



Cllr Mark Crane

Leader of the Council

Report to Council on 22 February 2018

This report covers the period from the Council meeting on 12 December 2017. During this period I have attended a number of meetings on behalf of the Council. Reporting on key items:

Corporate Peer Challenge

The LGA Peer Challenge took place during the week commencing 13 November. At the last meeting of Council I indicated that the report would be presented to full Council for discussion. This appears on our agenda tonight.

I welcome the report which gives a positive endorsement of the Council, its members and officers and its growth plans. I would like to thank the review team for the efforts they have put into the report and recommendations, fellow councillors, staff and partners for their input into the process.

The report makes some suggestions for how we can improve matters and the agenda item for discussion includes an action plan that has been agreed by the Executive subject to the comments that Council may make tonight.

District Council Network

At the time of writing this report I am preparing to attend the DCN National Conference 2018 in Warwick which is themed around Better Lives, Stronger Economies with the Chief Executive.

I will report back on matters of interest at the meeting.

Devolution to Yorkshire

I will be attending a meeting in Westminster on 27th February along with other Yorkshire Leaders where we will be discussing devolution. The Rt Hon Sajid Javid will address the meeting and outline the latest position.

We will continue to press the case for the best devolution deal possible for a broader Yorkshire footprint.

Budget Setting

I have been heavily involved alongside my Executive colleagues and the Council's officer leadership team in discussions for the budget proposals for 2018/19. The proposals appear on our agenda tonight and the detail is in the Papers and in Councillor Lunn's report.

There is a lot more to the process of budget setting than appears from the papers including the detailed work by service areas, the finance team and the briefings for the Executive and the different groups on Council. I would simply like to record my thanks to officers and my fellow Executive Councillors for the work that has gone in to preparing the proposals that will be considered.

Housing Infrastructure Bid

On 1 February Government announced that Selby had been successful in its bid for £8.9 million to unlock development on Olympia Park. The funding will come from the Housing Infrastructure Fund which is a Capital Grant Programme providing grant funding for new infrastructure to unlock new homes.

Selby District Council worked collaboratively with landowners to submit the proposal for the Olympia Park site in Selby. The bid was supported by the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding and Leeds City Region LEPS and Selby College primarily focused on the construction of a new link road with associated junction improvements and addressing abnormal development costs associated with poor ground conditions which has been holding back the start on site.

I am delighted that the bid was successful. Selby is the only North Yorkshire Council to be given funding and our ability to attract this type of investment is a step change for us as a Council, as recognised in the Peer Challenge Report, and a return on the investment we've made in the new staff resources to support regeneration.

We are now entering a 4-6 week period of due diligence with Homes England (formerly the HCA) before the grant agreements are signed. A report on this appears on the Agenda tonight.

Sherburn Girls School Grant Funding

I was recently invited by the Sherburn Community Trust to visit the Sherburn Old Girls School to see the progress that is being made on community led asset development in the area.

The Trust has done great work in securing a large Lottery bid of £230,000 as well as local business funding and materials to bring the former North Yorkshire County Council offices into community use.

In order to show Selby District Council commitment to this project, I have agreed to make a grant of £25,000 to help replace windows and make the building weatherproof. This will help the Trust open the doors to the public in the near future to offer a range of activities including a café, IT and digital learning support and health and well-being support.

Mark Crane
Leader