

Local Plan Working Group

5 December 2016

Report of the Assistant Director for Planning and Public Protection.

E Petition: Ownership of Property and Land in York Plans

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to ask Members to acknowledge the receipt of an ePetition entitled 'Ownership of Property and Land in York Plans', which was submitted by lead petitioner Geoff Beacon on 10 July 2016 (this was subject to a further wording amendment by the petitioner), and to consider how it should be best dealt with by the Council.

Background

2. The ePetition was submitted to the Council on 10 July 2016 (but was subsequently subject to a wording amendment by the petitioner) and ran from 8 August 2016 until 29 September 2016. The amended petition stated:

"We the undersigned petition the Council to do the following:

When proposals for the development of land and/or property are made in York, we petition the Council to publish the identities of the owners and beneficial owners when the enhanced value given by the grant of planning permission is estimated to exceed one million pounds. For such proposals, estimates of the value of the granted planning permission should be published and the dates at which the ownership and beneficial ownership commenced or when options were purchased."

3. A full copy of the ePetition and details of signatories are shown in Annex A to this Report.

4. Given that the ePetition has 14 signatories on it, it has been entered on the Council's Petition Register, to be dealt with through the relevant process.
5. The ePetition is aimed at publishing the identities of owners and beneficial owners of land when the estimated value exceeds one million pounds through the granting of planning permission, or when options were purchased on the land in question.

Analysis

6. The Local Plan process relates more to the submission of land for consideration as potential development sites rather than the granting of planning permission, which would be given at a later date, following consideration by officers, public consultation and public examination. Additionally, due to phasing of allocations, the granting of planning permission in some cases may not be until later in the Local Plan timeframe.
7. Consequently, it is considered that it would be best addressed and considered through the Executive Member for Transport and Planning, as it is closely related to the granting of planning permission, rather than directly with the Local Plan process.

Next Steps

8. Officers therefore consider that the ePetition should be referred to the Executive Member for Transport and Planning for consideration and action at a future Decision Session.
9. The outcome of the consideration of the petition will be reported to the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC).

Council Plan

10. The course of action outlined above accords with the following priority from the Council Plan:

A Council That Listens To Residents – the report recommends that Members consider that the ePetition is passed on to the Executive Member for Transport and Planning to be considered at a future Decision Session, which demonstrates an example of listening to residents.

Implications

11. The following implications have been assessed.

- **Financial** – None;
- **Human Resources** - None;
- **Community Impact Assessment** – None;
- **Legal** – It is considered that legal advice should be sought on the issue of making public the names of landowners / private individuals as this may be considered as confidential information.

Risk Management

12. In compliance with the Council's Risk Management Strategy, it is considered that there is a risk associated with the potential making public the names of landowners / private individuals as this may be considered as confidential information.

Recommendations

13. It is recommended that the LPWG:

(i) notes the content of the ePetition and refers it to the Executive Member for Transport and Planning to be considered at a future Decision Session.

Reason: So that the ePetition is considered, and actioned as appropriate, due to the nature of its content.

Contact Details

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Executive Member Responsible for the Report:

Cllr I Gillies

**Report
Approved**



Date 24/11/16

Specialist Implications Officer(s):

Sandra Branigan, Senior Solicitor, Planning

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Brief Guide to dealing with Petitions.

Glossary of Abbreviations

None

Annex A:

ePetition entitled 'Ownership of Property and Land in York Plans'

Annex A:

EPetition

Title: Ownership of Property and Land in York Plans

Statement:

We the undersigned petition the council to do the following:

When proposals for the development of land and/or property are made in York, we petition the council to publish the identities of the owners and beneficial owners when the enhanced value given by the grant of planning permission is estimated to exceed one million pounds. For such proposals, estimates of the value of the granted planning permission should be published and the dates at which the ownership and beneficial ownership commenced or when options were purchased.

Justification:

See York's great £1 billion giveaway,

<http://www.yorkmix.com/news/opinion/yorks-great-1-billion-giveaway/>
and

Work in progress. A plan for York, <http://www.brusselsblog.co.uk/work-in-progress-a-plan-for-york/>

Start Date: 8 Aug 2016

End Date: 29 Sept 2016

Total: 14 Signatories

ePetition Signatory	Date Signed
Geoff Beacon	08/08/2016
Dennis Edwards	09/08/2016
John Craven	13/08/2016
Catherine Atkinson	16/08/2016
Richard Bridge	18/08/2016

Gerard Hodgson	20/08/2016
Tony Jawando	22/08/2016
Al Hamilton	22/08/2016
Jake Stewart	01/09/2016
David Emsley	02/09/2016
Monika Szenkowska	03/09/2016
Rosie Semlyen	03/09/2016
Oskar Hall	03/09/2016
David Smith	07/09/2016