



**Councillor David Buckle**

**Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development**

**Report to Council on 13 April 2021**

**Economic Development and Regeneration**

As requested, on Thursday March 18<sup>th</sup>, the Economic Development and Regeneration team held an all member virtual briefing on the work of the team which was very well attended. The presentation covered the extensive range of the work delivered by the team on behalf of the Council on both a local and regional basis. The work was very well received by all those who attended.

**Regeneration**

**Revitalising Towns Initiative**

The SDC Officer team are currently working on finalising Implementation Plans, progressing projects and initiatives identified through the engagement process. A series of meetings will be held during April with the main stakeholders to scope out actual projects and initiatives to be taken forward. Work on developing a social media platform to promote businesses within the towns is currently being developed and will be launched during April.

**Selby District Places and Movement Study**

The early analysis work for the Places and Movement Study, including traffic modelling, has now been completed for the three towns Selby, Sherburn, and Tadcaster.

The next stage of the work will focus on the preparation of design and presentational material for public consultation. Approval was given to undertake the consultation exercise at the SDC Executive meeting held on 11th of March 2021. The consultation will gather views from the public and key stakeholders on the draft proposals for improvements to highway infrastructure and public realm. The key objective being the improvement of the town centres and create better places to work, visit, live, and spend leisure time. The proposed joint consultation with North Yorkshire County Council will run from 5<sup>th</sup> April until 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

After consultation, a preferred option for the town centres will be selected and more detailed designs will be progressed, with the aim of producing a final study report in May/June 2021. The document will be completed to a standard suitable for supporting any future application for Government funding.

A comprehensive briefing for all SDC Members focusing on emerging proposals in the Places and Movement Study took place on 18 March 2018. The briefing included a presentation from WSP, the lead consultants on the Study.

### **Selby Station Gateway Transforming Cities Fund (TCF)**

The Transforming Cities Fund project public consultation was completed on 23rd March 2021. The feedback from the consultation will now help shape the detailed project designs and along with the further detailed work on design and costs will inform the Outline Business Case (OBC) to be submitted to WYCA.

The March 2023 national deadline for completion of TCF projects was set by the DfT before the pandemic and remains very challenging, particularly for projects that involve land acquisition. Officers are in dialogue with WYCA over delivery timescales and Members will be informed as further information becomes available.

### **UK Governments Levelling Up Fund and Community Renewal Fund**

Further details of the government's Levelling Up Fund and Community Renewal Fund were announced as part of the 3 March 2021 Budget. Officers are assessing the funding prospectuses and also liaising with the other districts across York and North Yorkshire, the County Council and the Y&NY LEP to determine the best approach to seeking funding – this will ensure Selby District projects have the best possible chance of success.

### **Economic Development**

#### **Business Support and Growth**

Elmet Business Forum and Enterprise Café Networking continues to support businesses with motivational presentations and information sharing.

Engagement from existing businesses continues to relate to Covid, but issues raised also relate to regulations around reopening. The Council is already actively considering how we can best support businesses to re-open.

In Selby Town centre there are three new shops opening one on New Lane make your own pottery craft shop, two on Finkle Street a milk shake and dessert shop and upmarket gift shop. In Sherburn village centre all the shops are fully let, one that came up to let recently had over 30 inquiries with in 2 weeks.

We are now receiving an increased level of interest in business start-up enquiries and as a consequence more businesses are looking for small business units for which there is a critical shortage across the District. There are, however, two new developments of small business units coming forward, one on the A63 in Selby, the other at the entrance to the former Kellingley Colliery by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, both are due to start construction this quarter but will not become available until the end of the year.

All the strategic site developers across the district continue to experience a significant uplift in enquiries for new investment in commercial space. There is an increased demand for new manufacturing space from both UK and international investors and

closely reflects the Council's emphasise on bringing well paid, skilled jobs into the district. These include investment in leading edge agricultural technology such as vertical farming, and manufacturing components for consumer products.

### **Development of the Burn site**

The Selby District Local Plan 'Preferred Options' consultation took place between 29 January 2021 and 12 March 2021 and sought views on three options for a new settlement, including the Burn site.

Selby Council appointed consultants in February to assist with the preparation of the development statement, which included an indicative masterplan for the site and further technical assessments. The initial masterplan indicates the site can accommodate between 2,500-3,000 houses with new primary school and all necessary facilities.

Officers are currently working with Homes England, the Government's housing accelerator, to procure the appropriate technical work and supporting information including further advice on flood modelling and viability to further strengthen the case for new settlement at Burn Airfield.

The development statement was completed and submitted by the consultation deadline of on the 12 March. The Local Plan publication stage is expected in January 2022. The examination of the Plan is expected in Autumn 2022.

Officers are still carrying out further investigations into how the Council can work with other partners to promote and to deliver the Burn site as a new settlement to achieve the best possible outcome for the district and its residents.

### **Community Safety Partnership**

Covid Support Wardens were deployed on their first shifts in the District from February. Their main duties have been to visit areas of higher footfall or where there is a potential risk of increased transmission. This has included visits to supermarkets across Selby, Sherburn & Tadcaster and visits to Barlow Common and Brayton Barff. The wardens work generally once a week and will support as lockdown restrictions begin to ease. We anticipate that this will include a focus on town centres and the night-time economy as soon as able. Their role is to have a positive presence to help engage and educate residents and businesses on maintaining safe social distance practices. Where there are areas for concern then they will communicate with relevant services to ensure any necessary action may be taken. Deployment is decided upon using information from Public Health, North Yorkshire Police and SDC services and will vary from week to week.

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