

Councillor David Buckle - Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development

Report to Council on 21 December 2021

Economic Development

Business Support

A joint visit to the new Weeland Park small industrial park developed by the Coalfield Regeneration Trust at the former Kellingley coal mine site took place recently between myself and Economic Development officers. The new units will be ready for occupation in late January and will provide a welcome high-quality addition to the range of employment sites across the district. The new units will be built to BREEAM “Very Good” environmental standard, the first in the district of a new generation of environmentally friendly construction sites.



Richard Beason, Cllr Buckle and Heidi Green at a site visit to Weeland Park

As part of the objective to increase engagement with large businesses across the district, Economic Development officers have met with and visited several the districts larger businesses including Clipper, Sedamyl, Greencore, Skills Network, Cranswick, Switch Mobility, VPK and Drax. The aim is 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, a good start has been made.

With very low unemployment in the region, a growing challenge for many local employers has been recruitment and training. Officers have sought to address this by planning and delivering our first Employment and Skills forum for local businesses looking at practical ways to help resolve this pressing issue. The second forum will be taking place shortly at Askham Grange prison shortly and will include a presentation on the potential for recruiting day release and recently released prisoners.

September to November 2021 saw 94 businesses supported with advice and signposting across a range of topics including: employment, skills, planning, expansion, business diversification and funding support. Selby remains part of the Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise programmes run by Leeds City Region LEP, referrals have been made into these programmes as well working closely with York and North Yorkshire LEP and Growth Hub to enable local businesses to take advantage of the broader range of programmes and support available.

Inward Investment & Strategic Sites

Officers have been working with the Department for International Trade and York and North Yorkshire LEP along with landowners and developers to facilitate inward investment into the district, enquiry levels are high and recent credible enquiries include Agri-tech, green energy and sustainable construction businesses. Officers continue to develop proposals to further promote the opportunities and attractions of being based in Selby District, both for inward investment and expansion of local businesses, enhancing the success of our previous place-branding work as well as developing that work.

Close working has continued with strategic site developers across the district. Some of the bigger sites include:

- Konect (at the former Kellingley colliery) - Konect is in the process of being sold by Harworth to Cole Waterhouse, officers have been engaging with both parties to ensure that the site is developed to the highest standard to the benefit of the district.
- Gascoigne Wood - Officers and planning committee members have, in recent weeks visited Gascoigne Wood to discuss Harworth's revised proposals for the Gascoigne Wood site focussing on the existing brownfield land and use of the rail infrastructure.
- Sherburn 2 / Sherburn 42 - Further engagement has taken place with Glentool and Firethorn over their exciting proposals for the neighbouring sites which are proceeding well.
- Core 62 (Former Eggborough Power Station) - Officers have been working closely with St. Francis Group on their redevelopment of this brownfield site. The development is on track, the iconic cooling towers have now been demolished and construction should begin next in 2022

Work continues with other large and smaller sites across the district.

There is a continued high level of enquiries for new investment in commercial space and this is encouraging developers to speculatively build large units to satisfy the growing demand. All the above sites are being progressed quickly to satisfy the current requirements. This demand closely reflects the Council's emphasis on prioritising well paid, skilled jobs into the district.

Regeneration

Town Centres Revitalisation Programme

A list of major priority projects has been identified which meet revitalisation objectives established through the work undertaken by the People and Places Partnership. Budget allocation against the list of priority projects was approved at Executive on 9 September 2021. The SDC Officer team are currently working on finalising project briefs and business cases prior to appointing relevant consultants.

At Executive on 11 November 2021 a Town Centres Revitalisation Programme Grant Award scheme was approved. Subject to available funding from within the programme, it will allow council officers flexibility to work with community organisations to consider grant funding community-led revitalisation projects in the town centres. Details on the approach can be found on the council website under the town centres information.

Selby District Places and Movement Study

SDC and NYCC are currently reviewing the proposal from WSP to agree the scope of work and programme timescales of the Places and movement Phase 2 work. This will include further refinement and testing of highways options in Selby and Sherburn, including junction modelling in Sherburn and a review of parking provision.

The second phase of work will ensure Selby District Council are in a strong position to apply for future funding, through a Business Case process. This process requires economic appraisal, detailed design and feasibility work and public support for options so the second phase will include further consultation on the refined options. The programme will take 12 months to complete, and consultation is likely to occur in Summer 2022.

Selby Station Gateway Transforming Cities Fund (TCF)

Following the successful bid for Transforming Cities Fund money as part of the Leeds City Region Programme Selby and NYCC have been working jointly to develop a £20m package of improvements centred on the Rail and Bus Station Gateway incorporating a new station building, new cycleway links and enhanced public realm areas.

The Project has progressed to Preliminary design stage utilising WSP as Principal Designer and the latest of three separate rounds of consultation has recently been completed. Whilst results are still under analysis significant public support continues for the proposals (82% of respondents felt either very positive, positive or neutral).

The Outline Business case is currently being appraised by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority where approval is anticipated, this will allow the drawdown of further funding to complete detailed design on the proposals. Concurrently Selby negotiations to acquire several land parcels to facilitate the scheme are

progressing well and it is anticipated that all required land will be under Selby ownership in Quarter one next year.

The scheme will be subject to a full planning application, and it is anticipated this will be submitted in late December. To assure buildability of the design and early planning for the construction period, procurement of a delivery contractor has been undertaken based on an early Contractor Involvement contract. The contract award has recently been made and the mandatory standstill period expires on 6th December.

Following determination of the planning application and completion of detailed design it is anticipated that, subject to Executive and West Yorkshire Combined Authority approvals, works can begin on the ground in summer 2022.

Welcome Back Fund

The Welcome Back Fund is a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) awarded by the Government to local authorities. A partnership approach has been taken between Selby District Council and Sherburn-in-Elmet Parish Council, Tadcaster Town Council and Selby Town Council to deliver the funding.

The funding can be used in a variety of ways to help boost the look and feel of high streets and to welcome visitors, supporting covid recovery. The Council has been awarded £80,409 for the district in total, which has been spent across the district centres Selby, Sherburn-in-Elmet and Tadcaster, All the spend is now allocated to projects which will be completed by March 2022.

Here are some examples of projects we have delivered in the three towns so far:

Picnic tables/benches, hanging baskets, planters, films promoting re-opening of community facilities, regular footfall counts, covid safety signage, co-ordinated events calendar, Christmas lights and banners.

Currently, consultants Social Vision are undertaking targeted engagement activities with harder to reach groups, with the aim of identifying how they would like to use buildings and spaces in each of the towns.

Community Safety

Over recent weeks, there have been some high visibility patrols carried out in Barlby. This area had seen an increase in anti-social behaviour, and it has been really encouraging to see North Yorkshire Police working with North Yorkshire Youth, NYCC youth workers and SDC colleagues on these patrols. This work has been facilitated by the Safer Selby Hub. Work is ongoing with the parents of some of the young people as well as the local school. Some of this work has involved the issuing of Anti-Social Behaviour Contracts (ABC's) and the delivery of intervention packages.

Selby District Community Legacy Fund

The Heart of Yorkshire Fund – Fund for Selby District was launched on 1 November 2021. The fund offers grants up to £10,000 to organisations to benefit

local district communities. It has been kick started by £100,000 agreed by the Executive in July to support grant funding over the next year whilst the £2 million endowment agreed by Full Council in July is invested to provide ongoing funding to our district forever. Information on the fund can be found on Two Ridings Community Foundation website.

Members Community Funding

Since my last Full Council report in September, Members have funded a further 12 community projects totalling £14,000. Projects ranged across the district from community gardens, supporting communities to attend events and installing noticeboards and bins. Since June, members have now supported communities with nearly £23,000 of funding.

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