



**Councillor David Buckle**

**Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development**

**Report to Council – 17 September 2019**

**Economic Development Framework delivery:**

- Through July and August both the Leeds City Region and York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP's conducted a number of regionally based workshops designed to shape the Local Industrial Strategy for this area. The Strategy is part of government's plans to coordinate local economic policy and national funding streams and to establish new ways of working between national and local government, as well as the public and private sectors. Selby District had a direct involvement at three such events, one with the Leeds City Region; one with York and its hinterland and the third was Selby District specific linked to the East Riding and the M62 corridor. The workshops were attended by representatives of local businesses, developers, community groups; educators; officers and Executive Portfolio holders. The output from the workshops provided valuable insights and these will help shape Selby District's role and influence within the region's future. We will share this work with Council over future months when the work by the LEP's and the analysis of the M62 corridor between Selby and Hull is more advanced.
- Exciting proposals to significantly improve Selby station and the surrounding area are being developed by this Council and North Yorkshire County Council in partnership with Network Rail and the rail operators. Designed to make the station a much more prominent and high quality destination in the town, the draft proposals aim to greatly improve access to Selby station, expand and improve its facilities and strengthen the linkages with the town centre and current and future residential areas. The proposals also seek to bring new investment and development to the station area and improve the adjoining bus station, with better facilities for both bus and rail passengers.
- These proposals build upon the announcement in April 2019 of multi-million pound funding through the national Access for All programme to improve access within Selby station through installing lifts to allow everyone to access platforms 2 and 3, with funding also coming from this Council. The focus on the station also reflects the improvements in train service capacity and frequency that are underway and which are expected to develop markedly over the next ten years.
- A major funding bid has been submitted to the **Transforming Cities Fund** as part of the Leeds City Region (LCR) submission to the Department for Transport (DfT). Although early indications are positive, the proposals from across LCR continue to be worked up and analysed and there will not be certainty about any contributions towards the cost of implementing the Selby station proposals until early in 2020. However, it is vital that local people and stakeholders get a say in what the proposals are and what form they take. As the first of several stages of consultation that will take place before the proposals are finalised, a major consultation exercise will take place during late September and October to invite comments. This will include two staffed drop-in events in Selby and an on-line consultation through the Council's website.

- I will report back on the reaction we receive to the proposals and the progress being made with funding bids.

### **Strategic Employment Sites**

- Following the acquisition of 130 acres of the Eggborough Power Station site, the new owners, the St Francis Group, have been positively engaged with officers and members alike with the aim to work in partnership to bring the site development forward. Several pre-planning meetings have been conducted including a site visit during which the scale of both the demolition and the development tasks were demonstrated. There is now a commitment to establish a working group that will involve SDC and NYCC officers, the developers and their agents. The objective is to deliver a project masterplan that reflects both SDC's priorities and opportunities as outlined in the Economic Development Framework and the developer's commercial opportunities.
- In partnership with Church Fenton Airfield's owners, Makin Enterprises, and their planning agents, Pegasus Group, Selby District Council has - for the third year running - been nominated for the Business Insider Yorkshire annual awards. The shortlisting for the category of "Best Public and Private Collaboration" follows the award of 'Council of the Year' at the same ceremony in 2018. The results will be announced on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

### **SME Support Events**

During this last period:

- 24 SME businesses have been seen and supported across SDC
- Three major business support programmes that are managed and coordinated through the Leeds City Region LEP have all entered their second, 3 year phase, having delivered successful support in Selby District and beyond. These have enabled business growth, employment and investment for start-up businesses and help to establish SME's and the growth of digital investment for business. Selby based businesses have benefitted from support and grant funding from the Business Growth Service; Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise in the past and we are now focussed on ensuring that Phase 2 of these programmes continues to benefit Selby businesses.
- SDC's monthly networking event, the Selby Enterprise Café, continues to be held at the council offices and averages 31 local businesses per meeting. This popular event continues to attract and engage with new business owners from across the District, with positive feedback on the advice received and relationships established.

### **Community Safety and Prevent**

The Safer Selby Community Partnership has carried out a number of high profile public activities in recent months.

On 2 August a Night Time Economy Operation took place. The operation was led by Selby District Council and North Yorkshire Police. Twelve licensed premise checks were carried out. There was also engagement with licensed taxi drivers at the Selby taxi rank. Feedback from partners was positive and landlords have responded positively to the proactive action taken.

Crimestoppers UK spent the day in the district on 21 August to raise awareness of County Lines and vigilance against serious organised crime. It was the launch of a two

week campaign in Selby district. Members of the public were spoken with and awareness materials, including reporting methods, were handed out. The advertising van spent time in Selby, Sherburn in Elmet and Tadcaster.

As part of the Council's statutory duty to raise awareness of the Prevent agenda, a second member training session was held on 21 August. A member of SDC staff delivered a workshop on raising awareness of Prevent, and a Counter Terrorism Security Advisor provided a session about personal safety. Future sessions will be scheduled for any members yet to attend.

### **Town Centre Revitalisation**

As reported previously, we have commissioned consultant Chris Wade of People and Places Partnership to help develop long term visions and action plans for our town centres. The initial focus has been on Selby but this is being rolled out to the other town centres.

As reported at the last full council, work continues between Selby town businesses, community and council partners to establish a good governance framework for revitalising the town centre, looking to develop a collective view for the town centre's future vision and then develop an action plan for delivery. Members had a recent briefing on this on 11<sup>th</sup> September with Chris Wade, who is supporting this work.

Local stakeholders in Selby town are now working with the council to plan a launch workshop in October 2019 for local businesses to develop a new model for working on some key areas of town centre development: namely growth and access; heritage, environment and culture; and business and digital development. It will help consider how each partner can successfully contribute to delivering the town centre action plan. A web page will be launched imminently on the council's website with the work undertaken so far uploaded at regular intervals. Work has now started on Sherburn in Elmet in a similar way with the first stakeholder briefing and survey work commenced 12<sup>th</sup> September. Similar work in Tadcaster will follow.

Officers submitted a funding bid to support this work to the HM Government's Future High Streets Fund in March 2019. The fund was a first phase approach amongst stiff competition to work up submissions that tackle significant challenges to the town centre. Selby was not successful in the first rounds of the call for expressions of interest. Officers are seeking feedback where possible and gaining learning from other successful Local Authorities on the bid approach. Some of the main messages are about having clearly identified partnership visions, plans and approaches to town centre development. The town centre work being completed is vital to enable the Council alongside local partners to apply for such funding rounds in the future. Another potential funding call is due from 2020 and we will consider our progress on this work and any opportunity to express further interest. We also submitted a bid to Historic England for a Heritage Action Zone in Selby town in July 2019 and we await a response.

### **Supporting postal services in South Milford**

Following the closure of South Milford's Post Office earlier this year, we are working with the Post Office to move the service to the Council's Grove House Community Centre later this year. The Council has offered free use of the community centre with the aim of ensuring this valued service continues to be provided in the village. Subject to final checks to ensure that the venue is suitable for the Post Office equipment, the new service will operate on a Monday (12.30-2.30pm) and Wednesday (1-3pm) each week.

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