



## **Councillor David Buckle**

### **Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development**

#### **Report to Council on 22 July 2021**

##### **Community Safety**

The Community Safety Partnership has supported the Ask for Ani campaign by distributing promotional material and engaging with licensed premises across the district. The campaign encourages people who are out on a date and may be uncomfortable to seek help to be discreetly removed from the situation.

The Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has been successful in its application to the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, with an award of £430,000. This money will be used to improve security measures in rural areas of our district which have an above average burglary rate.

##### **Member funding**

All members should now have the briefing material on the new member funding process which we have put in place to support you to work with your communities. Each Member has an annual funding allocation of £3,000 to support local causes to support proposals with a minimum funding ask of £300. Information can be found on the Councillor intranet for future reference and the public Community pages on the Council website. I am looking forward to seeing the diverse range of activity in your local communities.

##### **Business Support**

The Elmet & Selby Business Forum and networking group has commenced face to face meetings following demand from the group.

Work progresses on developing a range of workshops for Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) to help them recover and prosper following the pandemic. These will be free to attend and delivered by local businesses on subjects such as Confidence, Finance, Succession Planning, PR & Media, Social Media and Health & Wellbeing.

Plans for the 2021 Selby District Business Week are being developed and should be finalised by mid-July, the event is being targeted to take place in October.

As part of our plans to support businesses post pandemic, a joint venture to deliver a Skills and Employment Forum has been discussed with York & North Yorkshire LEP, the objective is to invite local businesses to discuss issues relating to future job needs, re-skilling and upskilling along with challenges being faced when finding new staff.

A joint visit to VPK Packaging in Selby is being scheduled as part of a new initiative to increase engagement with large businesses across the district. The key objective will be to build a stronger relationship with large employers in the district as soon as staffing resources permit.

May 2021 saw 34 businesses supported by our Senior Business Advisor across a range of topics from employment, skills, planning, Covid recovery, business diversification and funding support.

All the strategic site developers across the district continue to experience a significant uplift in enquiries for new investment in commercial space with a number looking to speculatively build large new units to satisfy the growing demand and investors priority for ready built factory units. This is also visible on the ground, with the Sherburn2 proposal being progressed through planning (pre-submission presentation in June) and reserved matters submission later this summer. The Harworth Group are also gearing up with the preparation of outline proposals for their sites in the district.

There is an increased demand for new manufacturing space from both UK and international investors which closely reflects the Council's emphasise on prioritising well paid, skilled jobs into the district. Working directly with the York and North Yorkshire LEP and the Department for International Trade has seen a direct increase in credible investment enquiries for development sites across Selby District.

## **Regeneration**

### **Revitalising Towns Initiative**

The SDC Officer team have completed summary documents listing potential schemes and their relation to wider Council initiatives and policies. The project sheets, known as 'Plan on a Page' (POAP) have been completed for each town. The Tadcaster POAP is still in draft format, but both the Selby and Sherburn POAP have been shared with the Town Centre Regeneration Board. The last Town Centre Regeneration Board, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 received a presentation from the Y&NY LEP, focusing on the LEP's Strategic Approach to Place. This initiated a good discussion at Board with Members considering impact of COVID on town centres and opportunities to progress lessons learned. The SDC Officer Team are currently defining priority projects based on outcomes from the Chris Wade Revitalising Towns work. This includes likely budget allocation and project delivery programmes. This work is to be completed shortly (end of June 2021) and further update will be provided once complete.

### **Selby District Places and Movement Study**

The key objective of the Study was to assess opportunities for the improvement of the town centres and create better places to work, visit, live, and spend leisure time. The joint consultation with North Yorkshire County Council completed on 23rd April. The project team will assess all consultation responses and propose a way forward, in partnership with NYCC. A report summarising the consultation, and proposed way forward will be submitted to September 2021 Executive meeting. This will also take account of current work being undertaken by the Local Plan Team in Tadcaster.

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

The Outline Business Case (OBC) was submitted to WYCA at the end of April and WYCA has requested further work to be done to show how the TCF contribution can be fully spent by March 2023, should the DfT not move the current funding deadline. Final approval for the OBC is now expected in later 2021, with recommendations on how to proceed to the Full Business Case (FBC) stage. This analysis will help define where further work needs to be undertaken, to strengthen the Business Case, and how that should be achieved. This will involve both NYCC and the lead consultants for the project WSP.

As previously highlighted, the March 2023 national deadline for completion of TCF projects, set by the DfT before the pandemic, remains very challenging, particularly for projects that involve land acquisition. Officers are in continuous dialogue with WYCA over delivery timescales and Members will be informed as further information becomes available. A report to the 8 July Executive has agreed a range of actions to support delivery of the TCF project and to respond to timescale challenges.

## **Shining Stars Awards**

The Council have received over 50 nominations winners will be announced at an Awards Ceremony at Selby Abbey on the 10th of September.

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