

**STATEMENT BY COUNCILLOR D J BASTIMAN
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Local Enterprise Partnerships

The North Yorkshire LEP has now been approved and the Council is looking forward to playing a full role in the development and delivery of projects. The Council is also pleased that it now has a seat on the board. In relation to the Coastal LEP a conference call was held with Cathy Francis, the Senior Civil Servant advising Government on LEP development in December. The three partners have re-articulated the shared economic links and objectives and are anticipating approval of this LEP in the coming months.

York Potash

The Council has also recently been involved in meetings with York Potash in relation to the proposed new Mine to be located within the Borough. This is huge and an exciting opportunity for the Borough and has the potential to create 5,000 jobs in construction, operations, servicing and support services to the Mine

Update of Offshore Wind Farm

The Borough Council's Project Board and Whitby Harbour Board continue to work in securing opportunities arising out of the wind farm industry.

The team are attending offshore wind events in Liverpool, York and Glasgow to promote the Borough's Port and infrastructure and Scarborough Borough Council hope to host another supply chain event of its own in the Spring.

We are also working with Grimsby Institute, Yorkshire Coast College, Whitby Fishing School and all the local secondary schools in developing courses and training specific to the wind industry and hope this will be available locally for next year's curriculum.

The project team are working with the offshore industry to determine the infrastructure and business requirements to encourage location in the Borough.

Whitby Business Park Feasibility

The Borough Council and North York Moors National Park Authority are working on the draft Area Action Plan which will be submitted to Government in Spring 2011 with a view to it being approved in late Summer. The Council is preparing the outline business plan which will be submitted for ERDF funding in the Spring and Regional Growth Fund phase two monies are also being sought in June/July. It is proposed to start on site late October 2011.

Spa

Progress continues to be made with the **Spa Project:**

- The Spa Grand Hall is progressing well and the new stage lift is being installed.

- Work to the cottage is complete and will be handed over to the Spa management on the 14 February.
- First and second fix mechanical and electrical works are going ahead for the new dressing rooms. All the drainage is complete and partitions are now all in place and plastered
- The sub station installation is now completed and the sub mains to the building are installed. The new NEDL supply cable is also in place.

Outer Harbour Onshore Facilities Building

Revised drawings incorporating the comments from the pre planning and the design review meetings were resubmitted to the design review panel on 20 October. The feedback was positive and several small items commented on have now been addressed. The designs have been for pre planning review on 16 December, with full planning permission being made early in 2011. Application for funding will then be pursued along with the possibility of part of the building being used by the Maritime Heritage group with their lottery funding being put towards the build cost.

Scarborough Job Match

Continues to deliver and has now supported 1574 people looking for work helping over 523 of them secure employment [up to the end of December 2010]. As well as working with individuals seeking work, the project has provided 120 local businesses with intensive support to retain and upskill their current workforce.

Scarborough Enterprise Match

The Council is the accountable body for the proposed project and lead partner with Leeds, York and North Yorkshire Chamber, Yorkshire Coast College, and Coast and Moors Voluntary Action. The project aims to create 50 new businesses, 55 jobs and support 170 existing businesses to grow. The Full Business Plan for the £2million project has been submitted and is currently being appraised, with a decision from Yorkshire Forward expected in February.

North Yorkshire Coast Employment and Skills Partnership

The Council continues to take a lead role in driving forward the work of North Yorkshire Coast Employment and Skills Partnership. The partnership aims to align skills provision with the needs of local businesses in key employment sectors. Current projects include:

- **Apprenticeships** – An increase in the number of local businesses taking on apprentices will create new jobs, improve competitiveness and provide new opportunities for young people and those seeking work. The Council are leading a campaign, working with the National Apprenticeship Service and 14 local apprenticeship providers to promote apprenticeships to local businesses. A promotional campaign, supported by Scarborough Evening News and Whitby Gazette will begin in March aiming to get local businesses to commit to creating 100 apprenticeships in 100 days.
- **Engineering and Manufacturing** - The Council has, together with local businesses, established Scarborough Engineering and Manufacturing Forum in order to co-ordinate a business led response to the needs of the sector. The council are currently working with partners and businesses to design a

programme of support to meet the workforce development needs of the sector.

Indoor Market

Christmas trade was similar to last year. Improvements have taken place to several stalls with some investment by stallholders.

St Helen's Square and Market Street will be closed for the annual pancake race, fancy dress and cooking demonstration, supported by St Catherine's Hospice, with live radio coverage and possible other media interest.

A programme of further activity taking place in the Market is being developed.

Town Centre

A Christmas debrief meeting was held with businesses to reflect and discuss events held, footfall, performance and future options and opportunities. Quarterly meetings will be held to explore financial and physical involvement in future events and the introduction of the Business Improvement District (BID) proposal.

The occupancy rate of town centre shops is 90.2% which is higher than the national trend of around 85%.

Inward Investment

Enquiries have been received from a restaurant operator for the Sandside area and also interest has been shown in the Gladman development on the Scarborough Business Park.

Renaissance

In relation to the action groups the Urban Space Group is working on the Tesco and Sainsbury planning applications to influence the design of projects. The Arts and Culture Forum are working with Create to deliver the Coastival festival during the half term holiday. The Creative Coast group will shortly be launching a project involving schoolchildren, NYBEP and private sector mentors from their sector. Discussions have been held between the Harbour Group and a private benefactor to add a further pontoon in Scarborough Harbour.

Looking to the future of Renaissance there will be a scoping exercise on 23 February to discuss the future of the Renaissance Executive and its role with the LEP.

The next Ambassadors' Dinner will be held on Thursday 17 February 2011 at Beiderbecke's in Scarborough, sponsored by HSBC. Chris Fraser, the MD of York Potash will be attending to tell us about this exciting opportunity.

FORWARD PLANNING AND CONSERVATION

Potentially significant changes to the development plan making process are in the pipeline, following the presentation of the draft 'Localism Bill' to Parliament just before Christmas. Officers have provided training for Members to draw attention to the emerging themes of the Bill. A key element is the potential for local community groups to develop 'neighbourhood plans' that, subject to compliance with a number

of procedural and evidential 'tests' could become part of the statutory development plan for the area.

The pressing need for an up to date suite of local planning policies remains, and the challenge will be to respond to the changing political situation – in particular through responding the Localism Bills desire to see greater active public involvement in plan making - through building on the work that has been undertaken in respect of the Local Development Framework to date.

Work continues on the Whitby Business Park Area Action Plan, being prepared jointly with the North York Moors National Park Authority. A draft Plan will be brought before Members in the near future, with a view to progressing this document through to formal submission stage as soon as possible, in order to capitalise on potential private and public sector investment, and ensure the area is well-placed to take advantage of the off-shore wind generation and potential mining investment activities.

Work is also continuing on the programme of Conservation Area appraisals across the Borough, with the publication of the Cloughton appraisal, and continued progress being made on the review of Whitby.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Planning Performance

Performance at the beginning of quarter four is 52.63% for major applications, 71.77% for minor applications and 84.54% for other applications respectively. Performance for majors continues to be less than our former high standards and is less than the national target, but better than originally expected, given the number of complex applications currently under consideration. The minors and others are also down on previous performance (though still above national targets.) The cumulative figures are still affected by poor performance during the Summer, through sickness coinciding with the holiday period, although the latest monthly performance is 66.67% for majors, 87.10% for minors and 90.91% for other applications.

Application Numbers

Application numbers currently stand at 726 to early February. Application numbers at the year end are likely to be around the 800 mark, similar to last year (819). Fee income has remained robust, reflecting the size and complexity of some of the schemes submitted and is likely to exceed target income.

Planning Briefs

Work is progressing on the preparation of Planning Briefs for the Futurist, the McCain stadium, Filey Road Sports Centre, Whitby West Cliff and the former Park and Ride site at Weaponness.

Major Projects/Applications

Officers are currently dealing with a number of major schemes for retail and housing developments. These are very significant developments which take up a lot of officer time and are of a scale and complexity which the Government recognises are not easy to deal with in 13 weeks.

Retail Schemes

Applications regarding a new retail store for Tesco at Dean Rd and an extension to the existing Sainsburys store in Scarborough are both currently under consideration and it is expected that they will be dealt with at the same time in April. The consultation period for both applications has been extended until the end of February.

Housing Developments

The Authority has been negotiating with developers on a number of major sites at pre-application stage, and some of these have now either come forward, or are likely to be submitted in the very near future. Applications currently under consideration are the reserved matters application for 300 dwellings at Muston Rd Filey, (to be determined at Planning Committee on 17th February), proposals for 170 dwellings at Larpool Lane Whitby, and proposals for affordable housing at Helredale Rd Whitby. The outline application for the Middle Deepdale development for 1200 dwellings, is expected imminently. Proposals for 160 dwellings at Cloughton, proposals for 40 dwellings and business units at Gristhorpe, reserved matters proposals for 170 dwellings at West Garth Cayton and reserved matters proposals for 500 houses and business units at High Mill Farm Scalby are under discussion. These sites will help to bring forward much needed affordable housing.

Decentralisation and Localism Bill

Training for members on the implications of the proposals in the draft Bill and how they affect the Planning Service have recently been held. At the present time further details are required from the Government on how some of the proposed changes can be made to work in practice. The main impact for Development Management is in the field of enforcement where some procedures are to be streamlined and made more effective, thus hopefully reducing the length of the process. These changes are much to be welcomed. Further reports will be made to members as the Bill progresses.