



Councillor Chris Metcalfe

Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development

Report to Council on Tuesday 18 December

This report covers the period from the Council meeting on 18 September 2018

Update of Car Parking Improvement Programme

In 2017 the Executive approved a programme of £900,000 investment in the Councils car parks.

Last year we improved and resurfaced the car park at New Lane, fitted height barriers at the Leisure Centre car park, installed light to the Portholme Road car parks and carried out initial repairs at Tadcaster's Britannia car park.

Further improvements will take place in the new year;

Audus Street and South Parade

- The car parks have been redesigned
- Contract for improvement works to Audus Street and South Parade awarded to Carthy Contracting
- Contract mobilisation/pre start meeting scheduled for 27th November 2018
- Subject to above, planning to commence works at South Parade w/c 7th January 2019
- Initial programme of 4 weeks on site(subject to weather) although this will be firmed up at meeting on 27th
- Works to Audus Street will follow completion of South Parade
- Estimated programme of 4 weeks on site

Micklegate and Back Micklegate

- Contract for design works let to CF Landscapes
- Initial consultation just completed. Based on the consultation and feedback initial sketch designs have been produced for SDC review/comment
- Second stage consultation on outline designs currently pencilled in for December/January

Bus station improvements:

- Contract let for supply and installation of five new shelters at Selby bus station
- New shelters feature solar LED lighting, bench seating with access bay, solid roof construction and mid safety rail. Each shelter will have SDC logos incorporated on glazing panels.
- Works pencilled in for 29th January 2019 and scheduled to last five days

- Initial site meeting held with shelter manufacturer, NYCC Highways and Arriva on 21st November
Electrical Charging bays
- Procurement is underway to install charging bays for Electric Vehicles

Selby Town Centre Pop Up Realm.

We have recently re-located the Pop Up furniture earlier this month after a successful summer campaign of temporary location on the high street and gaining feedback from residents and businesses alike. A public survey highlighted a welcome approach to activity and colour in the high street which we will continue to consider as part of celebrations for Selby950 and the Tour de Yorkshire. The pop up furniture has now moved to test some of the public realm space at the bottom of Micklegate Car Park and to assist with the car park consultation; thinking about how to use the space for activity and dwell time as well as parking. The branding “I heartSelby” has also been added.

Selby Town Enterprise Partnership

The STEP continue to be a town centre business voice in helping shape the future direction of the high street and are the lead in supporting the direction of pop up realm work and public space movement in the high street. STEP have worked with the Community and Partnerships team and the Urban Designers to finalise the design and the placement of wayfinding and information boards on the Abbey Pavement which will be scheduled for installation in line with the car park refurbishment. This times nicely with upgrading the shelters in Selby Bus Station. These are due to be installed at the beginning of January.

At the last STEP meeting it was agreed that there will be a business networking event planned for March 2019 to strengthen local networking and connections as well as business community voice in town centre development.

Community Safety:

A Multi Agency Night Time Economy Event was held on Saturday 10th November and saw North Yorkshire County Council, North Yorkshire Police and SDC work together on a night of action & enforcement in the town centre. A passive drugs dog worked alongside Police officers and lots of positive engagement was carried out with members of the public with PCSO's who were on high visibility foot patrols and who also staffed an information stall on the Abbey Pavement. This event was funded by the Community Safety Partnership. SDC licensing and enforcement officers also worked alongside trading standards officers who all had positive results from the event. Local landlords are also discussing how they can support a vibrant night life with one landlord providing stewards at the taxi rank to monitor behaviour. Many thanks to all staff and partners who have committed their time to delivering the event. Further events will also be planned to continue promoting our positive message.

Economic Development:

Economic Development Framework - 1 year on Review

The Council's Economic Development Framework was launched at the Selby District Growth Conference at Carlton Towers in November 2017. The Executive considered a one year on review of progress against the five year plan and the priorities for the next two years at its meeting in November 2018. They noted the excellent progress made in delivery of the priorities. They also welcomed and supported the EDF Delivery Plan for 2019 and 2020 and asked that it be shared with all Members of Council and external partners and stakeholders before being brought back for final approval in the light of any feedback.

The Executive also asked for further detail on the business case for the recruitment of posts outlined in the report and to provide further information on key performance indicators to monitor progress of the action plan and framework.

A well-attended Economic Partnership Forum was held on 8th November with key businesses and regional partners and hosted by Kingspan at Sherburn. Officers gave a well-received overview of progress in the last 12 months which was followed by a workshop on strategic infrastructure and transport connectivity – the topic having been chosen by businesses as a key issue for them. The session included presentations from the Northern Powerhouse Partnership and Transport for the North – both of whom recognised the increased profile of Selby District and acknowledged the significant role and potential of the district.

An all member briefing on the Economic Development Framework was held on the 26th November.

The EDF Delivery Plan for 2019 and 2020 has also been shared with wider stakeholders for comment and will be brought back to Executive for final approval in January 2019.

Strategic Employment Sites

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

Sherburn 2:

The planning application for Cromwell Polythene's new premises on Sherburn2 has been approved and construction is scheduled to start in the New Year 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 Sherburn Enterprise Park. The developer Glentool is also in detailed discussions with a number of investors interested in occupying the site and the Council's Economic Development team is continuing to work closely with the developer to attract new investors to the District.

Gascoigne Wood:

There are a number of major strategic applications that have been submitted which are in the process of being determined. Gascoigne Wood was on the Planning Committee Agenda for December with an officer recommendation for approval. At the meeting following debate this item was deferred with minded to refuse and will be taken back to Committee in the New Year.

Church Fenton:

The planning application for the Create Yorkshire film, creative and digital industries development at Church Fenton was submitted by Makin Enterprises in the summer and should go to Planning Committee in early 2019. Subject to approval the developer will step-up discussions with potential developers/investors/occupiers.

The new Channel 4 HQ at Leeds has already increased interest in the site with a number of supply-chain opportunities being explored with the help of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the Council's Economic Development team.

Kellingley:

Demolition was completed on the site in October and full remediation of the site has commenced, completion of which is targeted for the end of 2019. It is the developer Harworth Estates' ambition to start developing the site from the beginning of 2020.

Inward Investment

P3P Agri-Tech site, Camblesforth

At the last meeting I informed you of the new re-development of the former English Village Salads site in Camblesforth, since then significant progress has been made and there are a number of high profile updates to report on:

A Planning application on behalf of APS for the first 5000m² of vertical farming space will be submitted in the new year with a further two units totalling a further 10,000 m² to follow later in 2019. Combined these state of the art, hi tech farming units will make this site the largest of its kind in Europe.

APS will take full operational control of the site from September 2019 having signed a 25 year lease.

In addition work on the refurbishment of the pack house facilities have now been completed.

Whitworth Limited, Eggborough

In addition to the development of their site at Whitley Bridge, the flour milling company Whitworth Bros have now acquired the Rank Hovis facilities on Barlby Road extending their investment and commitment within Selby district.

SME Support

Since the last report to Council, 18 SMEs with growth aspirations have been supported through face to face meetings, these are businesses who we have not previously engaged with making a total of 56 SME's with growth aspiration that have been supported to date in 2018/19.

In addition to this, 20 retail, start up and non-growth businesses have had face to face meetings. During the period a further £52,000 in grants has been awarded via the PAPI grant scheme and £1500 via Ad:Venture

During the period 3 energy assessments improving energy consumption and operating costs for businesses have been undertaken (bringing the total to date to 11) each with a value of £600.

The single largest businesses grant awarded to a Selby District SME totalling £81,000 has come from the Let's Grow programme to support the purchase of larger premises for a Sherburn based SME.

Events

The Council's Enterprise Café, our monthly SME networking event, is well attended with an average attendance of 25 small businesses each month.

Over 70 delegates have attended seminars since the last report in a wide range of subjects which include: Social Media, HR, Leadership Skills, Presentation Skills and Making Tax Digital

In addition a suite of 10 workshops is currently underway with Selby College on Introduction to Management, Health & Safety, Customer Service, Presentation Skills, Recruitment & Selection of staff, appraisals and staff development, cold calling, debt collection, personal sales and handling difficult people and situations

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 took place in early October to drive forward this work. A proposal to develop a joint Growth & Infrastructure Delivery Plan is being considered through the Better Together Joint Members Group in early December.

This Delivery Plan can act as both a prioritisation documents and as a Development and 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 and infrastructure improvements that will then be further developed through appropriate business cases and funding bids

Chris Metcalfe

Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development