



**Councillor Chris Metcalfe**

**Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development**

**Report to Council on Tuesday 18 September**

This report covers the period from the Council meeting on 17 July 2018

**Communities, Partnerships & Customers:**

**Selby Town Centre Pop Up Realm**

The Selby Town Enterprise Partnership comprises of representatives from local high street businesses, the Abbey, Selby College, Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles, Selby Town Council and Selby District Council. The pop up realm project that the group have worked on with PWP Design since November 2017 has now come to fruition with the first installations delivered on 16<sup>th</sup> August. The project has been funded through the Programme For Growth 'Retail Experience' initiative and cost £20,000. It offers a small series of "Pop Up", temporary street furniture consisting of planters, seats and giant plant pots, currently positioned along Gowthorpe high street. They test how people use high street spaces and encourage shoppers to dwell on the high street as well as offer very different and eye catching furniture for local residents to interact with. The furniture will move in a few weeks to other locations in the town and we will look at how to complement plans for next year's celebration of the Abbey's 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

There has been a wide range of both positive and constructive comments towards the installations with some really good ideas coming from residents as to 'what next' for the town centre. A particular fun favourite is introducing Selby Swans like the Berlin Bears or the Liverpool Superlambananas as well as a serious note about considering seating on the high street for those less able to walk. A survey is in circulation through our social media channels and in local shops to understand what people would like to see more of. We've also seen a positive response from local businesses who are helping to maintain the planters and looking at how they can get more involved in the upkeep and vibrancy of the high street.

**Economic Development:**

**Strategic Employment Sites**

Following on from the last update to Council, significant progress continues to be made to bring forward 'strategic employment sites' in Selby District:

**Sherburn2**

The planning application for Cromwell Polythene's new premises on Sherburn2 has been submitted. Subject to planning approval, construction is scheduled to start during

October with completion in the spring of 2019. Cromwell Polythene is the first occupier to be signed for Sherburn2 and will be relocating from their current site on the existing enterprise park.

The developer Glentool is in detailed discussions with a number of investors interested in occupying the site, with a second occupier expected to be signed imminently. The Council's Economic Development team is continuing to work closely with the developer to attract new investors to the District.

### **Inward Investment**

#### **P3P, Camblesforth**

A significant new investment is being made by P3P at their Food Technology Park in Camblesforth. The £25m investment at the former English Village Salads site means that Selby District will be at the forefront of innovation and new technology in the Agri-Tech sector, creating new employment opportunities in what is a priority growth sector for the District.

Employment figures at this early stage are being forecasted at around 370, 117 of which are expected to be high skilled, high value jobs. The Council's Economic Development team will lead a Steering Group for the planning development of the site, with the first phase of development scheduled to be completed by the end of 2018.

#### **Whitworth Limited, Eggborough**

Another significant investment is taking place at Whitworth Limited's flour mill site at Northside Industrial Park in Eggborough. Estimated as being a £20-30m investment, Whitworth's existing mill will be demolished and replaced by a "world leading" flour production facility creating 25 new jobs.

A planning application has been submitted for the development with the demolition works scheduled to take place early 2019.

### **SME Support**

Since the last report to Council, 16 SMEs have been supported through face to face meetings – these are businesses who we have not previously engaged with.

In total, 36 SMEs have been supported to date in 2018/19.

#### **Business Support Programmes**

The Escapologist has been awarded a £15,000 grant from Ad:Venture to support further expansion of this successful Selby-based business.

5 businesses have been placed on Leeds City Region's Ad:Venture support programmes, with another 4 on Strategic Business Growth Programme.

A SME grant application is in the pipeline for both Let's Grow and Business Growth Programme, with another grant application submitted for PAPI (Product and Process Innovation) which is delivered by the University of York in conjunction with YNYER LEP.

Since 2015, a total of £169k of external grant funding has been paid to SMEs in Selby District creating 29 new jobs.

## Events

The Council's Enterprise Café, our monthly SME networking event, is well attended with an average attendance of 25 SMEs over the last couple of months.

17 delegates attended the Council's Cyber Crime event which took place in July in partnership with Barclays Bank, and 14 delegates attended Ad:Venture's marketing workshop in August.

There are a number of SME support events taking place across Selby District this autumn:

- Leadership Skills workshop is being delivered by the Strategic Growth Programme - 11<sup>th</sup> September;
- Two-day Digital Advantage workshop – 27<sup>th</sup> September and 3<sup>rd</sup> October;
- HR workshop delivered by Ad:Venture – 4<sup>th</sup> October;
- Social Selling via LinkedIn workshop to be delivered by Digital Knowledge Exchange – 18<sup>th</sup> October;
- Networking Skills workshop delivered by Ad:Venture – date to be confirmed;
- The Council is delivering a fraud and cyber-security event titled "What Keeps You Awake" in conjunction with Clive Owen LLP, Trading Standards and North Yorkshire Police – 31<sup>st</sup> October.

In addition to the above, a wide range of workshops have been agreed with Selby College to provide training support to SMEs looking to upskill existing staff. Delivered through YNYER LEP's Skills Support for the Workforce ESF programme, these workshops will start in September and run through until March 2019.

## Partnership Working

### North Yorkshire County Council

Discussions with the County Council on how we can work closer together on our respective economic growth plans and the development of infrastructure and transport related solutions have progressed well.

A joint SDC/NYCC officer/lead-Member workshop will take place in early October to drive forward this work.

The aim of this work is to develop a joint Selby District Development & Transport Prospectus that sets out our key strategic development opportunities and identifies a set of high level transport and infrastructure asks to enable these opportunities to be realised. This would provide a starting point for establishing the detailed transport measures/infrastructure improvements that will then be further developed through appropriate business cases and funding bids.

**Chris Metcalfe**