

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

Wednesday 16th September 2015

1. Planning and Development

Significant planning applications to be presented to Planning and Development Committee on 11th September:-

- A single-storey care home on the land at the rear of The Gables Public House on the Stainton Way/Hemlington Road B1365.
- Residential development on the land to the rear of Hemlington Lane, opposite the Blue Bell Hotel.
- Residential development (6 dwellings) on the land next to the Bishop's house at 16-18 Cambridge Road, Linthorpe.
- A four-storey building at the rear of 214/216 Marton Road for 48 student bedrooms.
- 10. terraced two-storey houses and 6 flats at the rear of the former College of Art site, corner of Burlam Road and Roman Road.
- The design details for the Persimmon scheme for 375 dwellings on the Ladgate Lane Police Station site.

Key developments include:-

- The final house has been completed on the Charles Church development on the former Poole Hospital site. This marks the end of the journey, which began at the turn of the Millennium on the redevelopment of the old hospital site. It includes the rescue of one of the most important buildings in the town, in the conversion to flats of Grey Towers House (Listed Grade II), and the restoration of its associated buildings and the walled garden, together with 110. new houses around the former hospital site.
- The new Aldi store at the Parkway Centre site, has been successfully completed and opened on 13th August.
- The last part of the Prissick Base development takes its place in the town's new sporting facility, in the form of the new cycling velodrome.
- David Wilson Homes have moved onto the next phase of the Grey Towers Village housing scheme, following completion of the first phase and village core around the central open space/drainage pond.
- The Middlesbrough College STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) building is now substantially finished in preparation for opening of 7th September.
- The university's central landscape space and Building One continue to transform the townscape on Southfield Road, in anticipation of the new university academic year.
- Another chapter in Middlesbrough's history continues to be written, as one of the town's illustrious family firms, moves towards its new facility. Clinkard's new building is well on programme and the site is taking shape in Cannon Park.
- Finally, Planning and Development Committee put into place planning permission for four of the five plots at De Brus. The distinctively designed executive houses will take their place alongside the existing dwellings, and construction is expected to begin forthwith.

2. Boho 5 Opening

The latest addition of the Boho Zone was officially opened by the Minister Responsible for the Northern Powerhouse, James Wharton MP, Elected Mayor Dave Budd, Andy MacDonald MP and Nas Parker, Executive Director for the HCA, North East, Yorkshire & Humber.

Boho 5 has been jointly funded by the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and cost £4m. The building provides 24,000 sq.ft. of office accommodation and is aimed at growing digital and creative businesses, complementing the existing buildings within the Boho Zone. Over 50 units are available within Boho 5 and eight companies were already signed up before the official launch and further enquiries are coming through daily.

The wider Boho Zone, which is situated within part of the Tees Valley Enterprise Zone, now hosts 7 Boho Buildings, which include a mix of public and private sector ownership and is home to over 100 digital and creative businesses.

3. Restaurant Week

Fourteen restaurants in Middlesbrough Town Centre, participated in Restaurant Week, which ran from Monday 13th July.

The participating restaurants provided a range of cuisines including Italian, South Indian, American Diner Style, Caribbean and Portuguese. All the restaurants provided a range of exclusive menus and deals throughout the week, aimed at attracting additional visitors to Middlesbrough. Initial evaluation shows that the restaurants as a whole experienced a 35% increase in takings during the week, compared to the year before.

4. Housing Delivery Vehicle (HDV)

The Council and Erimus Housing have entered into a formal legal agreement to establish a Housing Delivery Vehicle (HDV), which will fund the acquisition and refurbishment of long term empties and other problem properties.

The HDV is an extension of the successful Joint Venture with Erimus that was established in 2011 to kick start the regeneration of Grove Hill. The Council's initial capital contribution to the scheme is funded from affordable housing contributions from developers engaged in new build housing sites across the town. The HDV will bring over 20 properties back into use in the next two years.

5. Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Bid

Middlesbrough Council has submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Townscape Heritage funding to improve the environmental and economic prospects of the town's Historic Quarter Conservation Area.

The bid would help kick start redevelopment of empty and run down properties within the conservation area by encouraging property owners to invest in them and return them to economic use. In addition, the intention is that properties brought back into use will seek to help the local community learn new skills and be inspired to take an interest and get involved in their heritage.

Fifteen properties have initially been identified, which could use funding and have therefore been included in the Stage 1 bid. If this is successful then Middlesbrough Council will have 12 months to work up a more detailed Stage 2 submission for a final

decision, which if successful would enable implementation of the scheme in January 2017.

6. Promotion of the Town Rider Bus Service

The Town Rider bus service was established via the previous Local Sustainable Transport Fund programme, in partnership with Middlesbrough College. The TR1 service (college) receives high patronage 185,000 per year (approximately 1,000 per day), however the TR2 (predominantly employment, servicing Riverside Park) had 8164 passengers per year (157 per week). In order to continue the service, and provide statistics that help prove commercial viability (once subsidies conclude), the service requires promoting and marketing. Darlington Council colleagues with expertise in marketing, and particularly in bus promotion (via Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement projects) have been recruited, and a marketing plan and suggestions provided. Over the coming months, some of these initiatives will be rolled out to improve the service, including providing timetables at stops along the route, and direct marketing to business employees that could benefit from the service.

7. Audio Announcements for buses

After gaining special dispensation to by-pass the procurement process for this bespoke software package, the company that were scheduled to undertake this work (Regional Services Limited) have folded. However, a new company (Public Transport Systems) has formed to take over the work previously delivered by RSL. We are working with this new company to deliver the project, which will allow audible communication with visually impaired people via smartphones/tablets using near field communication. Visually impaired people have applications on this technology which the software communicates with in, and allows the time table to be read out to the person, should they wish for this. This assists in removing a barrier of not knowing which bus to board for the visually impaired person.

8. Active Travel Hub

The Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) allows continuation of the support of Middlesbrough Bike Academy; A dedicated cycle maintenance training facility which falls under the remit of Middlesbrough Cycle Centre. The Academy is based at West Lodge, Albert Park, and delivers accredited qualifications in Cycle Maintenance (Open College network level 1), and works with unemployed people in the Borough to provide training, qualifications and recycled bikes back in to the community. The recipients are more employable as a result of attending the course/receiving the qualification, and more mobile through receiving a bike that has been donated, built up via the course and put back in to a road worthy state.

The Academy has also been working with asylum seekers, bringing English Language lessons in to the bike maintenance classroom. Additionally, the Academy delivers Dr Bike services for business and workplaces across the Town. Arriving at work places, the qualified mechanic is able to ensure that bikes brought to the service are roadworthy, undertaking minor repairs and tweaks to keep people safe. This is offered free of charge, with a view to charging for the future, once established. Cargo Fleet Depot are receiving this service on Thursday 13th August, tying in with the start time of refuse crews to increase uptake.

So far, the Academy has delivered the following:

- 21 people trained (10 received OCN level 1);
- 35 recycled bikes back in to the community;

- Working toward becoming a dedicated British Cycling affiliated ride hub, which will be the only centre in the Tees Valley;
- Working toward delivery of Velotech accredited training course delivery, which is industry recognised and chargeable courses can be ran.

9. Active Travel Co-ordination

The active travel co-ordination aims to tie all of the active travel hubs across the Tees Valley (in their various guises) together, sharing best practise and providing a platform to build on for the future. So far, the hubs have had 2 visits, and communication is starting to improve, and sharing of ideas between the hubs moving more freely. A meeting will be established between all of the hubs (many have never met one another) which will resurrect the old Cycle Officers meeting. This project will assist the Tees Valley under its Combined authority status to connect each authority together.

Additionally, reports have been formulated regarding Tees Valley Cycle deign and guide standards, which will help each authority to provide the best infrastructure possible across the area. This is currently in draft state, but will assist in connectivity for the LGF sustainable transport infrastructure to highlight cost benefit, and will assist in attracting funding, based upon aspirations of the Tees Valley. The second report that has been drafted is based upon monitoring, and lays out proposals for a Tees Valley approach to monitoring cycle trips. This will be an important basis for future justification for investment, and will allow the Tees Valley the opportunity to report in a uniform manner.

10.Independent Travel Training

Continuation of the ITT service was made possible by the extension of funding from the LSTF. RCBC and SBC are also delivering this function within their authority areas, based on the good practise established in Middlesbrough. Providing ITT to children and adults with learning difficulties decreases the number of private taxis that are deployed (at the expense of the local authority) for their travel requirements, and improves the independence and confidence of the service users. So far, Middlesbrough has delivered the following under this funding period:

- 34 Primary school children in transition stage (moving to secondary);
- 3 Secondary aged children (years 7-11);
- 15 post-Secondary (16-18 year olds) ;
- 5 adults ;
- All to be trained to travel via means other than a taxi provided by the authority to school, work places etc

11. TAMP Project Update

The total cost of the first building on the TAMP project is circa £11m, which is currently on site and will be complete by the end of this year. This project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Regional Growth Fund (RGF), the Local Growth Fund (LGF) and TWI. The Council's has agreed to an additional contribution of £341,220 to accelerate the OWVC construction project, this accounts for just 3% of the total cost. The Council's additional contribution towards the acceleration programme will ensure that the ERDF elements of the building are complete. The accelerated programme is progressing and is being managed and driven towards completion.

12. Dock Bridge

The development of the Dock Bridge project continues to progress. Further work is ongoing on the design and specification of the bridge to ensure that it is delivered to budget. The confirmation of year two of the Local Growth Fund funding is still awaited from central government and is anticipated in January 2016.