



**Councillor David Buckle**

**Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development**

**Report to Council – December 2019**

**Economic Development Framework delivery:**

**York, North Yorkshire & East Riding (YNY&ER) - Local Industrial Strategy**

As a direct consequence of purdah relating to the General Election the planned publication of the draft LIS in mid-November has been deferred until January '20. Officers will continue to engage closely with the LEP to ensure Selby District priorities and opportunities are properly captured in the LIS so that opportunities for future funding are realised.

**Transforming Cities Fund – Selby Station**

A major public consultation took place during October regarding the exciting Transforming Cities Fund proposals to significantly improve Selby station and the surrounding area, which have been developed by this Council and North Yorkshire County Council.

The consultation responses demonstrated overwhelming support for improving the area around Selby station. All elements of the TCF bid were welcomed; the comprehensive proposals around the station were the most popular, but the proposed bridge to Olympic Park and Ousegate travel corridor also received strong endorsement. The headlines are that:

- 96% of respondents agreed that improvements are needed to Selby station and the surrounding area. In particular, access to platforms 2 and 3 and the area in front of the station were identified as unsatisfactory among respondents.
- 95% of respondents were strongly in favour or in favour of the overall package of proposed improvements.
- 70% of respondents said that the improvements would make them more likely to visit Selby.
- 95% of respondents are supportive of the proposals for Selby station gateway, while 2% are opposed.
- The main measures that respondents felt would improve the station were enhancements to the station frontage, a pedestrian access to Portholme Road and a second station entrance from Cowie Drive. Other aspects that respondents would like to see included a café or bar, a minimarket, or small independent stalls or kiosks near the station.
- Discussions with those landowners potentially affected by the proposals are underway and the Council will continue this dialogue.

The Executive has subsequently endorsed the submission of the outline business case for the Selby TCF proposals to WYCA, in partnership with NYCC, for inclusion

in the Leeds City Region TCF bid to the Department for Transport. The TCF bid for the Leeds City Region LEP / WYCA was submitted to the DfT at the end of November and a funding decision is expected in March 2020.

### **Strategic Employment Sites**

- The developers of the Eggborough Power Station site, The Saint Francis Group, started their pre-application consultations in November. This included meeting with a range of Councillors and interested parties including local ward members, Executive Members, parish Councils and the sports clubs. There was a well-attended public meeting in early December where The Saint Francis Group presented their provisional thoughts for the development of the site and listened to local issues. The developer is likely to submit a planning application for their plans in late December or early in the New Year.

### **SME Support Events**

During this last period:

- 42 SME businesses have been seen and supported across SDC
- November saw the start of a district wide initiative to support the development and retention of employees in growing businesses with the launch of a training needs analysis programme in conjunction with York College the programme will bring fully funded specialist workshops to the District for upskilling business owners and their employees.
- The Business Support service within Economic Development have, in partnership with Cranswick Gourmet Bacon and Whitewing Recruitment, set up a Business Forum for the Sherburn area, the first meeting of the Elmet Business Forum was held on December 9<sup>th</sup>. The inaugural meeting attracted 20+ large and small businesses from the area and the main topic of discussion was focussed on developing the area's circular economy, encouraging supply chain growth by "meeting your neighbour" while also tackling local challenges associated with the business community across the area.

### **Town Centre Revitalisation**

The work by Chris Wade of People and Places Partnership to help develop long term visions and action plans for our town centres is progressing well. Work is underway with Selby to finalise a Forward Framework & Action Plan focussed on growth & access, heritage and digital marketing. A local stakeholder workshop was delivered in October with the Selby Town Enterprise Partnership and emerging ideas are coming forward from high street businesses to work together, particularly on digital marketing and potential events. Businesses have formed a WhatsApp group with some early feedback suggesting that it is great to begin to connect with others in the town centre and to understand what is in the town and what is happening.

Sherburn in Elmet businesses and residents have been canvassed for their perspectives on the town centre with over 800 respondents. This is a fantastic response and key local representatives from business and community sectors are coming together to start

forming the governance for developing the local action plan. We anticipate an early report with emerging themes from the feedback shortly. Engagement with Tadcaster will commence in early 2020.

Since the last Full Council officers have been successful in an initial award of a £430,000 grant from Historic England to develop a High Street Heritage Action Zone in Selby town. The Council have identified £600k in match funding to the project through Programme For Growth initiatives and the car park improvement programme. The 4 year programme will now be designed further and, subject to final funding confirmation from Historic England, will commence in April 2020.

Officers were commended for the quality of the submission and emerging plans for community engagement with the process. The Selby 950 project has stood the council in good stead as having a good track record for delivering for the community in this way. Community engagement will include digital projects, a 'town lab' and a cultural programme is envisaged including both national level events and events delivered by our own cultural sector. A stakeholder group will be formed in the New Year to support development of the project and will include partners such as Selby Civic Society, Selby District Disability Forum, Selby College and the relevant local authorities.

### **Outreach Post Office**

Grove House, the Community Centre at South Milford will be opening as an outreach Post Office on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 12:30 – 2:30pm. It will be there every Monday and Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 – 2:30pm. In the New Year local volunteers will also provide tea and cake to co-inside with the Post Office opening Hours. We see this as a great use of the Councils Community Centre, not only providing a Post Office with its wide range of services but also bringing the community together to chat, helping to reduce isolation and loneliness. Discussions are also taking place with the Post Office Outreach service to see if such a service is needed in other areas where our community centres could provide a base.

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