

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016

### 1. Major Boost to Jobs and Investment

Over the past two years, the Council has been directly involved in generating a significant level of job creation and over £110m of investment over a wide range of projects, securing at least 330 new jobs. Additionally, a major new workspace/accommodation will enable further jobs growth e.g. Boho. Significant construction jobs have also been provided.

Appendix one provides full details of the investment.

### 2. Planning and Development

The following major planning applications have been approved:

- the extension to the south of the Parkway Shopping Centre at Coulby Newham to create five additional units. The application was deferred at a previous Committee meeting but following a revised parking layout and management plan, the application has been approved; and,
- reserved Matters for 26 houses at land at Grey Towers Farm (Phase 2a).

The following application has been refused:

- the creation of a waste recycling plant at Holwick Road, Riverside Park.

Major applications being processed and awaiting Committee decision are:

- Snow Centre development at land to the south of Scotts Road;
- outline application for residential development comprising 97 houses and 40 apartments at the Acklam Iron and Steel Works Club, Park Road South; and,
- outline application for assisted living accommodation at land at Strait Lane.

### 3. Middlesbrough Economic Snapshot

As part of the Middlesbrough Means Business Programme and to link with the national initiative Small Business Saturday - A business growth surgery will be planned in Middlesbrough to bring together the main business support organisations into one location for businesses to access easily. The surgery will take place on 1st December at Boho 1 between 9am-12pm. Businesses will be given the opportunity to book a 1-1 appointment to speak to relevant agencies around finance, recruitment, innovation, export and starting up a business.

The telecoms operator, Openreach, has created jobs across the region as it rolls out broadband services. The company has taken on 40 engineers and five apprentices based across the North East including Darlington, Middlesbrough, Stockton and Hartlepool. The new recruits will help install lines, fix faults and fit fibre broadband to homes and offices.

Middlesbrough software developer, EvaluAgent, based in Boho 1 has secured a £300k investment from the Finance for Business North East Growth Fund to help expand its UK customer base and explore new markets overseas. The firm designs software solutions for contact centres.

Confirmation has been received from government that the guarantee for ESIF-funded projects announced in August will be extended to the point at which the UK departs the EU. Projects that secure EU funding before exit will be guaranteed even after Britain has left the EU. Further calls and funding agreements will be made in line with the requirement to demonstrate value for money and fit into domestic spending priorities.

Unemployment in Middlesbrough reduced significantly over the last four years, as shown below:

	<b>16-64yrs</b>	<b>18-24yrs</b>
<b>Sept 13</b>	7.5%	12.1%
<b>Sept 14</b>	5.2%	6.6%
<b>Sept 15</b>	4.1%	5.6%
<b>Sept 16</b>	3.7%	3.3%

A summary of the recent investments supported and / or enabled by the Council are set out at Appendix 1 which have contributed this reduction and drive economic growth in the town.

**4. Major Awards for Local Regeneration - Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)**

The Council was recently successful in winning two planning awards from RTPI North East Planning Excellence Awards. The first award was for the STEM building at Middlesbrough College and the other for The Curve at Teesside University.

Middlesbrough won two of only three awards in the Region. It was a recognition of the outstanding quality of the developments.

**5. Bedford Street – Award Nomination**

Middlesbrough Council has been shortlisted for a Living North award for the Bedford Street project in the Best Regeneration or Restoration category.

In 2015 Living North hosted their first awards. The aim was to acknowledge some of the outstanding achievements made by people from across the region.

The shortlist for the 2016 awards also includes Teesside University for the development of The Curve in Best Regeneration category, Bedford Street bar, the Nuthatch, for Bar of the Year, Psyche for Retailer of the Year and mima for Best Programme at a venue. In addition, 4 of Orange Pip Market’s regular traders have been shortlisted for excelling in their field.

**6. Town Centre Investment**

Middlesbrough Town Centre has attracted some top brand retailers recently demonstrating growing confidence in the town. Crucially, these retailers are bringing jobs and opportunity for the people of Middlesbrough.

Flannels

The former BHS building is to reopen as designer store Flannels and will undergo a £3 million refit. The new luxury Flannels store will be joined by a USC and a Sports Direct and will create 50 to 60 new jobs. The designer fashion chain – famous for stocking high end fashion labels like Dolce & Gabbana and Prada – will fill the ground floor of the 50,000 sq. ft. building.

#### Patisserie Valerie

A popular luxury cake brand is heading to Middlesbrough. Patisserie Valerie is set to open up inside Debenhams.

This luxury handmade cakes and patisserie brand is a first for Teesside. First opened in London's Soho in 1926 by Belgian born Madame Valerie, it is famed for quality cakes and patisserie, continental breakfasts, lunches, and fine teas and coffees. Currently, the nearest cafes are based in Newcastle and Durham.

#### MAC

The popular cosmetics brand MAC is also opening in Debenhams. Until now, local people have had to either order online or travel to the nearest concession, in places such as Newcastle and York.

#### Disney Store

A Disney 'Pop-Up' Store opened in the Cleveland Centre on 21st October. The Disney Store is planning to initially stay for three months however the store may still longer if it proves popular and the Council is working hard to try and keep this popular family store as a permanent feature.

#### Dovecot

Dovecot, a new high end bar and bistro has opened on Linthorpe Road opposite the Bedford Street entrance, kick starting the Baker and Bedford Street wraparound. Dovecot is serving food during the day and until 9pm. After that time people will be able to enjoy the space as a bar.

### **7. Eastbourne Road Shop Shutters**

Middlesbrough Council has engaged with businesses along Eastbourne Road to design a Shutter Improvement Scheme, designed to provide an appealing visual uplift to the main shopping area. The objective of the scheme is to ensure that the message to be sent out is that "Eastbourne Road shops remain open for business".

Artworks and design has now been finalised. The images are being consulted upon with the local shop owners, who have agreed to the principle of having the artwork installed on their shutters.

The artwork has been designed by local, award winning illustrator Sean Sims, a graduate of Cleveland College of Art and Design and Teesside University. Work is scheduled to begin in January 2017 with a completion date of March 2017. The contractor is due to be confirmed.

### **8. Road Safety Initiatives**

Under the campaign title of 'a two minute check prevents a wreck,' drivers were offered the chance to get a free 5 point winter safety check on their vehicle before the winter weather arrives. Drivers called in to Coulby Newham Fire Station on Saturday 12th November between 10am-4pm where professional mechanics from local and national

garages were on hand to check: tyres/lights/fluid levels/wiper blades and free washer fluid top ups. Road Safety Officers also offered child car seat checks and advice. The event has been running for several years and checks on average 100+ vehicles.

St Bernadette's R.C. Primary School will be helping launch the next regional road safety campaign for Road Safety Great Britain (All 12 North East LA's are members of RSGB and fund the regional campaigns). The campaign will be aimed at pedestrians and will use the headline 'Let's Look out for Each Other', pupils from the school will be pictured with Pedestrian Pete a fun road safety character.

An alcohol free social event was held on 16th November at Teesside University as part of Alcohol Awareness week, the road safety team were on hand with a driving simulator to offer students the opportunity to see how dangerous drinking alcohol then driving is and to explain to students about the danger of morning after driving.

On 21st November the road safety team worked with Cleveland Fire Brigade and the AA to launch the start of Road Safety Week. An event is being held at Middlesbrough College where students will watch a Learn and Live presentation which highlights the fatal four factors which can lead to young drivers being involved in collisions, the students are then offered the chance to have a 10 minute 'Start and Go' session with a driving instructor and/or join a 'Show Me Tell Me' session where a qualified driving instructor will demonstrate to them the elements which make up this part of the theory test.