



Councillor Mark Crane

Leader of the Council

Report to Council on Tuesday 18th September 2018

Firstly please accept apologies for my absence at tonight's Council meeting. This report covers the period from the Council meeting on 17 July 2018. During this period I have attended Executive and regional meetings reporting on key items:

Devolution

There have been a number of meetings to discuss devolution proposals during this period. Members will recall that in March a proposal was submitted to Government for a One Yorkshire Devolution deal involving 18 of the 20 local authorities in the region.

At this stage the proposals are in outline only so there is nothing for this Council to make decisions on. What we have been concentrating on is our collective 'asks' of central government – focussing on the freedoms and resources that we want Government to agree to devolve.

The Government's current position is that the Sheffield City Region deal already approved should go ahead in its current form rather than replacing it with a Yorkshire Wide deal but the Chief Exec and I will continue to work with our partners to lobby for the best regional outcome. If Government agreement can be secured in principle we will then move to consider how the governance arrangements will work.

LEP Review

A review of LEPs was announced in the Industrial Strategy White Paper, the deadline for response is 28 September 2018. The review has been led by a Ministerial group Jake Berry (MHCLG), Margot James (BEIS) and Andrew Jones (HMT) and included engagement with local authorities, business representation organisation and others through working groups

A significant change outlined in the review is that there will be no overlapping geographies as this is a red line for Treasury. This is presented as necessary to remove an obstacle to the aim of UK Shared Prosperity Fund for delivering a flexible single pot for each LEP to replace ESIF and Growth Deal.

As members are aware Selby is part of the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP and within the foot print of the Leeds City Region LEP. If the proposal in the review is accepted Selby will have to decide which arrangements are best for Selby. A number of options have been put forward the most relevant to Selby are a York and North Yorkshire LEP or a North and West Yorkshire LEP. The implication of the options will be presented to the Executive.

Programme for Growth

At the Executive meeting on 6 September we received a Quarter 1 update on the Programme for Growth.

The update highlighted that although the spend level was lower than profiled a number of projects were well advanced and that spend had been committed and would be likely to show an increase in quarter 2.

In particular, the Council has now completed the purchase of the former Nat West Bank in Tadcaster and the process of buying the former bank in Selby was progressing. Officers are now working on proposals to bring the buildings into productive use.

Olympia Park, Selby

Following the bid for funding from the Homes and Communities Agency's (now Homes England) Housing Infrastructure Fund to support the delivery of the Olympia Park strategic mixed use development site, officers have been working through the due diligence required to finalise the grant arrangements.

The Council is also continuing to work closely with landowners and stakeholders such as the Environment Agency and the County Council to develop a comprehensive masterplan for the whole site as the previous masterplan covered only the western part of the site.

A revised planning application for the comprehensive development of the whole site is still expected later this year.

Leisure

Two leisure apprentices have recently been recruited with a further post due to be recruited for the wellbeing service.

A street games project supported by Sainsbury involving supervised skate park sessions with free lunch has recently been introduced during school holidays between 1 and 3 pm. Building on positive feedback it is planned to introduce evening sessions in October on a Friday between 6 and 8 pm.

IHL supported the Selby Three Swans Sportive the first weekend of September with registration and planned activities taking place at the leisure centre and sponsored by Yorkshire Cancer Research. Over 1110 cyclists took part in the Sportive which has raised over £25,000 for the charity

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