



**Councillor David Buckle - Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development**

**Report to Council on 28 September 2021**

**Business Support**

A joint visit to Cranswick PLC in Sherburn took place with Economic Development officers 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 and to work together to overcome challenges, support growth and highlight good practise, including the circular economy.

August 2021 saw 33 businesses supported across a range of topics from employment, skills, planning, Covid recovery, business diversification and funding support. A range of initiatives are being developed with the Y&NY LEP and other key partners to support new businesses and addressing skills issues. In particular support around apprentices from E-burn, Smiles & Miles Tutoring, Worker Bee, CFA Tax and Nunns Accountancy. Expansion of Semperfli means they need additional storage space. Successful placement of 28 students for work experience within Cranswick Gourmet Bacon for the 7 week holiday.

Close working continues with strategic site developers across the district, in particular with Harworth Estates over the redevelopment of the former Kellingley Colliery site and their revised proposals for the Gascoigne Wood site (focussing on the existing brownfield land) together with liaising with Glentool and Firethorn over their exciting proposals for Sherburn2 / Sherburn 42. There is a significant uplift in enquiries for new investment in commercial space and this is leading to proposals to speculatively build large units to satisfy the growing demand.

The increased demand for new manufacturing space from both UK and international investors and 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 and officers are developing proposals to further promote the opportunities and attractions of being based in Selby District, building on the success of our previous place-branding work.

**Revitalising Towns Initiative**

The SDC Officer Team have now identified a programme of priority projects. The projects build upon the objectives and aspirations for towns identified in the People and Places commission led by Chris Wade - the Revitalising Towns work. The six priority projects are as follows; Selby Market Place improvements, Selby Park improvements, potential upgrade to space outside businesses on Low

Street, ground floor improvements to 43 Kirkgate in Tadcaster, and the potential building refurbishment of the former Nat West Bank in Tadcaster (should members support this option). The final scheme focuses on the A659 gateway entrance into Tadcaster and looks at the potential improvements to the bus station and related Britannia car park area. The projects gained support at the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 SDC Executive meeting. Each project will now be progressed further, and individual briefs identifying the exact scope of the work will be produced. Related business plans identifying related costs and expected delivery timescales will also be produced, with the Property and Assets Team closely involved in delivering the Tadcaster projects, which involve Council-owned sites and buildings.

### **Welcome Back Fund**

Selby District Council was allocated £80,409 in ERDF funding, for the Welcome Back Fund, building on the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund delivered last year. Delivery of projects is underway in all 3 centres including hanging baskets, benches, Christmas lights, community films promoting venues and activities, planters and footfall counts. SDC is working closely with town and parish councils and wider stakeholders in spending the funds. Other types of projects being considered are visitor information, popup activity, additional cleansing and events.

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

The SDC/NYCC project team have now assessed all consultation responses and agreed to undertake further detailed work. A report summarising the consultation, and identifying the next stage of the study was presented to the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 SDC Executive meeting. Working closely with NYCC Highways Team, the next stage of the study will specifically assess issues identified during the consultation period, for both the Selby Town Centre and Sherburn proposals. The study will also take account of current work being undertaken by the Local Plan Team in Tadcaster. Further consultation will be involved once the proposals have been refined and reassessed, with business cases then to be developed for the selected priority schemes. These proposals will then be put forward for appropriate grant schemes to fund their delivery e.g., Levelling Up Fund, Devolution deal funding.

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

Further work on the Outline Business Case has been undertaken, with specific focus on the timeline for construction and the extent of the project, and the OBC will be resubmitted to WYCA in October 2021. At this point further actions and recommendations will be identified by WYCA assessment team to be able to develop the scheme to Full Business Case stage in early 2022.

To reflect the maximum TCF contribution of £20m for the Selby Gateway project and the uncertainty over the deadline for TCF funding (still officially March 2023 but productive discussions are being held with the DfT, WYCA and NYCC) this Council has identified funding in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to construct the Station Plaza that will connect the enhanced Selby Station with Selby Abbey and the town centre.

In October 2021, further public consultation over scheme design will take place and the planning application to construct the scheme will be submitted.

Further progress has been made on land acquisition required to deliver the TCF scheme. Officers continue to work effectively with WYCA and NYCC on delivery timescales and approach. Members will be informed as further information becomes available.

### **Medium Term Financial Strategy - Legacy Funding**

The recent SDC MTFFS identified specific capital budgets to be allocated to both Tadcaster and Sherburn, including for emerging legacy schemes. Several Legacy projects have been identified by Sherburn Councillors. These are currently being defined further, with the aim of establishing a priority list of initiatives. This will include opportunities for community organisations to consider how they can be involved in town regeneration project delivery. A grant framework will be developed to support any interest. The award of Legacy Funding will be assessed under a grant policy framework that is currently being developed by the Communities and Partnership Team, and projects will be delivered in accordance with this policy.

### **York and North Yorkshire Plan for Growth**

To set economic priorities and actions for York and North Yorkshire, building upon the national Plan for Growth, the Y&NY LEP is beginning work on a Plan for Growth for Y&NY. This will closely involve the current local authorities and will build in their priority work to regenerate and improve their areas and strengthen local economies. Selby officers will be working close with the LEP on this.

### **Member Funding**

The new Member funding framework started in June, and we have seen a steady number of applications from councillors supporting their local communities in a variety of ways. Over the last two months we have seen councillors support initiatives across the district including garden and wild flowering, disability facilities, support to tackle speeding and new play equipment.

### **Community Safety**

The Leeds United "Kicks" programme has been back up and running over the last few months seeing good attendance of over 20 young people at Selby Leisure Centre. A new set of sessions was also introduced over the Summer at Barwic Parade Primary School seeing over 50 attendees at the first session. The programme aims to work with young people at that older primary/early secondary age range to engage in physical activity and to develop positive behaviour.

Multi-agency partners have been working with local residents, landowners and trail bike enthusiasts to address long term issues at Dales Wood, Brotherton. The approach is a new way of trying to engage local communities to recognise issues and provide collective solutions through Community Problem Solving meetings. Early engagement has been positive, and the session will now move to solution-focused approaches. The approach is one which North Yorkshire Police in conjunction with our Safer Selby Hub are developing to understand how good

community engagement from a wide range of local representatives can support positive solutions.

### **Selby District Shining Star Awards**

I was privileged to be able to spend a wonderful evening on 10<sup>th</sup> September at Selby Abbey with some of the district's residents and community groups who have gone above and beyond for their communities in the last year. The awards night truly showed the best from across our district. We had over 60 nominations in total who have all been recognised with their own certificate, but the night was for our 21 finalists. The categories and their winners included Volunteer of the Year, Mrs Cynthia Wright – an 84 yr old resident who works tirelessly to support St Martin's House charity shop; the Inspiring Young Star was Amelia Hewitt, a 7 year old who baked for the emergency services and showed real care, despite having a difficult year of her own. The Shining Through the Pandemic award went to David Turner, a Riccall resident who fixed and donated over 500 bikes to those in the community who needed them to be out and about, and to improve well-being. The Local Business Making a Difference was Arc Workwear, supplying uniform, cleaning kit, responding to the needs of groups to enable them to support others. And the Volunteer Group of the year was Riccall Covid 19 Action Group. We also wanted to honour the three Community Support Organisations who have worked tirelessly since March 2020 to support those who need care and support through this last 18mths. Thank you to Sherburn Coronavirus aid Group, Tadcaster Volunteer Car and Services Association and Selby District AVS. Nominees came from all corners of the district and showed just what tremendous people we have, doing fantastic and kind things to support each other. I'm sure those who were able to attend will agree, it was a truly humbling and proud experience.

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