

## Ripon City Plan – Delivering the City Plan

During the last month we have completed the analysis of your responses to our consultation, and identified where changes need to be made to the City Plan. The priority of the volunteer team is now to complete our work in order to formally submit the Plan and achieve our aspiration of having the community referendum later in the year.

We will be publishing all of your comments on the City Plan website later this month, together with our responses and further considerations, so it may be appropriate to comment about this next time. However, this month we want to focus on and try to address a small number of concerns raised about the implementation and deliverability of the City Plan as this is fundamental.

As a Neighbourhood Plan, the Ripon City Plan needs to comply with the Neighbourhood Planning legislation introduced in 2012. The purpose of this was to give local people a greater say over planning the future development of the places in which they lived. This means that the main emphasis of the City Plan is planning policies; statements which developers need to comply with when proposing new developments. These may take the form of encouraging investment in certain types of development in particular locations, such as our approach to allocating sites for hotels, or putting in place criteria which must be met, such as our approach to unstable land.

So, the delivery of the plan is achieved by attracting private sector developer investment but ensuring that the growth that this brings happens in the right places. In this way development which meets today's needs does not create greater problems in the future.

Everything that the City Plan team has done so far has necessarily complied with the legislation. Once we submit the City Plan to Harrogate Borough Council, as the local planning authority, they also then have a number of processes to carry out as laid out in the statute books.

This is important in a number of respects but most crucially because it will be an independent examiner who will be appointed to assess the City Plan. There may be different approaches to particular issues proposed in the Ripon City Plan compared to the Harrogate District Local Plan, and other organisations may also make representations with their own views. However, it will ultimately be an independent person from the planning inspectorate who will listen to the arguments and decide whether or not to recommend changes to the City Plan.

Unlike the Local Plan (and we have said it many times before), for the City Plan to be implemented it must also be supported by the people of Ripon. The community referendum is the opportunity for everybody that lives within the city's boundaries to have a say on the future. So implementation will also be dependent upon the majority of you, residents of Ripon, voting for it at the community referendum.

At a very early stage it became obvious to us that in order to deliver the future you want for the City we needed to go further than just proposing planning policies and include important projects. These projects will require funding and once the plan is submitted we can begin to work on the further development of these projects. We are undoubtedly in an age of austerity but for good projects money is available. Just look down the road at Skipton and the recent announcement of £5m from the Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Fund for employment and housing growth which will attract £30m of private sector investment. In coming years we want Ripon to benefit from major investment like this and we believe the vision and approach we are taking will enable this to happen.