



Councillor David Buckle - Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development

Report to Council on 13 December 2022

Regeneration

Town Centres Revitalisation Programme

Recently financial approval to progress next phase of Align Property Partner work (RIBA Stages 2&3 - Detailed design, planning, consultation, tender documentation for construction) for both the Low Street enhancement work in Sherburn, and the Bus Station Refurbishment in Tadcaster.

Work progressing on scope for Selby Market Place and Selby Park. The project will be developed in consultation with Market Place and park user groups.

Town Centres Revitalisation Programme Grant Award

Three grants have now been awarded under this Grants programme. Projects include provision of cinema equipment and essential repair works to the Old Girls School Community Centre and physical improvements to Eversley Park entrance in Sherburn.

Changing Places Toilets Grant Fund

Officers continue to work with consultants, and Changing Places Toilet specialists, in defining the final specification for the work and determining final construction costs. 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.

Selby Station Gateway Transforming Cities Fund (TCF)

NYCC's appointed contractor, Galliford Try, are currently undertaking ground investigations across the whole project area. Land assembly negotiations are nearing completion, ensuring all land required to successfully complete the scheme is under SDC control. Demolition of James William House and the Railway Club are expected to take place early in the New Year, ahead of construction work starting.

Community Safety and Prevent

Awareness raising has been an integral part of the recent community safety activity. Officers took part in activity at Selby College during Freshers Week. The

aim of this was to raise awareness amongst students. A variety of safety messages were promoted, including safe consumption of alcohol and personal safety.

The Safer Selby Hub continues to work with partners to address concerns of anti-social behaviour and vulnerability. During the first two quarters of this year, there has been twenty-four cases managed across the Selby District.

Member Community Funding

Since the opening of the 2022-23 scheme, over £40,000 has been provided to community projects. Projects have focused on a range of activities, including early years development, local heritage projects and green space development.

The scheme will close in January 2023. Elected members are encouraged to submit their recommendations of support, as soon as possible.

Business Support and Inward Investment

Close working continues with strategic site developers across the district. Harworth Estates has a current planning application for outline planning permission at Gascoigne Interchange. Following discussions with officers, Harworth have significantly revised their application to reflect advice. Officers have been able to provide several significant enquiries for investment at Gascoigne Interchange, which are now in the feasibility phase.

Officers have also been working with Potter Group at Olympia Park, Glentool at Sherburn 2, Firethorn at Sherburn 42, Cole Waterhouse at Konect 62 (Kellingley) and St. Francis at Core 62 (the former Eggborough power station site). All have exciting plans that are well on track and are making significant progress. In all cases bar Olympia Park, the access road is either built or under construction. There continues to be a strong demand for new investment in commercial space in our district and this has encouraged developers to push ahead strongly with these sites and others in the district.

There is increased demand for new manufacturing space of all sizes from UK and international investors, as well as from 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 has seen a continued increase in credible investment enquiries for development sites across Selby District. Officers have made several presentations to DIT proposing Selby district sites for international inward investment.

The initiative to increase engagement with large businesses across the district continues, with meetings held with a range of local companies. The key objective is maintaining a strong relationship with large employers in the District and to work together to overcome challenges, support growth and highlight good practise, as well as updating those businesses on LGR and devolution.

July to September 2022 saw 89 local businesses supported. Many continue to be optimistic despite facing a number of challenges including recruitment, supply chain difficulties, cost increases (especially fuel) and challenges finding property. However, there have been a range of new start businesses and many local businesses are expanding. There is a specific challenge regarding hospitality businesses, which have been hit harder than most UK wide and whilst those in the district have also had their challenges, the sector has proven to be resilient locally, particularly in Selby. Loungers plc have built the very impressive new Barco lounge which opened in mid-November. Officers and councillors were involved in making the case for Loungers to invest in Selby and supporting the planning application to convert the former Virgin Money bank, as well as their integration into the town.

Business networking events have continued in the district, with attendance numbers continuing to grow and now well above pre-pandemic levels, The 12-month programme of employment forums culminated in an all-day employment and skills conference held at the Parsonage in Escrick, where more than 100 local businesses attended to hear a range of speakers and to engage with other businesses. The programme of events and the conference were run by officers to help address the significant challenges of recruitment facing employers across the district at present. These issues will continue to be addressed in the regular events. The council is also continuing with its series of workshops on pressing issues facing local businesses. An additional monthly forum aimed specifically at hospitality and retail businesses has been launched and has been a success so far with 25 plus businesses attending each event. The aim is to launch similar events in Sherburn and Tadcaster in the future. A successful initiative coming out of that forum is the #shoutoutforSelby #shoutoutforTadcaster #shoutoutforSherburn campaigns, which are gaining momentum.

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