

COUNCIL – 14 MAY 2018

STATEMENT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Inward investment activity

We are pleased to confirm that our new Inward Investment Manager has now taken up position within the Council.

A number of live investment approaches are being worked on at the moment including three significant new proposals for the Scarborough area and one at Whitby Business Park. If secured there is the potential for the creation of in excess of one hundred new jobs for the Borough.

Aligned to these opportunities the Council has now received its first two business rate relief applications. In these instances the Business Development Zone is proving a tangible incentive for investment and expansion.

Infrastructure and Housing

The Borough Council continues to work with the local enterprise partnership (LEP) and land owners Henry Lax Limited on proposals for the expansion of the eastern area of the Scarborough Business Park site through the provision of new road infrastructure. Recent meetings with the Highways Authority have proved fruitful and we continue to work toward achieving a funding decision for the scheme this calendar year.

The new infrastructure would open up a further 27 acres of developable land and unlock housing sites to the South Scarborough Area.

At Middle Deepdale the Borough Council's development partners Kebbell and Keepmoat have been successful in securing a loan of circa £12m from Homes England (HE) to facilitate the acceleration of infrastructure delivery. The loan enables the accelerated construction of the East-West Link road and bridge across Deepdale, bringing these elements forward for completion in 2021. In turn this should accelerate existing housing build rates and open up the northern land allocations by some 3-5 years.

Housing at the Middle Deepdale scheme continues to progress well with sales matching build rates. In excess of 250 new homes are now established across the two sites to date.

The Borough Council, in discussion with the LEP and HE is at the early stages of developing proposals for modular build (offsite construction) housing for social and affordable homes in and around the Middle Deepdale / Eastfield areas. Viability options for a pilot scheme of 50-100 such homes are currently being assessed.

Eastfield and South of Scarborough Regeneration Activity

In anticipation of significant growth in and around Eastfield and the South of Scarborough Area the Commercial Director and Regeneration Services are in the process of assembling a project team to commence a process of masterplanning for the area and engaging all local stakeholders and agencies to ensure co-ordinated future regeneration activity in the area. As an initial step a Community Regeneration Officer has been assigned to work within the Eastfield area to establish links and initiate the process of community engagement.

Scarborough Critical Junctions

The Borough and County Council continue to work on the project to improve the capacity of town centre junctions in partnership with the LEP.