (by written representations) are in place with an expectation that a referendum on the Plan can be carried out in the summer of 2021.

### **Development Management**

Application submissions continue to be high and this has generated an increase in fees received of more than 20% in comparison to the previous financial year. The service is processing both minor and major development proposals including schemes for draft allocation sites in the Local Plan such as the construction of 154 dwellings on land north east of Easingwold Community Primary School and employment development on the former Dalton Airfield.

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Portfolio Holder for Planning