



Councillor David Buckle, Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development

Report to Council on 21 March 2023

It has been an honour for the last 4 years to be the Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development. In that time, I hope Members will agree, that a lot has happened in the Selby District, making it a better place to live and work. We had Covid, and I was proud of the Council supporting businesses with grants and funding.

I look forward in seeing the TCF project finished; I have been on a journey from the first meeting in Leeds with Officers to try and get the funding, to now when it is due to start. I would like to thank all Officers for the hard work in this very challenging large project for Selby; it will make a huge difference to the area around the station.

I would also like to thank all Members of the Council for their support in my roles as Executive Member and Chairman of the Council.

I wish all Members that are now North Yorkshire Councillors the very best for the future and I am sure you will all keep flying the flag for Selby District.

Lastly, I would like to thank Chief Executive Janet Waggott for all the support and help she has given to me in my time as a Councillor for Selby District Council.

Regeneration

Selby Station Gateway Transforming Cities Fund (TCF)

The £28m Selby Station Gateway project will begin on site during 2023, with demolition of the Railway Club and James William House to start in the next few weeks to allow the improvements to take place. The project has been allocated the largest TCF grant in York and North Yorkshire, with £20m coming to Selby from government via the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). This ambitious scheme will transform Selby station and the area around it, with a greatly improved station building and facilities, a new public square linking the station to the Abbey and town centre via the park, new station parking and a new eastern access to the station, together with improvements to the bus station and new links for pedestrians and cyclist to our residential areas, the college and local stores and services.

Complex land assembly negotiations are progressing to completion, and shortly all land required to successfully complete the scheme will be under Selby District Council (SDC) control.

North Yorkshire County Council's appointed contractor, Galliford Try (GT), continue to undertake relevant investigative work to support the final design solutions.

The detailed design for the scheme and associated project cost plan will be completed by summer 2023. The full business case will be submitted to WYCA thereafter. The main contract works are estimated to commence later in 2023.

The scheme will provide a major boost to Selby and the surrounding area and be a catalyst for further enhancements and investment in the town centre. Together with new housing on nearby brownfield sites, including scope to redevelop to the east of the station, and improvements through the Abbey Quarter project, there is an exciting future for Selby.

Town Centres Revitalisation Programme

Align are now progressing both the Low Street improvements scheme in Sherburn, and the Tadcaster bus station refurbishment scheme. Relevant Members have met with Align to understand the scope of project work, and the likely programme for the current stage of work. Both schemes are now being progressed to planning submission stage.

We are aiming to submit both planning applications towards the end of May 2023. That will complete the current phase of work.

Both schemes then need to be progressed through detailed design and once completed the work will be put out for tender. After tender evaluation and approval, the contractor will be appointed. A decision to proceed with the construction work will be required from the new North Yorkshire Council (NYC).

Early engagement is currently underway with the main stakeholders for the Selby Abbey Quarter project, which will enhance the marketplace and Selby park areas, expanding the transformation that will be delivered through the TCF for the Selby station area. These initial investigations will be completed in April. After this, it is proposed that final designs for Selby park and marketplace are produced, working closely with the major stakeholders. To agree the works will require public consultation and detailed design work to produce costed and publicly supported proposals aided by availability of visual material suitable for public consultation. This requires consultancy support to provide specialist skills and capacity and a decision will be needed from the NYC to proceed with spending some of the £2.06m allocated to this project by SDC.

There is a major opportunity to deliver some of the project via an expansion of the contract with GT, who are the contractors for the TCF works. This approach is agreed in principle with GT and NYCC but cannot be progressed until the detailed nature of the works are agreed.

We therefore intend to commission consultants early in the new authority to provide the detail necessary to contract with GT. This will allow the extent of the proposals to be tailored to meet the available budget.

The Council's proposals for how it will implement the Arts Council England 'Priority Place' designation were submitted at the end of January 2023. Our proposals are based upon the Abbey Quarter project being the focus for the new authority's central scheme in Selby town centre, in terms of place making and enabling a more effective physical provision for culture.

All three revitalising towns projects will take account of the Arts Council England Priority Place initiative and look to support delivery of the Priority Place objectives. Government announced recently that there will be a future third round of Levelling Up Fund (LUF). The Council can expand and enhance the Abbey Quarter project to bid for LUF, provided that a designed and costed proposal is agreed. There is the potential to include junction and highway improvements that are currently being developed for Selby town centre through Phase 2 of the Places and Movements Study, in partnership with NYCC highways, should the new Council decide to seek to implement such measures.

Town Centres Revitalisation Programme Grant Award

Three grants have 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.

Two further grant applications have been submitted. The first one focuses on improvements the Fairways Park, and the second one request funds to widen the sports offer at White Rose Sports and Recreation Ground. Both projects are currently being progressed through the grant due diligence process.

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. Detailed design of the units is being progressed. The final specification for the work and assessment of final construction costs are still being evaluated.

Inward Investment

Officers continue to meet with a range of businesses and developers who are keen to invest in Selby District, subject to planning. Discussions have included:

- Glentool, developer of Sherburn 2, who are seeking to deliver much needed, smaller industrial units on the next phase of their site. The developer is currently progressing with the construction of the access road within the site.

- A solar farm proposal close to the former Kellingley site to provide 10MW of energy.
- Campeys of Selby regarding their growth plans and their planned transition to a low carbon fleet of vehicles.

Business Support

There is considerable activity taking place to support the businesses of Selby District, including:

- The Selby District Business Awards will be held on the 28 March 2023. There were 247 nominations for over 70 local businesses. Each category has four businesses shortlisted.
- The 'Eat Your Heart Out' Celebration of Food and Drink in Selby Abbey on the 31 March has been publicised in the Yorkshire Post and In Your Area. The event will be covered live during the morning show on York Mix radio. Please do come along.
- The "Get to know your own heart" residents engagement festival on 1 and 2 April is building momentum with businesses encouraged to do special offers for residents during the weekend.
- 20 businesses have received support via the Business Scale Up programme.
- Issues around recruitment continue and we are holding a recruitment fair in Sherburn in Elmet with 20 local businesses offering immediate starts.
- The Elmet and Selby Business Forum is welcoming representatives to the Elmet Forum following the completion of a travel survey by businesses on the Sherburn Industrial Estate. It is hoped that the survey could lead to some resolutions regarding lack of public transport, which is believed to restrict recruitment opportunities.
- Round table discussions in relation to the Made Smarter programme for manufacturing businesses has seen local manufacturers invited.
- Focus will be working closely with Selby College, undertaking Training Needs Analysis with businesses and delivering workshop to Selby College students in relation to starting their own business.
- Working with the FSB, who have set up a working party to work with Women In Business, particularly in relation to the differential of funding obtained by women versus men. Currently planning an event in June.

Community Safety

Selby District Council has strong relationships with partners, and we continue to work to keep our communities safe.

The Community Safety Hub has recently worked in partnership with North Yorkshire Police to support diversionary patrols in local villages, tackling concerns of anti-social behaviour. In February, the Community Alcohol Partnership held a week of action, to raise awareness of under-age alcohol sales and to promote alternative, alcohol-free beverages.

Members Community Funding

The 2022/23 Member Funding Scheme has successfully supported community projects for the last two years. A variety of groups and projects have been supported, including but not limited to:

- Community activity in shared spaces throughout the winter.
- Support for community building repairs.
- Funding for school trips and supporting funded places for community spaces, including memorial and reflection gardens, play area refurbishments, and utility installation at allotments; and
- Support for local sports clubs, including the purchase of equipment, venue hire, facility upgrades and training for club volunteer and coaches.

Heart of Yorkshire Fund

The Heart of Yorkshire Fund for Selby District was established by a £2million donation from SDC to Two Ridings Community Foundation to provide a lasting community legacy for the residents of Selby District.

Seven projects have been supported so far, including peer to peer mental health support, play space refurbishment and support for people with dementia. The fund is set to open again for applications in the spring.

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