



For immediate release: 17 August 2018

### **Councillors reject plans for huge factory farm near York**

Yesterday (16 August), City of York Council rejected plans for a huge factory farm for chickens in Rufforth, near York.

The controversial farm could have held up to 144,000 birds at any one time. The Planning Officer dealing with the application had recommended that it should be refused. This decision was confirmed at a Planning Committee meeting on 16 August, where councillors voted to reject the proposal.

The plans generated thousands of letters of objection, with local people and national organisations all speaking out against the new farm. National animal rights group Animal Aid ran a vigorous campaign against the plans, and over 5,000 people objected through their website.

The plans were originally recommended for refusal back in 2016, but these were withdrawn before they could be formally rejected. The plans were later re-submitted, but significantly reduced in size.

Says Animal Aid Director, Isobel Hutchinson:

*'We are greatly encouraged that the council has rejected this disastrous application. It would have condemned thousands of chickens to a short life of utter misery. Whilst imprisoned in this vast factory farm, they would have been deprived of everything that made their lives worth living. We would like to thank the people of Rufforth and our supporters for demonstrating the strength of opposition to these plans.'*

#### Notes for Editors:

- For more information, please contact 01732 364546
- The Planning Application can be viewed at:  
<https://planningaccess.york.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=OB7Y6USJMSJ00&activeTab=summary>