



Councillor Chris Metcalfe

Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development

Report to Council on Thursday 22 February 2018

This report covers the period from the Council meeting on 12 December 2017

Selby Town Enterprise Partnership

The Selby Town #shoplocal campaign over Christmas has been received positively by retailers and shoppers alike with the social media reach topping 10,000. The STEP will continue to support the campaign which will help grow a local emphasis on shopping locally. Small Business Saturday, the Town Council Christmas Lights and the Market Cross Christmas activities have all contributed to this and been a coordinated approach through the STEP. The STEP's next initiative for the town is to look at alternative ways to bring more attraction to the Selby Town Centre through temporary, vibrant changes to town design which we hope to see embedding from early Summer, 2018.

The STEP is a local initiative with retailers and business in the town centre supported by Selby District Council's Programme for Growth. Over 2017 local businesses have been engaged to look at ways of making the town centre more attractive, focused on increasing dwell time and promoting local shopping areas. An increasing number of new and long standing businesses are coming to the table to discuss the town's needs.

Selby Youth Council – Big Local film

The Selby Big Local is a community led initiative in the Selby West and East ward areas. As part of developing their community development plan for 2018-20 the local Youth Council, consisting of young people from those areas, has completed a YouTube film, 'We Are Selby'. It gives some real food for thought about what it is like to live in the areas but also what they would like to see to support positive change. Local councillors, officers and the Central CEF chair attended the film's launch at Selby Town Hall in November 2017. To take that a step further, the Council's Extended Management Team have met with the young people and discussed the content of the film. The team have pledged to work with the young people: to support litter picks through Amey PLC; to discuss the design of their local areas with the Tenant Participation Officer on what we could do to make improvements in our housing stock; to engage their schools with careers discussions and mentor programmes; and to look at a youth representative position on the Central CEF Board.

Economic Development

Eggborough Power Station Closure

The Council is saddened by the announcement that Eggborough Power Station is set to close in September after failing to secure new contracts to continue generating electricity. The closure of the plant could see up to 170 jobs being lost, many of whom will have been working at the site for many years and are highly-skilled. Our focus at the Council now is to help workers find alternative jobs, with our Economic Development team working closely with Eggborough power station and Job Centre Plus Selby to explore the various options out there for employment.

Despite this sad news, 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:

Create Yorkshire, Church Fenton Airfield

The Council is working closely with Makin Enterprises to progress plans for a creative hub at Church Fenton Airfield (currently home to the Yorkshire Studios). Named Create Yorkshire, the project aims to develop space for a wide range of businesses within the creative industries sector on a purpose-built campus with the objective of delivering new and diverse employment opportunities in a new, growing and high-value sector for the District. The scheme offers the opportunity to deliver 2,000 jobs, and discussions with the anchor tenant for a £6m HQ investment are advanced with pre-application planning consultation already completed.

Gascoigne Rail Freight Interchange

A Steering Group has been formed to bring forward Gascoigne Rail Freight Interchange in Sherburn, a currently under developed employment site with nationally significant rail freight infrastructure. The aim is to develop the site for advanced manufacturing with emphasis being on the growth of automotive sub-assembly (and possible rail rolling stock). At this early stage, potential employment figures range from 1,500-2,000 FTEs.

SME Support

Over 60 delegates attended the Council's Nice to Meet You event on the 29th November which saw a range of business experts provide free advice and support to the District's SMEs. 3 workshops were held during the day which covered self-employment, how to grow your business, and what makes a successful grant application. Feedback from the event was extremely positive, with both delegates and exhibitors praising the quality of the event.

In relation to the various SME business support programmes Selby District Council is engaged within, the following has been achieved since the last update:

- £7,350 has been awarded to a brewery in Selby by the Resource Efficiency Fund.

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.

This includes the following:

- The Government's Industrial Strategy White Paper;
- Transport for the North's Strategic Transport Plan;
- Leeds City Region's HS2 Growth Strategy;
- Feeding into the development of York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Enterprise Partnership's Industrial Strategy; and,
- East Riding of Yorkshire's Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022.

As work on the above progresses, we will bring regular updates back to Council.

Recruitment

Following the last update to Council, the Senior Inward Investment Officer position that was previously vacant in the Economic Development & Regeneration team has now been filled.

Finally, it is with regret that I announce the news that James Cokeham (Head of Economic Development & Regeneration) has left Selby District Council to join pastures new. James has been at the Council for two and a half years, and was integral to driving forward the Council's growth-focussed agenda and building the Economic Development and Regeneration team that has already achieved a number of early successes. We thank James for all his hard work and commitment over the last two and a half years, and we wish him all the best in his new venture.

We are moving forward to recruit for this key position, with Iain Brown (Economy & Infrastructure Manager) and Chris Kwasniewski (Housing & Regeneration Manager) supporting Dave Caulfield in the interim until the position has been filled.

Chris Metcalfe