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Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning
Date	17 October 2019
Present	Councillor Waller

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## 15. **Declarations Of Interest**

The Executive Member was asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests that he might have in respect of the business on the agenda. None were declared.

## 16. **Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the last Decision Session held on 9 September 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Executive Member.

## 17. **Public Participation**

It was reported that there had been two registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme, the speakers have registered to speak on items 4 and 6 [Developing the York Economic Partnership and Strategy] and [Permitted Development Rights for solar panels].

Michael Hammill noted that his application for solar panels had been rejected. He requested that the Executive Member make sure planning policy was in line with dealing with a Climate Emergency.

Gwen Swinburn supported the comments of Michael Hammill, suggesting that similar applications in such circumstances be automatically referred to Planning Committee. In regards to the York Economic Strategy, she raised concerns that it was not strategic enough for the city.

## **18. Developing the York Economic Partnership and Strategy**

The Executive Member considered a report that set out York's current Economic Strategy and what the Council's new Economic Strategy will be seeking to achieve. The Head of Economic Growth gave an overview of the report. The Strategy will seek to continue growth seen in recent years, but with a renewed effort to enable all of York's communities to benefit from that growth. As well as an objective to work with low-paid sectors to improve productivity and help them provide better jobs.

The Executive Member stated that it is important that we are clear what will benefit York, its residents, and business', particularly small business who employ the majority of people in the city. He thanked the officer for capturing his own views on a York People's Panel, noting the importance of receiving the actual experiences of people in the city.

Resolved: That;

- i. The broad outline of the new Economic Strategy, as set in the report be noted;
- ii. The establishment of a York Economic Partnership and a York Peoples' Panel consultation, as set out in the report, be approved.

Reason: To support inclusive economic growth in York.

## **19. Supplementary Planning Documents Update**

The Executive Member welcomed the report and the Development Officer provided an overview of the report, outlining the progress update and scoping details of the prioritised Supplementary Planning Documents for Green-Blue Infrastructure and Affordable Housing. As well as recognising Members commitment to Carbon Reduction, Renewable Energy and Sustainable Design and Construction SPDs.

The Executive Member noted it was good to see that Passive House was now the standard for all houses that are about to be constructed. He noted that Blue Infrastructure is a term known mainly to the council, therefore any communication should make

clear what is Blue Infrastructure in relation to flood prevention and how we live with water. The Executive Member also stated that he was happy to see the report is factoring in Northern Forest as a natural Carbon Reduction tool.

The Development Officer provided an overview of the report. In response to questions from the Executive Member, officers confirmed that:

- The Council will have a consultation strategy for when the draft SPD is brought back to Local Plan Working Group and Executive.
- The consultations will be published in advance of the statutory period, using social media, press releases, and council wide newspaper.

The Executive Member requested that officers brief all relevant departments and relevant committee chairs, to allow for submissions to be ready for the consultation on the Carbon Reduction and Renewable Energy SPD's.

Resolved: That;

- i. The progress of the Supplementary Planning Documents be noted;
- ii. The scope of the Green Infrastructure SPD be endorsed to allow the draft document to progress;
- iii. The scope of the Carbon Reduction, Renewable Energy and Sustainable Design and Construction SPD be endorsed, to allow the document to progress as the next priority SPD.

Reason: So that work on interim draft Supplementary Planning Documents can be progressed prior to adoption of the York Local Plan.

- iv. A report be taken to the Local Plan Working Group and Executive regarding the production of an Affordable Housing SPD and the implications of national policy changes.

Reason: So that Members are aware of potential implications of the NPPF (2019) on affordable housing policy and

consequential implications for the production of an SPD.

- v. A future report on Green-blue Infrastructure Strategy be taken to Executive to endorse the scope, timetable, and resources required for a GBI strategy and action plan.

Reason: So that work on a draft GBI strategy and action plan can commence.

- vi. A response to the government's consultation on whether to implement changes to Part L of the Building Regulations be taken to a joint Decision Session of the Executive Members for Environment and Climate change, and Economy and Strategic Planning.

Reason: So that the Council can submit a formal response to the Government led consultation on Building Regulations.

## **20. Permitted Development Rights for Solar Panel**

The Executive Member considered a report outlining current Permitted Development Rights for Solar and Photovoltaic (PV) Panels. The Head of Development Services introduced the report, stating that in most cases, given the provision of permitted development rights, residents and businesses in York would be able to install Solar and Photovoltaic Panels without requiring formal planning permission. Utilisation of Permitted Development rights to install PV panels is something the Council is keen to encourage the usage of. There are a number of factors in which permission might be required. Each application is considered on its own merits and its impact on both the property and surrounding area which will vary on a case by case basis.

In response to questions from the Executive Member, the Head of Development Services confirmed:

- That there was a correction to the report page 80 paragraph 8 (of the agenda pack). 'In 2018 the Council received 16.no applications which included Solar or Solar PV equipment either as a standalone proposal or which were incorporated

into a larger proposal. Planning permission was granted for 14 of these applications, 1 planning application and 1 Listed Building Consent (at the same site) were refused due to the impact of the proposal on a heritage asset.’

- The process undertaken when an application is made in a conservation area. Confirming if amendments could be made that would allow the application to be accepted then discussions will be held with the applicant, if this is not the case then the application will be rejected.
- For household applications there is a 8 week decision target for applications. This can be extended if agreed with the applicant.
- Development Managers track applications including to make sure they are remaining within the 8 week decision target deadline.
- The department continue to monitor new products in a variety of ways, including ones that maybe more sympathetic in conservation areas.
- That relevant guidance and examples of best practice could be included on the council’s website.

The Executive Member welcomed the report and noted that it is important to show the council’s commitment to tackling climate change. He also noted that the historic nature of a house does not preclude renewables.

Resolved: That;

- i. The City of York Council support steps to reduce carbon emissions within this city;
- ii. The content of the report be noted and that officers continue to review options for suitable products for solar power in conservation areas and on historic buildings and to update the council website accordingly and take appropriate steps to publicise changes to permitted developments;
- iii. Comments made at this meeting be included in consultation on the Carbon Reduction, Renewable Energy and Sustainable Design and Construction SPD.

Reason: To recognise the importance of the commitment to tackle climate change and maintain transparency to

the public, and the feed comments made at the meeting into ongoing SPD's.

Cllr. A Waller, Executive Memeber

[The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 2.38 pm].