

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

16 MAY 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

Commissioning of Allerton Waste Recovery Park (AWRP) is complete and full services commenced on 1 March 2018. As is normal with this type of construction project, there are a small number of snagging items remaining which are being monitored by the Independent tester and will be completed over the next few months, but they do not affect the services provided to the Council. The mechanical treatment plant is processing up to 6,000 tonnes per week of black bag waste, and Amey are now fine tuning the operation of the plant to extract materials for recycling. The sorting equipment in the MT plant is capable of being reconfigured to target different materials as the composition of waste and markets for recyclables change, meaning that Amey are able to ensure the plant operates efficiently whilst maximising the amount of waste that can be practically recycled.

The energy from waste facility is operating and producing anticipated amounts of electricity for export into the National Grid. Incinerator Bottom Ash is being recycled into aggregates for use in road construction, and metals extracted from the ash are being sent for recycling. In the first month of operation none of the waste delivered to AWRP was sent to landfill and, including bottom ash approximately 20% of waste delivered to AWRP was recycled.

Organic materials in the waste stream are being separated out by the mechanical treatment plant and processed through the Anaerobic Digester. The digester is an organic process which takes time to stabilise but amounts of bio-gas produced by the process are increasing and are successfully being combusted in the gas engines to generate renewable electricity, which is again exported to the national grid.

Construction of the visitors centre is 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. Many Members will have seen AWRP for themselves on 18 April but those unable to attend still have the opportunity to visit and can book places through Amey's website. The visitor centre is also available for tours for schools, interest groups and members of the public.

Section 106 works on the listed structures and boundary wall have been completed. Since the last meeting, a further £165K of funding was awarded to a further 11 projects from the Landscape and Cultural Heritage Fund. Details of successful projects are available on request or can be found on the Two Ridings website.

Growth, Planning and Trading Standards

District Heating Study -The County Council and Hambleton District Council have been successful in securing a funding offer of £33,500 from the Government's Heat Networks Delivery Unit (HNDU) to undertake initial technical studies to establish the feasibility for a potential District Heating scheme in Northallerton.

Northallerton has been identified for the pilot studies due its concentration of public sector agencies, its compact urban area and the opportunity to connect with and support proposed new developments such as the redevelopment of the former prison site in the town centre.

The funding will allow us to undertake research that will identify the energy needs of the town and determine the most appropriate strategy for a potential heat network.

This will help us to progress the County's Economic Growth Plan ambitions for low carbon energy generation and the development of sustainable local communities. It will also help to support our 2020 initiatives for improving the efficiency of our property portfolio.

We anticipate that the research will be completed within about 9 months.

E-Crime

The sentencing of the final two defendants in Operation Dougal has taken place. In all, seven people will now serve a combined sentence of 39 years and 11 months for their part in a £37 million online fraud. Hundreds of thousands of consumers were duped into paying inflated prices for a variety of official online government services, from applying for a passport to booking a driving test.

Planning

Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan – On the 13th April we saw the last of the Hearing Days conducted in respect of the Local Plan Examination in Public. Work is now underway both on submitting any outstanding information requested by the Inspector and also on the next stage of the process to prepare further paperwork; after which another period of public consultation will be undertaken.

ANDREW LEE