

## **Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Finance**

**18 July 2017**

### **Financial Statement**

- The revenue outturn position for 2016/17 was an underspend of £0.482m, with increased business rates being received of £0.211m. The transfer to reserves therefore was higher than estimated at £0.693m.
- The total capital programme for 2016/17 compared to the revised budgeted capital programme at quarter 3 saw expenditure at 95% - a total of £18.951m.
- The 2016/17 Financial Report – Statement of Accounts was completed and published on the website on 31 May 2017. This is early adoption of the earlier closure requirements that come into legislation next year.

### **Prison Site Progress**

- The new joint venture company has been formed and named as the Central Northallerton Development Company Limited, for which both myself and the Chief Executive have been appointed as Directors.
- Demolition of the site was completed on 7<sup>th</sup> July and York Archaeological Trust has been appointed to undertake the archaeology on the site, this will run alongside a programme of community engagement activities that will include site visits and opportunities for local schools.

### **Vibrant Market Towns**

- Vibrant market town seminar took place for all Members on 27<sup>th</sup> June, following that feedback has been obtained from Members to inform a report to cabinet in September.
- The Vibrant Market Towns Trainee Project Officer (Rowanne Hibbit) commenced her role on 3 July 2017. This is a graduate post which will support the Vibrant Market Towns project.

### **Business Support & Engagement**

- Business support continues to be a strong theme of engagement with our local businesses. The Business Network Support Grant was offered to existing business networks across the district to assist them in supporting their business members. Grants approved to date include:
  - Thirsk and District Business Association £4,000
  - Thirsty Thursday £1,000
  - Easingwold Business Forum £2,933
  - First Monday £1,760
- A successful Hambleton Business Conference was held in Easingwold in May with our highest audience numbers yet and plans are already underway for the 2018 conference, taking place on 11<sup>th</sup> May, again to be held in Easingwold. The theme for the next conference is to explore the risks that businesses face, and this is likely to include topical elements such as Cyber Security.

- The annual Hambleton Business Awards has become an integral part of the Hambleton Calendar. The recent ceremony saw a celebration of local businesses in innovation, customer service and engaging young minds.

### **Graduates and Apprentices**

- The schemes have proven to be a successful mechanism for the Council to work with businesses and support their growth through the development of opportunity for young people. As part of the ongoing commitment to ensure the schemes we provide are relevant and demonstrate good governance these schemes will be reviewed by Scrutiny Committee in the 2017/18 programme.

### **Economic Development Land**

- Feasibility work on the potential for increased employment land in the District continues to be undertaken as part of the development of the Local Plan. This has been supported with input from Members through the joint meeting of the Local Plan Member Working Group and the Members' Economic Development Focus Group.

Councillor Peter Wilkinson  
Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Finance