



Councillor Mark Crane

Leader of the Council

Report to Council on Thursday 21 February 2019

Since Council in December I have attended the District Council Network (DCN) national conference "delivering the difference". I enjoyed the opportunity to participate fully as the DCN Stronger Economies Spokesperson in the active debate on unlocking the difference – Housing, Infrastructure and Economic Prosperity. The conference drew a number of key speakers including a keynote speech from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, Andrew Gwynne MP Shadow Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government who gave a perspective on Local Government and the role of Districts. Rishi Sunak MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government gave a finance update. Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury also addressed the conference. The conference was very well attended and attracted senior ministers and other excellent speakers. It was timely to hear from Bill Grimsey the author of the Grimsey review. This review has resulted in the creation of the £675M High Street fund. We are considering putting in a bid for Selby Town Centre by the 26 March deadline. The conference also launched a [report](#) and short [video](#) on Shaping Healthy Places - Exploring the District Council's role in health.

Transition Sub Group LEP

Following my report to Council in December the transition arrangements for the sub group have changed. The leader of York now has a seat on the transition Board, this is in addition to the one seat for North Yorkshire and one seat for West Yorkshire. The transition group meet on Friday 5 February. Our views on the proposed arrangements have been relayed to the group and are summarised as follows. We hold a strong view that Districts need to be represented and have two seats at the table. There must be a vote on the accountable body arrangements for the new LEP in the future and not assume that it will be West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). There should be new Job description written for the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the board. The secretariat arrangements are under discussion as is the name and branding of the new Organisation.

Local Football Facilities Plan:

The Community, Partnerships and Customers team have supported the Football Foundation to develop a 10 year proactive investment plan to help identify where the FA can invest across Tadcaster, Sherburn, Selby and outlying areas. This ranges investment from All Weather pitches, changing pavilions, grass pitch improvement through to a new approach for the FA to invest in multi-use game space and parks and open green space. Local sports and community representatives have supported the development of the plan and will continue to be engaged in bringing forward projects over the short to long term. The plan can be found on their website (link [here](#))

I had the pleasure of awarding a Prime Minister's Award alongside Nigel Adams MP this month to an inspirational Selby resident, Lesley Senior, founder of Bee Able – a

community organisation that provides short break respite and independent positive activities for young children and adults with additional needs across the District. Lesley was nominated for the Prime Minister's Points of Light Award by the Community, Partnerships and Customers team in recognition for the extraordinary lengths she goes to, to provide an alternative service to our young residents. Lesley is also a valued member of the Eastern Community Engagement Forum and supports other community groups in this role to contribute to making a difference and delivering services in their own local area.

Last but by no means least I am the Council's representative and nominated spokesman for the Rural Services Network and support their very important work. There will be some publicity to raise awareness and to promote a rural strategy campaign which will be launched in early March.

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Leader