



**Councillor David Buckle, Executive Member for Communities and  
Economic Development**  
**Report to Council on 27 September 2022**

**Economic Development**

**Business Support**

Continuing with the ongoing strategy of engagement with larger businesses across the district, Economic Development officers have continued to visit and meet with the district's large businesses, recent discussions have been held with: Campeys, Bowker, Greencore, Seven Video, John King Chains, VPK & For Farmers amongst others. Work continues to build a stronger relationship and to work together to overcome challenges, support growth and highlight good practice.

Despite the highly publicised challenges of high energy prices and inflation in general, recruitment continues to be the biggest challenge facing employers in the district. Officers have sought to help to address this by continuing to plan and deliver a series of Employment & Skills forums looking at practical ways to help resolve this pressing issue. The series has proven to be extremely popular and will culminate in an Employment & Skills conference to be held at the Parsonage in Escrick on 29 September 2022.

To further help with issue, the council has commissioned a series of 6 videos highlighting the career opportunities available in some of the district's larger employers which are now live on the Selby District Means Growth website and released on social media in the run up to the conference. The videos feature: Cranswick Gourmet Bacon, Clipper Logistics, John King Chains, Triesse, Switch Mobility and Pecan de Luxe. To the same end, the council has launched a jobs portal hosted on the Selby District Means Growth website, allowing employers to post their own local recruitment opportunities.

Officers have recently launched a forum to support hospitality and retail businesses in Selby to address the specific issues facing that sector in a collaborative manner, the latest of which was held recently at the Flying Pig. It was extremely well received and was attended by over 30 people.

Small, medium and large businesses alike continue to be supported with advice, mentoring and signposting to support programmes across a range of topics including employment, skills, planning, expansion, business diversification and funding support. Selby district remains an active participant of several Enterprise programmes accessed via both Leeds City Region LEP and York & North Yorkshire LEP, officers have recently attended board meetings of the Digital Enterprise programme and the Ad:Venture start-up programme. Referrals have been made into these programmes as well working closely with York and North Yorkshire Growth Hub to enable local businesses to take advantage of the broader range of programmes and support available.

There are many headwinds facing businesses across the district, particularly Inflation and recruitment difficulties, however, the broad consensus is still positive about the local economy moving forward.

### **Inward Investment & Strategic Sites**

Officers continue to work with the Department for International Trade & York and North Yorkshire LEP along with landowners and developers to facilitate inward investment into the district, enquiry levels continue to be high. 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. In particular, planning permission was recently granted for the Sherburn 2 access road, and it is hoped that the full site will be developed soon. There is still 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, although rising and unpredictable construction costs are making development more challenging. Sites are therefore being progressed quickly to satisfy current requirements. This demand closely reflects the Council's emphasis on prioritising highly paid, highly skilled jobs into the district.

### **Regeneration**

#### **Town Centres Revitalisation Programme**

The business cases for upgrading of the bus station in Tadcaster, and for Phase Two of the Low Street improvements scheme in Sherburn have been completed and are currently being assessed by SDC Finance Team. This financial assessment work is nearing completion. Once approved, initial feasibility work can be undertaken for Tadcaster Bus Station. At Low Street, further engagement with businesses and wider community can begin. This will help shape the final, detailed technical design work.

#### **Town Centres Revitalisation Programme Grant Award**

The work relating to first two applications for the Town Centres Revitalisation Programme Grant Award scheme from Sherburn-in-Elmet Community Trust is nearing completion. A further application has been received relating to improvements to the entrance at Eversley Park. This application is currently being progressed through the assessment process.

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

NYCC's appointed contractor, Galliford Try, have completed the archaeological survey works required to support the Planning Application. The Planning Application was presented to the 7 September Planning Committee, where it was resolved that the Head of Planning be delegated authority to grant permission with appropriate conditions pending expiration of the consultation period (subject to no

new material planning issues being raised within the continued consultation). Land negotiations continue to progress well and look to be finalised by end September 2022.

### **Changing Places Toilets Grant Fund**

The funding award will enable the construction of accessible Changing Places Toilets as part of the Tadcaster Bus Station building improvements and Selby Train Station improvements. Officers are currently working with consultants, and Changing Places Toilet specialists, in defining the final specification for the work and determining final construction costs.

### **Member Community Funding**

In the first quarter of the Member Community Fund being open, there has been fifteen member recommendations submitted, and fourteen have been approved. This money will have a direct impact on our communities by supporting local activities that bring people together, maintain green spaces and develop community facilities.

Members are encouraged to submit their recommendations for support to local projects and are reminded that the deadline for final applications to the scheme is 31 January 2023.

### **Community Safety and Prevent**

In support of the work to raise awareness of Prevent, officers are hosting face to face sessions for members throughout September and October. I would encourage members to attend these sessions in order to develop your understanding of the subject, and how you can work to support the prevention of vulnerable people in our communities being drawn into extremist activity. The next session is scheduled for Wednesday 19 October 2022.

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