

East Yorkshire Planners User Group

Minutes of Meeting held at County Hall, Beverley on 25th October 2019 at 3pm.

Present: Stephen Hunt, Stephen Cook, Chris Hodgson, Owen Robinson (ERYC) Killian Gallagher, Gemma Owston and Nik Wilson (Agents)

1 Apologies: Jo Wright

2 Matters arising from previous minutes: No matters arose from previous minutes

3 Policy Update: Concerns were expressed by agents regarding the Council's approach to residential site assessments being carried out under the Local Plan Review Process whereby sites in smaller villages have not been assessed. Several agents have contacted KG to express disappointment with this approach as it is felt that the Council indicated a willingness to look at residential allocations in smaller villages at a meeting in County Hall when the consultation was launched in 2018. When the Council reviewed its housing figures in line with new Government guidance, it was concluded that projected housing need can be met in towns and larger villages. This approach is in line with the Council's existing settlement hierarchy. Agents will have an opportunity to make representations when the Draft Plan is published next year.

The Local Development Scheme will go to cabinet in November 2019 and will set out a timetable for the future stages of Local Plan preparation and adoption. The fact checking responses submitted to the Council in recent weeks are currently being reviewed by ERYC.

The Council has updated/is updating its evidence base including a Town Centre and Retail Strategy, a SHMA, an Employment Land Review and level 1 (ER-wide) & level 2 (Goole and Hedon) SFRA's. The Council is aiming to publish the annual 5 year housing land supply report in December.

4. Validations Update: The number of planning applications remains high and validations are currently taking c. 8 working days from submission of the application. The Council has recruited a new validation officer.

5. Validation Checklist: Please see attached a draft validation checklist which is currently out for consultation. Comments are invited by 13 December 2019.

6. Review of Pre-Application Process: The Council recognises the pre app process needs to be reviewed. In the future, the initial processing of all pre-apps will be by the Validation Team to ensure consistency of approach when checking for any constraints (this is currently being undertaken by the DSA's). The Council has also prepared a new template for officers to follow. The Council's intention is that pre apps will be issued in 28 days in the majority of cases. Any comments on the draft template should be fed back to Stephen Hunt or Stephen Cook.

7. Staff Update: Hannah Harne has returned to work as a DM team leader. Tom Booth Robinson has moved to the Strategic team, Catherine Dixon has returned to work in the eastern team and Karen Abba has moved to the west team. Gareth Jones has joined the west team from Leeds CC.

8. Enforcement Plan: The Council has now adopted an Enforcement Plan which is available on the Council's website. Agents are encouraged to review.

9. AOB: A concern that disproportionate weight is being attached to conservation officer comments in the consideration of planning applications/the planning balance. ERYC will take the comments on board.

Date of Next Meeting: Friday January 31 2020 @ 3 pm at County Hall, Beverley. **Agents wishing to place agenda items please contact Killian Gallagher on killian@gallagherplanning.co.uk or call Killian on 07392415369**