

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

**Report to Council on 24 February 2022**

**Business Support**

Close working continues with strategic site developers across the district, including a visit to Gascoigne Wood by Economic Development and Planning officers to view the rail-based opportunity at the site, which is now the subject of a current planning application. Harworth Estates have now also agreed a sale of the former Kellingley Colliery site to Cole Waterhouse. Officers have been working closely with the new owners to ensure they are able to bring forward the site (now known as Konect 62) to the standard envisaged to attract investment and high-quality employment opportunities to the district.

Officers have also been working with Glentool at Sherburn 2, Firethorn at Sherburn 42 and St. Francis at Core 62 (The former Eggborough power station site). All 3 have exciting plans that are well on track and should make significant progress during 2022. There continues to be a strong demand for new investment in commercial space in our district and this has led developers to push ahead strongly with these sites and several others in the district.

There is increased demand for new manufacturing and warehousing space of all sizes from UK and international investors as well as local businesses looking to expand. This closely reflects the Council's emphasis on prioritising well paid, skilled jobs along with investment and an emphasis on high quality environmentally friendly construction. Working directly with the York and North Yorkshire LEP and the Department for International Trade, we have seen a continued increase in credible investment enquiries for development sites across Selby District. For example, officers recently joined colleagues from YNY LEP and Harworth Estates in a site visit with a Belgian company looking to invest in the district at the A19 business park in Riccall and the former Stillingfleet coal mine site.

The initiative to increase engagement with large businesses across the district continues, meetings have been held with a range of local companies including such diverse businesses as Greencore, Triesse and Switch Mobility. The key objective being to build a strong relationship and to work together to overcome challenges, support growth and highlight good practise, including the circular economy.

January 2022 saw 27 businesses supported (slightly down due to holiday season). Businesses are currently facing a number of challenges including recruitment, supply chain difficulties, cost increases (especially fuel) and challenges finding appropriate property. However, business sentiment is positive, there are a number of new start businesses, many are expanding, and the outlook is broadly looking optimistic.

Business networking events have continued in Selby, Sherburn and Tadcaster. Following a tentative return to in-person events, attendance numbers are growing well and are now at or above pre-pandemic levels. The latest bi-monthly employment forum took place recently with a focus on neurodiversity in the workplace and a presentation by North Yorkshire Business Education Partnership (NYBEP). These events are being run by officers to help address the significant challenges of recruitment facing employers across the district at present. The council is also continuing with its series of workshops on pressing issues, the latest example addressing mental health issues in the workplace.

Following the purchase of Selby Business Centre to deliver the Selby Station Gateway project, officers met with the tenants as a group in the first week of January to re-assure them of the Council's support in relocating to suitable alternative premises with minimum impact on the operation of their business. Individual tenant meetings were then held to understand their needs and a positive working relationship was established. Meetings are now being held with property owners, landowners and developers to find appropriate premises. It is early days, but progress has been promising so far.

## **Regeneration**

### **Town Centres Revitalisation Programme**

The SDC Officer team are currently working on finalising project briefs and business cases prior to appointing relevant consultants to oversee detailed design and delivery. Specifically, the Team are focussing on improvements to Low Street, Sherburn, upgrading of the bus station in Tadcaster, and improvements to Market Place and the park in Selby.

The Town Centres Revitalisation Programme Grant Award scheme has been launched. Initially grants will be available for schemes in Sherburn with the aim of widening the scheme to include Tadcaster and Selby as funding becomes available. Two applications have been received so far from Sherburn-in-Elmet Community Trust.

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

SDC and NYCC are finalising the brief for Phase 2 work. As highlighted before this will focus on further refinement and testing of highways options in Selby and Sherburn, with further junction modelling in Sherburn and a review of parking provision. The programme will take 12 months to complete, and consultation is likely to occur in Summer 2022.

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

The Outline Business case has recently been approved by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority allowing the drawdown of significant further funding to complete detailed design on the proposals. Negotiations to acquire several land parcels to facilitate the scheme continue to progress well and we are still on target to secure all required land will by Quarter one next year.

The planning application for the scheme has recently been submitted and NYCC has appointed a contractor, Galliford Try, to undertake the works across the three North Yorkshire TCF schemes. As previously highlighted, 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 Autumn 2022 with completion of the main scheme in 2023 and the new plaza in 2024.

### **Welcome Back Fund**

The Welcome Back Fund is a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) awarded by the Government to local authorities to support town centre recovery from the impact of the pandemic. 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. All the spend has been successfully allocated and projects will be completed by March 2022. Work being undertaken by community engagement specialists Social Vision continues and a series of pilot events to enhance town centre activity and vitality, linked to their early findings, will be undertaken towards the end of February. These activities are still being finalised, but there will be a specific activity in each town centre.

### **Community Safety**

The Safer Selby Hub and local community safety partners continue to support the district to be a safe place to live. Main activity over the Christmas period has included a night-time economy operation in December. Selby District Council worked with North Yorkshire Police to inform members of the public, in Selby town centre enjoying a night out, on support from domestic violence and drug & alcohol services that were available to them should they need it. Licensed premises were also given refreshed materials to display in relation to domestic violence.

### **Annual Community Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP)**

SDC Community Safety also ran the annual CTLP exercise which is an opportunity for organisations to come together to understand any local issues around preventing radicalisation. The district has a good spread of representation from the Police, local schools and statutory and community partners and this supports continued learning and support for those vulnerable to radicalisation. Briefings on this are anticipated in May.

### **Licensing Savi (Security & Vulnerability Initiative)**

26 premises will receive funding to support this initiative. Working with both SDC and North Yorkshire Police licensing, premises will be identified and supported to take on the self-assessment scheme. It helps review critical issues around safe management of venues such as responsible drinking, drugs misuse, violent behaviour and safeguarding vulnerable customers as well as preventing theft and improving physical security. Plans are then developed with a 3-year rolling programme of support for participating venues.

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