

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

8 NOVEMBER 2017

STATEMENT OF THE OPEN TO BUSINESS PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR ANDREW LEE (INCLUDING GROWTH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING, WASTE MANAGEMENT, TRADING STANDARDS AND BUSINESS RELATIONS)

Waste Management

I am happy to report that since the last meeting of the Council, the commissioning of Allerton Waste Recovery Park has started and is progressing as expected. We began delivering residual waste to the facility on 31 July, delivering anything between 700 and 5,000 tonnes per week as required, from a network of waste transfer stations operated by Yorwaste or their sub-contractors. Waste not delivered to Allerton Waste Recovery Park is being delivered to landfill sites at York, Wakefield, Market Weighton and Teesside.

The plant performance is being closely monitored by Amey and their construction contractors, with issues resolved as quickly as possible.

The mechanical treatment plant is processing up to 6,000 tonnes per week of black bag waste to remove cans and plastic bottles. The separation into various material streams is working well, and the amount of each stream is increasing as the equipment continues to be fine-tuned. Materials are now being sent to the recycling markets.

The separation of organic material is also working well, with the anaerobic digester plant now over half full and producing bio-gas. The biogas generators have been tested and have produced green electricity successfully during those tests.

The energy from waste facility has been operating at full capacity of 40 tonnes per hour, and electricity has been successfully exported to the national grid. This part of the facility is now undergoing its final acceptance tests. Ash from the plant is being recycled into aggregates for use in road construction, and metals extracted from the ash are being sent to the recycling market.

We currently expect the facility to be fully operational at the end of January as planned.

Construction of the visitors centre is almost complete, and Section 106 works in the area are progressing well. The Landscape and Cultural Heritage Fund has been well subscribed, with 28 projects receiving funding totalling £397k to date. Before our next Council meeting we expect to have moved into the fully operational phase of the facility – when I hope to be able to confirm that nearly all of our waste is finally diverted from landfill.

Growth, Planning and Trading Standards

The Council has submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Homes and Communities Agency for a Housing Infrastructure Fund grant for a package of measures in Selby town. The EOI was developed as part of our Better Together initiative. In total the bid identifies £88 million worth of infrastructure that is in need of investment, and seeks £73.5 million funding to help deliver this. It spans seven sites across Selby town, four of which are owned by local authorities, including NYCC land at Cross Hills Lane. Olympia Park is also included in the package. Altogether this funding could help to secure over 3,600 additional homes. The overarching themes of the Selby Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Package are connectivity, flood mitigation, land remediation and land assembly. A decision is anticipated in early 2018 and if successful a detailed business case will then need to be prepared.

Planning

Since the last members update, much activity has taken place with regards the Hydraulic Fracture site in Kirby Misperton, preparations by the company on site have continued and they are still in the process of erecting the noise barrier and setting up monitoring, which were required as part of the planning consent. In addition, the 'work-over' rig has arrived on site, this is the equipment used to survey and prepare the borehole, prior to commencement of hydraulic fracturing in the next phase of works. We understand the hydraulic fracture plan and monitoring plan have yet to be signed off by other agencies and the Secretary of State; which may be imminent.

The county council has an agreed traffic management plan, which Third Energy must comply with. However temporary road closures of sections of Habton Road in Kirby Misperton have been instigated by North Yorkshire Police on occasion and these have been deemed necessary for safety reasons when protests have taken place outside the KM8 wellsite. As a result, traffic has been diverted through other villages in the vicinity of the site and we understand the very real concerns of residents affected by the diverted traffic and in these circumstances, we are working with the police to ensure diversion routes are signed to minimise any disruption which will occur

Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan

The Joint Plan is making its way through the democratic machinery of the partners, namely ourselves, the North York Moors National Park Authority and the City of York Council, giving the authority to submit the Plan to the Planning Inspectorate for formal Examination in Public early next year. This is a vitally important piece of work which will create an agreed policy framework for minerals and waste development across the county, the Moors National Park and the City of York.

Economic Development

The York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is now in the process of developing a local Industrial Strategy to play into the National Industrial Strategy. It is hoped this will secure investment from the Shared Prosperity Fund which is where much of the money currently sent to the EU will be reinvested.

ANDREW LEE