



**Councillor David Buckle - Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development**

**Report to Council – 16 July 2019**

**Economic Development Framework delivery:**

Since the Executive approved the Economic Development Framework Refresh in January 2019 a number of EDF projects have moved forward as active work streams:

- The joint project between the Selby District Council (SDC), North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), East Riding and Hull for the **M62 Strategic Development Zone Study**, has moved forward with contracts being awarded for the commission. In addition Wakefield Metropolitan Council and West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) are now supporting the work going forward. The project will consider options for long term strategic growth in the M62 / A63 / Leeds – Selby – Hull rail line corridor and how the existing strengths in the low carbon energy sector can be expanded. Work is now underway by a multi-disciplinary consultant team with a final report to the stakeholder group expected during October 2019.
- Significant progress has now been made with a multi-million pound Selby bid submission to the **Transforming Cities Fund** as part of the Leeds City Region (LCR) submission to the Department for Transport (DfT), our bid has gone forward in the top priority group for the LCR. The Selby proposal is focussed on improving access to Selby Station, its facilities and linkages with the town centre and current and future residential areas. The next phase of the process will see the LCR submission being reviewed by Government after which the agreed projects will be presented to the Executive for formal approval. In the intervening period proposals will be worked up with the aim of conducting public consultation targeted for Sept/Oct.
- The joint SDC and NYCC working group developing the **Sherburn Growth and Infrastructure Plan** has made positive progress. Stage One is to fully understand the infrastructure issues within the area and develop a baseline position. Stage Two will be to develop the joint plan to align the transport and infrastructure priorities, actions and approach of the two local authorities to facilitate economic growth, investment and enhanced transport and infrastructure provision. A key finding from stage one of the study is that in order to appropriately understand the current use of the highway network, and project the impact of future development, a full transport model will be required to be built. Officers from SDC and NYCC are currently scoping the work required and the timescales for completion.

## **Strategic Employment Sites**

- On July 8<sup>th</sup>, the first new unit on the Sherburn 2 site was handed over to its new owner Cromwell Plastics who are relocating to this purpose build unit from the adjacent Enterprise Park. The new 50,000sq.ft. building is the anchor tenant on this development site, construction has taken 6 months and has been completed on schedule and is the precursor to several new developments currently in the pipeline.
- Later this month a joint working group made up from the SDC Planning, Economic Development teams and Harworth Estates will convene to manage the next phase of the former Kellingley Mine site. The Masterplan and outline planning permission was originally approved in 2017 and Harworth's have been doing all the necessary site reclamation works and now want to move towards Reserve Matters applications and actively marketing the site. The priority for the working group is to ensure the development for this brownfield site meets both Harworth's and the Council's objectives for the type and quality of businesses and employment secured and that local benefits are realised e.g. skills and training opportunities.
- Last month the developer, Saint Francis Group, acquired 130 acres of the Eggborough Power Station site with a view to developing the site for Commercial use. The rest of the site, owned by Eggborough Power Limited, has been retained to construct a new gas-fired power station. A meeting has been scheduled with the St. Francis Group and SDC Economic Development and Planning teams to start preliminary discussions. As with the development of other strategic sites we propose to establish joint working arrangements between SDC, NYCC and the developer to ensure the site development aligns itself with the District's priorities.

## **Small & Medium Enterprises (SME) Support Events**

Over the last three months there has been a lot of positive activity supporting SME businesses across the District:

- 45 SME businesses have been seen and supported across SDC
- A new bi-monthly newsletter to be issued via social media from early July to cover SME's and the retail community. The newsletter will detail upcoming events and provide access to new business support initiatives, case studies of local success stories and business support initiatives.
- Three SDC businesses have just been recognised for their achievements in the Leeds City Region (LCR) Digital Enterprise - Digital Top 100; they are Cloud CoCo and Seven Video both based at the Church Fenton airfield site and Selby based Semperfli. Each business has also benefited from grant funding to bring their business growth forward through the Council's joint work with the LCR Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).
- SDC's monthly networking event, the Selby Enterprise Café continues to be held at the council offices and averages 32 local businesses per meeting and is an exemplar for business networking and partnership working across the District

- A successful film production business Air TV that produces documentaries such as BBC's River Walks, Helicopter ER has recently relocated from Leeds to the Church Fenton site further boosting its film credentials. In addition and working through the SDC business support team they have been awarded a £20K grant through PAPI (Product and Process Innovation).
- Working in collaboration with the University of Huddersfield Supply Chain programme 2 SDC businesses have gained support for help with prototype development to strengthen their ability to grow their supply chain delivery.

Our Key Account work with large enterprises and with inward investment initiatives continues to provide business growth and employment across the district.

- P3P's Agricultural Development Park at Camblesforth has made significant progress with the commissioning of the new Combined Heat and Power plant. APS, the UK largest tomato grower is now operating on the site in the new pack house with tomatoes coming in from their other northern locations at Alderley Edge, Teesside and Brough. From November this year APS will be growing at the Camblesforth site under 32 acres of glasshouse space. The P3P laboratories are complete after an investment of £1m and recruitment for scientific roles has commenced and they are in discussion with local universities and specialist agri-tech partnerships regarding future joint ventures.

### **Town Centre Revitalisation**

Officers have continued to work on a wider Selby town centre vision and action plan with a range of partners involved in pulling together the initial evidence base assessing the town's vitality and to consider what are the priorities for the town centre from local residents and businesses. We are now beginning to shape collective ideas as to how to develop a partnership vision and action plan for the town centre. We envisage that this work will shape up and conclude by the end of the year. Work will also commence on supporting Sherburn in Elmet and Tadcaster. Representatives from town businesses, the Selby Town Enterprise Partnership, the Town Council, NYCC colleagues, a range of heritage and community groups and the Local Enterprise Partnerships are all contributing to the work.

In order to take advantage of recent funding calls from the Government's release of a £675 million Future High Streets Fund, officers submitted an initial expression of interest to the Fund in March 2019 in partnership with NYCC Strategic Transport colleagues. The application is seeking funding for the development of a multi-modal transport and movement plan and development of subsequent business cases for transformative capital projects. This is needed to bring forward detailed proposals that create great streets and places, improve air quality, connect the town centre to its public transport hubs and ensure that the significant future housing around the edge of the town centre supports it. This work will align with opportunities that are being scoped as part of a wider regional focus on the town's rail station as an important transport hub for the town centre and the commuting work force.

We have also prepared a submission to the Historic England-led, High Streets Heritage Action Zone with call for proposals required by the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019. Such a scheme would be a 4 year programme in conjunction with partners in the town to enhance the historic core of the town around the Abbey, Micklegate and the Market Place through supporting

businesses to strengthen our heritage design, renovate and repurpose space, enhance the public realm and test our public spaces to increase foot flow and activity in the centre.

The funding rounds are highly competitive and we will hear about both the submissions in Autumn 2019.

### **Progress with the Councils Car Park Improvement Programme**

I am pleased to report that the improvement works for the Audus Street car park refurbishment were completed on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Improvements have included tree and draining work, a new layout and design to the car park, including paving and planting to significantly improve the street scene and a complete reconstruction of the car park. Work to replace the car park signage will take place at a later in the year.

Work at South Parade to upgrade the car park commenced on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and is progressing well. Extensive drainage repairs and improvements have been required to the car park. A new power supply has been installed for the first two electrical vehicle charging point to be fitted in our car parks and the work will also include a complete redesign and reconstruction of the car park. Completion is due on 19<sup>th</sup> July and installation of signage and the electrical charging points later in the year.

### **Place branding**

We continue to work with a range of our businesses and the LEPs to raise the profile of the district as a great place to do business. This is part of the ongoing place branding work, which has been recognised as good practice by the LGA. Over recent weeks we've started to create brand new online content, with a view to launching a new business-specific website for the district in the autumn, and secured media partnerships with regional business and investment publications to promote stories about economic activity in this area. We've also negotiated a new deal with some local press to talk about the positive impact of this growth to people already living and working in this area.

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