



## **Councillor Mark Crane, Leader of the Council**

### **Report to Council on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

This report covers the period from the Council meeting on 17 September 2019. During this period, I have attended Executive meetings and represented the Council at local and regional meetings.

I have attended the Yorkshire Leaders Board and Local Government North Yorkshire and York meetings, the topics for discussion at the meetings included update and preparations for Brexit, the progress made on Devolution deals across the region and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) review. I attend the Leeds City Region Leaders meeting where the submission to the Department for Transport (DfT), Transforming Cities Fund, including improvements at Selby railway station was discussed and agreed. I also attended a LNER stakeholder event. I attended the York and North Yorkshire LEP Board meeting, representing Selby, Harrogate and Craven and last but by no means least I attended the Danvm Drainage Board meeting.

Reporting on the key items: -

### **Council Plan 2020 -2030**

Executive agreed a draft Council Plan 2020 -2020 for consultation on 3 October – 22 November 2019. The proposed new Council Plan provides the strategic direction for the Council for the next decade. The new Council Plan builds on, and is a continuation of the priorities which were set in 2015 plan. These include delivering more housing and enabling economic growth to support the future sustainability of the district. The new Council Plan puts more emphasis on housing and economic growth to benefit the local economy and local communities; it also puts a stronger emphasis on the environment, the low carbon agenda and strengthens the focus on a cleaner, greener, safer environment for the District of Selby.

The consultation included consideration of the proposals made by Policy Review and Scrutiny Committees plus feedback from over 160 respondents, this is the highest number of responses the District Council has had on a Corporate plan. I am grateful to the people who have responded to the consultation. The responses were broadly supportive of the key objectives. The final proposals were agreed at Executive on 5 December. Headlines from the consultation showed significant support for the proposed direction, with 75% of respondents agreeing with the proposed priorities, and in particular those around the sustainability and the environment. The new priority, 'a great place to Enjoy' was considered most important by respondents. If agreed by Council tonight, implementation of the new Plan will start in 2020 with a new, detailed Delivery Plan for 2020-23 to be published in March.

### **Council Performance**

Executive considered the Quarter 2 Performance report on 5 December. There have been significant improvements in the turnaround times for empty council homes and this improvement

will be monitored closely to ensure it is maintained. There have also been an improved performance in bringing empty private homes back into use.

Despite improvement in Quarter 2, staff sickness absence continues to be higher than expected. We are working with North Yorkshire County Council through the Better Together partnership to do a health check of policies and to support arrangements to improve attendance.

In summary we have worked hard through the year and have made the most of the opportunity to celebrate Selby Abbey 950 years to bring communities together and celebrate the people and the businesses of Selby District which are captured in other Executive reports. Therefore it leaves me to wish fellow Councillors and Officers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year.

**Mark Crane**  
**Leader of the Council**