

## **Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Projects**

**13 April 2021**

### **Key Council Projects**

At April 2020 the Council had 17 live key projects which are distributed across the Council Plan priorities as follows; Driving Economic Vitality (4), Enhancing Health and Wellbeing (5), Caring for the Environment (4) and providing a special place to live (4).

As at the end of Quarter 4 (March) most projects were on target despite the challenges presented by the COVID pandemic, some inclement weather impacting on construction projects and procurement issues in the supply chain.

### **Maple Park Crematorium Project**

Construction is progressing well despite the wet ground conditions that were experienced on site in the early stages of the ground works, however, it is likely there will be some slippage in the programme. The recent drier spell of weather has enabled ground works to continue, but some of the planting will need to be rescheduled. The structural steel frame is currently being erected which demonstrates real progress on site following the completion of the foundations. The steel work will be completed mid-April when work will start on the building envelope. The recent press release outlined the current stage of construction and informed our communities and interested parties of the progress on this key legacy project.

The contract with specialist local furniture maker Treske who are supplying all the furniture and fittings is in place and we are pleased to have secured this partnership with Treske who are experienced in this area having worked on crematorium fit outs across the country and to also be supporting the local economy and workforce in the District.

Our contractors in this project Wilmot Dixon are members of the considerate contractors scheme and £20,000 has been allocated for 'work in kind' (in the form of labour and materials) to be utilised to enhance and assist the impact of the project within the local community.

### **Vibrant Market Towns**

The Council's COVID Response and Recovery Plan has been refreshed to reflect the Government's Road Map and ensure the safe and successful reopening of our high streets. Support will be continuing from HDC to ensure simple and fast advice is available for businesses and reinforce the public health messages. We will be seeking to identify and install mechanisms to record footfall as the confidence and numbers return. The planned series of roadshows that were postponed due to the COVID pandemic will be revisited. Support and advice will be provided in conjunction with the central government's Pavement Culture scheme to support our many hospitality businesses and for the Discover Hambleton Safely campaign.

## **Treadmills Redevelopment**

With Hambleton's innovative new Business Centre, C4Di, opening in May with the District's annual conference, it is pleasing to report that the Heads of Terms with York College and Sunderland University for the 'e campus' now named "Campus @ Northallerton" to be located in the Staff Tenement building have been signed off. This is the start of an exciting journey to support e training for members of our communities and especially focusing on the younger generation as they develop and seek qualifications and skills to enhance their employment prospects in the modern digital environment.

## **Town Hall Square and Town Centre Improvements Northallerton**

Galliford Try the appointed contractor for the scheme have commenced work on the project. The deadline of 31 March 2021 to allocate and spend the LEP funding allocated to the scheme has been met, which has enabled construction materials to be secured and purchased in advance to assist with the smooth and timely progress of the project eliminating one of the potential blockages that are currently being experienced across the building and construction sector. This project along with other key initiatives that can now be progressed following the securing of the Future High Street funding will have a significant impact on the appearance and economic vitality of Northern moving forward.

## **Capital Programme**

Projects in the Council's Capital Programme are being re-aligned to enable the Council to take full advantage of the £4.75m Public Sector Decarbonisation Grant.

**Councillor Malcolm Taylor**  
**Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Projects**