



Councillor Chris Metcalfe

Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development

Report to Council on Tuesday 24 April 2018

This report covers the period from the Council meeting on 22 February 2018

Better Together Customer and Communities

Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council have been working together for the last 3 years to look at ways we can help customers access services in a more efficiently, but also to help communities take a lead on how to promote self-sufficient neighbourhoods that can make a local difference.

The work has included the transfer of library services to community groups, upgrading IT facilities and supporting local groups to pilot or establish local initiatives. These have included examples such as establishing community activists to encourage and develop local community and voluntary organisations, and establishing a Youth Well-Being Fund with Selby College Students to support low level mental health issues. The community hubs have now been firmly established at Sherburn and Tadcaster; Sherburn also particularly benefiting from a successful Lottery grant application to bring the Old Girls School into community use. Selby library is currently receiving a refurbishment to create better meeting space and to upgrade its computer access offer. All the work on the programme has been about enabling the community to deliver more efficient services for themselves and to find ways to deliver online services in an accessible and local way. The installation of upgraded IT equipment at all sites is close to completion and should enable customers in our more rural communities to have better online access to both county and district services.

Economic Development

Support to Eggborough Power Station Staff affected by closure

Since the announcement that Eggborough Power Station is to close in September, the Council has been working with Eggborough and Job Centre Plus Selby to support those affected by the closure. A jobs fair took place on 7th March at the power station to help those at risk of redundancy to find alternative employment. The jobs fair was well-attended by a broad range of local businesses and agencies promoting their vacant positions and was extremely successful, with several Eggborough employees receiving job offers from the companies present.

The Eggborough site remains an area of investment for our District, with proposals in place for a brand new gas-fired power station adjacent. As far as the Council is aware, this development is not affected by the existing power station closing. We will continue to support Eggborough Power Limited with this development, as well as working closely with them to explore how we turn the closure of their existing power station into an

opportunity that creates sustainable high-value employment and economic prosperity for the whole of Selby District.

Strategic Employment Sites

Following on from the last update to Council, significant progress continues to be made to bring forward 'strategic employment sites' in Selby District.

Sherburn2

Sherburn2, the 1.25 million sq. feet employment site adjacent to Sherburn Enterprise Park, has received national news coverage in recent months following site visits by Heathrow Chairman, Lord Deighton (11th February) and Northern Powerhouse Minister, Jake Berry (12th February).

The site is one of 65 sites across the UK shortlisted to be an offsite hub for the expansion of Heathrow Airport - the Council worked jointly with Glentool Estates, the developers behind to Sherburn2, to support their Heathrow Logistics Hub submission.

The Council's Economic Development team is working closely with the developers to attract new investors into the District.

Church Fenton Airfield

The Council's Economic Development team are leading a partnership set up between the Council, Makin Enterprises, Screen Yorkshire, YNYER LEP and the anchor site investor for the planning development and delivery of a dedicated creative hub – "Create Yorkshire". The process is designed to provide a coordinated approach to delivering a new, major growth sector to this Strategic Development site with the long term potential to create up to 2,500 new, high skilled jobs within the district.

SME Support

Over 73 SMEs in Selby District have been supported over the last 9 months through face to face meetings – with time ranging from 1 hour upwards;

Strategic Engagement and Partnership Working

The last few months have seen the Economic Development team engage with a host of key stakeholders and strategic documents with the aim of ensuring that the growth opportunities that exist in Selby District are understood and articulated by the Council's strategic partners and key influential bodies.

Responses to the following documents have been submitted:

- **Leeds City Region's HS2 Growth Strategy** – The Council's response conveyed our support of the strategy but communicated our belief that a lot more could be articulated in the document of the role of Selby District in contributing to the future economic success of Leeds City Region given the District's super-connectivity, skilled workforce and wealth of new employment opportunities. The Council's response outlined the major growth opportunities across the District and the benefits for both Selby District and the wider city region of achieving investment in better rail connectivity to and from Selby District;

- **Transport for the North's Strategic Transport Plan** – this response to TfN's long term growth vision of the North's economy (to 2050) parallels our response to the Leeds City Region's HS2 Growth Strategy. We have reinforced the long term potential of the District's Strategic Development sites to drive growth, skills and wealth across the region and in turn the whole of the North's economy. Critical to this potential being realised will be the ability to unlock these sites through a fully integrated infrastructure strategy that recognises Selby District's significant role in the economic success of the North. This approach has been endorsed by major investors throughout the district such as Drax, Potter Group and developers Harworth Estates (Kellingley and Gascoigne sites) and Glentool (Sherburn2);
- **East Riding of Yorkshire's Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022** – The Council's response conveyed our support of the strategy and outlined the similarities shared between Selby and East Riding's economy and our respective economic plans, and the potential to maximise growth through greater partnership working. The Council's response goes on to highlight some of the major economic opportunities within Selby District of regional significance, before expressing the benefits of taking a joint approach to lobbying for rail upgrades, such as the electrification of the Selby-Hull line, and the importance of connecting areas of strategic employment growth to areas of significant housing growth.

The Economic Development team is currently engaging with the following documents:

- The Government's Industrial Strategy White Paper;
- Feeding into the development of York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Enterprise Partnership's Industrial Strategy; and,
- Feeding into the development of Leeds City Region's Local Inclusive Industrial Strategy.

As work on these strategic documents progresses, we will bring regular updates back to Council.

Chris Metcalfe