

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 FEBRUARY 2018

### **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 the commissioning of Allerton Waste Recovery Park is almost completed. The testing and commissioning phase is going well and the plant performance is being closely monitored by Amey and their construction contractors, with the inevitable tweaks and teething issues being resolved as quickly as possible.

The mechanical treatment plant is processing up to 6,000 tonnes per week of black bag waste to remove metals, 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 recycling markets. The Mechanical Treatment Facility successfully passed its Take Over Test and the Certificate was issued on 19 December and has been handed over to Amey in advance of Service Commencement.

The energy from waste facility has been operating since July last year well and electricity is being exported to the national grid. The Energy from Waste facility passed its Take Over Tests on 25 December and the test certificate is due to be issued once remaining documentation has been completed. Bottom Ash from the incineration processes is being recycled into aggregates for use in road construction, and metals extracted from the ash are being sent to the recycling market.

Organic materials in the waste stream are being separated out by the mechanical treatment plant and processed through the Anaerobic Digester. The digester is producing bio-gas which in turn drives a gas engine to generate renewable electricity.

The AD commenced the 28 day Take Over Test on 22 January 2018 and Amey is currently demonstrating that the facility is capable of meeting the requirements of the tests set out in the contract.

We currently expect the facility to be fully operational towards the end of February, which is slightly behind programme, but not a material delay given the complex construction and testing programme.

Construction of the visitors centre has been completed and the centre is being fitted with state of the art interactive features, games and information about the AWRP facility and key waste management messages. The postponed member visit is being rearranged for April and members will be contacted shortly with invitations. The visitor centre will be available after full services have commenced for tour groups of schools, interest groups and members of the public and tour spaces can be booked on Amey's project website.

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.

## **Growth, Planning and Trading Standards**

### **Fracking**

Since the last members update, the KM8 well site in Kirby Misperton has reached a stage of operational readiness to proceed to Stage 2 which comprises the actual hydraulic fracturing process itself; however, all operations are on stand-by pending the final decision of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. Until such time as the Secretary of State's decision is known, the well site will see minimal activity and routine maintenance operations only.

The Council has been and continues to work with the North Yorkshire Police to ensure demonstrations by the protestors are peaceful and safe whilst at the same time seeking to minimise the disruption to the local communities around the well site.

### **Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan**

Having submitted the Joint Plan to the Planning Inspectorate at the end of November last year, work is progressing well on the run-up to the formal Examination in Public which will start at the end of February. 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 remains on track to deliver its key targets around infrastructure investment, skills support and business support. A key focus going forward will be to develop its Local Industrial Strategy. This will be the vehicle for North Yorkshire priorities to secure investment for growth. The County Council continue to work closely with the LEP to influence and shape the strategy.

ANDREW LEE