

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

15 December 2020

### C4Di

The C4Di Beta project has continued to progress throughout the Covid pandemic, operating several successful virtual events and gained a number of member sign-ups. Work has continued on the listed building that will become the C4Di Northallerton base on the Treadmills development and it is expected to open with the first tenants moving in early in the New Year.

### Business Support

The effects of the Covid pandemic and the subsequent restrictions imposed are detrimental to the local economy. To support Hambleton businesses through this period the council have administered a number of grants:

- The Small Business Grant and the Retail Hospitality and Leisure Grant Schemes has delivered £29.28M to 2,542 businesses;
- The Discretionary Grant Scheme provided £1.42M to 188 businesses that were not eligible for other grant scheme support.

Recently announced grant schemes which opened in November include:

- Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) was launched on 16<sup>th</sup> November with £2.04M to support eligible businesses, by the end of November 200 business had been paid their grant and a further 601 applications were in the process of being assessed;
- Additional Restrictions Grant provides support to eligible businesses from a £1.83M grant and went live on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

Hambleton District Council has led the approach to Reopening the High Streets Safely, working with Town Councils, business networks and other stakeholders to make our towns a covid-safe and welcoming place. Encouraging safe shopping in the High Street is essential to getting our businesses trading and helping the local economy to recover; to support this we have delivered the 'Enjoy Hambleton Safely' campaign and will be suspending off-street car parking charges across the District for the whole of December.

Additional support in the form of business advice workshops to assist businesses in identifying how they can develop in these difficult times has been access by almost 300 businesses across the district. This is yet another example of the types of action we will deliver through the **Economic Response and Recovery Plan** to get Hambleton back on track as a Place to Grow.

Councillor Peter R Wilkinson

Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Finance