



Councillor Chris Metcalfe

Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development

Report to Council on Thursday 21 February 2019

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

Economic Development:

The Economic Development Framework Refresh was presented at the January Executive Committee where it was supported in full. Work is now underway to progress key projects in the new EDF Delivery Plan for 2019 and 2020:

- A brief has been agreed with NYCC, East Riding and Hull for the M62 Strategic Development Zone Study, which will look at opportunities to support longer term economic growth and improve infrastructure in the wider M62 / A63 corridor between the West Yorkshire boundary and Hull. This work will take place over the next 6 months.
- The District Council is also working with NYCC, with support from their partner consultants WSP, to develop the business cases for projects to improve access to Selby station, its facilities and the linkages with the town centre. These projects will be submitted for funding through the Transforming Cities Fund in June 2019.
- The inception meeting will take place in February 2019 for producing the Sherburn Growth and Infrastructure Plan in partnership with NYCC. This work will examine how local transport and infrastructure can be improved to provide better links to local employment and growth.

Strategic Employment Sites

Sherburn 2:

Work has now commenced on the site with road and paths being laid out.

Building work on the Cromwell Polythene site is now underway and was celebrated with a ground breaking ceremony attended by the Leader. It is anticipated that building will be completed ready for occupation mid-July 2019.

Cromwell's current premises have been acquired by Cranswick plc as part of their expansion on the Sherburn Enterprise Park.

The developer Glentool is also in advanced discussions with a number of investors and announcements are imminent. The Economic Development team and the Planning Development Management Team are working closely with the developer to ensure a smooth and professional transition for all the new investors.

Gascoigne Rail Freight Interchange:

The planning application for the Gascoigne Rail Freight Interchange presented at the December Planning Committee has been deferred due to a number of concerns associated with Highways and Infrastructure and will now be presented at the March Planning Committee.

Church Fenton:

The planning application for the Create Yorkshire film, creative and digital industries development at Church Fenton was submitted last year is scheduled to go to the March Planning Committee.

Elsewhere on the site there are two new occupiers both of whom were introduced by the Economic Development team, Cloud Coco and Air TV.

Cloud Coco has relocated from the centre of Leeds. They are a digital company involved in cloud computing, IT hardware, next generation managed services and connectivity. Cloud Coco is also interested in developing a 10Gigabit fibre network around the District's strategic sites.

Air TV has relocated from the Ron Cooke Hub at the University of York. They are a broadcast production company that undertakes significant work for the BBC and UKTV. Their amount of broadcast output for UKTV has increased significantly to the extent that UKTV are opening an office in Leeds to support this work.

Inward Investment

P3P Agri-Tech site, Camblesforth

There has been a rapid expansion on this site with the first of two Rolls Royce generators being tested in early February.

The Planning application on behalf of APS for the first 5000 square metres of vertical farming space will be submitted during February. The intention is to follow this with two further 5000 square metre units, combined these will create the largest area of vertical farming on a single site in Europe.

At a recent meeting between Economic Development, P3P and the Biorenewables Development Centre (BDC) at the University of York, a collaborative relationship has been set up with the opportunity for BDC to have a satellite laboratory based at Camblesforth.

Whitworth Bros Limited, Whitley

Planning has now been approved for the construction of a new, world leading milling facility based on a £40m investment in the site. Whitworth Bros have recently acquired the Hovis facilities on Barlby Road with a view to further investment in the future.

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, 16 retail, start up and non-growth businesses have had face to face meetings. During the period a further £11,500 in grants has been awarded via the Digital Enterprise grant scheme and £1500 via Ad:Venture

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 95 delegates have attended seminars since the last report in a wide range of subjects which include: use of LinkedIn, HR, Presentation Skills and Making Tax Digital, Networking Skills.

The Economic Development team are delivering the inaugural Selby District Business Week that will run from Monday 4th March until Friday 8th March.

The first event entitled 'The Importance of Apprenticeships'.is being hosted at Lambert Engineering in Tadcaster. And will be followed by events every day throughout the week across the District. The primary focus is on skills and training and this coincides nicely as this period is also National Apprenticeship week.

During the week we are also delivering our second Economic Partnership Forum, which will be held at Selby College with the theme around Future Skills, Training and Employment needs to support future growth.

Attended by business leaders from across the District, this event is a key opportunity for senior officers and Members to engage with business and give them a voice in how we support their growth aspirations for the future.

Future High Streets

The Autumn Budget Review 2018 included an 'Our Plan for the High Street' approach which raises the importance of understanding and supporting the revitalisation of town centre high streets. Some of the plan will be developed at national level but it is worth noting some local activity to support our high streets.

The Plan identifies a business rates relief to assist business ratepayers in the next financial year. This includes discounts for eligible retailers with a rateable value below £51,000 receiving a one third discount on their business rates bill. This includes extension of the £1500 discount to newspaper offices in 2019/20 and the intention to legislate to grant a 100% relief for all standalone public toilets.

We have identified approximately 200 properties in the District that will benefit from this relief, subject to state aid limits. It is the council's intention to apply this relief automatically to those who fulfil the eligibility criteria to be applied in time for the annual billing for 2019/20.

As part of the Plan a funding round opened to submit expressions of interest to the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF). This is a £675 million investment fund for town centre and related heritage development. We will be looking at our eligibility for the funds. They are in two phases: an expression of interest for capital funds up to £25 million per

successful Local Authority by 22nd March 2019 and an Architectural Heritage Fund (£55 million total) supported by Historic England to restore historic high street properties and equip communities to bring historic building back into economic use (date TBC 2019)

Revitalising our town centres is an identified priority of both our Corporate Plan and Economic Development Framework. approved There are a number of approved Programme for Growth projects to support our town town centres e.g. Town Masterplanning, , Visitor Economy Strategy & Action Plan, Retail Experience- STEP, Celebrating Selby 950, High street Shops support, and public realm, as well as a programme of investment to enhance our town centre car parks.

We have brought in Chris Wade of The People and Places Partnership (who wrote the LGA Town Revitalisation Handbook) a national expert in town centres, to help us take forward our work and to scope a potential FHSF bid. The approach to this is to first understand the various strategies, plans and evidence base we already have for our town centres and to create a coherent and collaborative vision for each, alongside our local, regional and potential investment stakeholders. The second stage is to have a clear deliverable list of projects/actions which are 'bid ready' and enable us to respond both at speed for relevant funding opportunities but also as our future agreed plans. A strong message in this is a partnership approach is paramount and we will want to work well together with other public sector and private partners on this initiative. Chris Wade has extensive experience of supporting places to produce a framework for delivery that presents a clear story for our place, based on solid evidence.

We will first focus on Selby town as the principal town and potentially the most eligible for current funds. However the work is about developing a clear narrative approach across all our towns. We would anticipate engagement with Tadcaster and Sherburn later in 2019.

The next steps are to engage the Local Enterprise Partnerships, local town centre business, council and community stakeholders in raising their awareness of the fund as well as using this as an opportunity to pull together a lot of the good work that has been happening in our towns so far.

Prevent:

The Community, Partnerships and Customers team recently held a planning workshop with local community, schools and organisations on the Counter Terror Local Profile. This is to get a greater insight into local concerns and strengths against radicalisation. The session was positive and showed how local groups work well to support inclusive community cultures. The information will be submitted to North Yorkshire Police to support the wider analysis of Prevent and then our local responses.

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