

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017

### 1. Planning and Development

The following major planning application has been approved:-

- Creation of a bowling alley at 1st floor of Centre North East and 83-85 Albert Road.

Major applications being processed and awaiting Committee decision are:

- outline application for proposed Snow Centre development at land to the south of Scotts Road. This scheme is progressing well and it is anticipated that the application will be heard at the Planning Committee in February or March;
- 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. The application has generated a great amount of local interest and is likely to be heard in Planning Committee early in the New Year.

### 2. Local Plan Issues Paper

The Council commenced consultation on the Local Plan Issues Paper on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016. This paper is the first formal stage in the Local Plan review, which agreed by the Executive in May 2016. The review of the Local Plan follows the adoption of the Housing Local Plan in 2014, and is needed to ensure that the Council's planning policies are fully compliant with national planning policy and will support the delivery of the aims and objectives set out in both the Strategic Plan and Investment Prospectus.

The Local Plan Issues Paper identifies the key issues that the new Local Plan will address including: population and housing; economic growth; the town centre; transport and infrastructure; green infrastructure; and the historic environment. The consultation asks residents and key stakeholders for their views about these issues and seeks views on how the Local Plan should deal with them in the future. The feedback received during this consultation will be taken into account to inform the preparation of the Local Plan during 2017.

The consultation will run for 8 weeks until 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Copies of the Local Plan have been made available to view at the Civic Centre and Community Hubs, and can be downloaded from the Council's website.

### 3. Call for Sites/Housing Land Availability Assessment

Alongside the Local Plan Issues Paper, the Council is also undertaking consultation on both a 'Call for Sites' and the methodology for undertaking the 'Housing Land Availability Assessment' (HLAA).

The Call for Sites provides an opportunity for anyone, including the public, landowners, agents and developers, to submit sites that they consider should be allocated for development in the new Local Plan. The HLAA is the process by which all of these sites

will be assessed by the Council. The HLAA will be used to help determine the Council's choice of preferred development sites ahead of a future consultation through the Local Plan process.

All details for the consultation on the Call for Sites and the HLAA are available on the Council's website, with the consultation running until 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

#### **4. Hemlington Grange**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> December Taylor Wimpey (North Yorkshire) received sign off for the development of the Hemlington Grange site. Legal documents were formally exchanged on the 16<sup>th</sup> December. This will trigger the development of the first phase of development with the construction of 273, two, three and four bed dwellings. Works will begin in the New Year with the construction of a new access junction off the B1365 (Stokesley Road). It is anticipated that the sales and marketing suite for the first phase will be operational from May 2017 with the first completions and residents moving in by December 2017. In addition Cleveland Police are likely to be starting on site early in the New Year on the construction of their new £10m 'Community Safety Hub'.

#### **5. Commercial Property Financial Assistance Scheme (Town Centre Grants)**

The scheme has been developed to improve the external appearance and condition of prominent commercial premises within key town centre gateways. Applications for the scheme for 2016/17 have been invited from properties between 97 and 141 Linthorpe Road and between 112 and 132 Linthorpe Road (Grange Road to Borough Road Junction). Property owners in the identified area were informed that applications would be selected based on the following criteria:

- appearance;
- level of disrepair;
- impact on surrounding area; and,
- proximity to recent /proposed developments.

£100K has been allocated from the Town Centre Investment scheme to deliver the scheme over 2016/17 and 2017/18. The level of works will be tailored to meet the requirements of each of the selected properties. A review has been carried out of applications to date and the following properties have been selected for priority assistance in 2016/17:

- 112 Linthorpe Road (Bedford House);
- 114 to 122 Linthorpe Road (Even Numbers); and,
- 99 to 115 Linthorpe Road (odd numbers).

The works are scheduled for completion by early March 2017.

#### **6. Tees Valley Combined Authority - Strategic Economic Plan**

On 8th December 2016 the Tees Valley Combined Authority launched the Strategic Economic Plan. The plan sets out how 25,000 jobs will be created throughout the Tees Valley. Lord Hesletine launched the plan at Blackwell Grange. An event chaired by Middlesbrough Mayor, David Budd.

## 7. TWI Launch

Also on the 8<sup>th</sup> December was the official opening of the £10m TWI Technology and Training Centre at the Teesside Advanced Manufacturing Park on Riverside Park. The launch was hosted by Middlesbrough Mayor, David Budd and the official plaque was unveiled by Lord Hesletine. The TWI Scheme is the first new development on the Teesside Advanced Manufacturing Park and was funded by EU funds; the Combined Authority and Middlesbrough Council.



## 8. TeesRep Biomass Project

Middlesbrough Council attended the meet the buyer event with MGT Teesside on 14th December at Redcar Community Heart. The Tees REP biomass project is set to be the world's largest new-build biomass plant, delivering 300MW of power to the National Grid. Pre-construction activities have already commenced such as ground remediation. The project will be in full operation in 2020. The total construction cost is estimated at £650 million. The event has been circulated to the Middlesbrough local business community to encourage them to find out more about the project, its timetable and the sub-contracting opportunities.

## 9. Economic Snapshot News

Wasley Chapman Chartered Accountants has expanded to Riverside Park in Middlesbrough. The company has offices across Tees Valley and has added 4 new jobs.

Australian stationery store, Smiggle, has opened in the Hill Street Centre in Middlesbrough with the creation of eight new jobs. The Smiggle brand came to Britain in 2014 and there are now more than 80 stores throughout the UK.

Boro goalkeeper Dimi Konstantopoulos' has opened a new Greek eatery on Linthorpe Road called 'Great!'. The restaurant has paid great attention to detail to provide an authentic Greek experience.

Le Patisserie Valerie opened in November 16 and Mac on 5<sup>th</sup> December 16 both within Debenhams.

## 10. Unemployment Rates

Unemployment rates across Middlesbrough continue to fall with continued reductions in October 2016. Reductions in the unemployment rates are emblematic of the heightened sense of confidence and optimism which is sweeping across Middlesbrough.

## Middlesbrough Unemployment

	16-64 years	18-24 years
October 15	4.3%	5.5%
September 16	3.7%	3.3%
October 16	3.6%	3.2%
Reductions October 15 to October 16	0.7%	2.3%

### 11. Highway Maintenance Programme

As we approach the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter the Council and Strategic Partners have delivered the majority of the 2016/17 Highway Maintenance Programme.

Completing 72 carriageway resurfacing schemes on the A, B and C Classified road network and on residential roads in the Town Centre, Acklam, Linthorpe, Longlands, Grove Hill, Hemlington and Thornton & Stainton area, covering 60,460 m<sup>2</sup> at a cost of £924,000.

36 footway paving and resurfacing schemes in the Town Centre, Acklam and Brookfield areas at a cost of £315,000.

And 49 verge replacement schemes in Acklam, Park End and Linthorpe at a cost of £517,000.

As we come towards the end of year two of the enhanced three year Maintenance Programme it has been shown to be having an impact on resident satisfaction.

Results of the recent National Highways & Transportation public satisfaction survey have now been published and full details are available on the NHT website.

### 12. Sustainable transport investment success

Middlesbrough Council has been successful in securing 3 years funding from the Department for Transport for sustainable transport projects across the town. The bid was submitted to the Department's Access Fund Programme on behalf the Tees Valley Combined Authority and continues the work of existing successful projects. The Middlesbrough elements of the bid include:

Middlesbrough Active Travel Hub - in partnership with Middlesbrough Environment City provides a range of initiatives designed to encourage and support people to walk, cycle and use public transport more often. Measures include free secure cycle parking, road safety training, cycle maintenance training, guided walks, guided cycle rides and volunteering opportunities.

Town Rider Bus Service - in partnership with Middlesbrough College connects Middlesbrough Bus Station with Riverside Park Business Park and the wider Middlehaven area. Working with the College, the service will allow a continued link in to a developing area of the Town and remove transport as a barrier to accessing employment, training and education.

Independent Travel Training provides residents with learning and physical disabilities the opportunity to undertake their own sustainable transport journey. Before intervention, the trainees are provided a Council commissioned journey to access education, training or employment opportunities. After successful completion of training, the learners are provided with the skills to travel independently, improving their life skills and self-esteem; reducing the reliance on Council commissioned transport.

Benefits of these schemes:

- positive impact on the local economy by developing sustainable transport routes to education, training, employment and adopting Active Travel;
- less congestion on the local highway network;
- health benefits to individuals becoming more active;
- tangible improvements to the cycling and walking infrastructure through the development of capital projects;
- the provision of a central focus for sustainable and Active Travel in Middlesbrough; and,
- cycling, walking and use of sustainable modes of transport is kept on the local agenda.

Middlesbrough residents and businesses will also benefit from the Tees Valley wide initiatives also:

- Connect Employment & Training Marketing Programme - Funding for various marketing campaigns on key bus/train routes, multimodal journeys and new products.
- Personalised Travel Planning Programme - Targeting those already in employment but also Jobseekers, to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport.
- Tees Valley Pedestrian & Cycling Training Scheme - School based pedestrian and cycling safety training, including Bikeability Plus.
- Connect Education Marketing Programme - National Walking & Cycling campaigns, Incentives for national walking & cycling campaigns, Radio Social Media campaign and National media campaigns
- Tees Valley Walking & Cycling Programme - Ensuring best practice is shared across the Tees Valley including the coordination of Active Travel Hubs.
- Active Travel Marketing Programme - National Campaigns, Safety Campaigns, Big Summer Days Out, Social Media and cycling maps
- Tees Valley wide active travel challenges - Delivery of a number of challenges designed to encourage residents of the Tees Valley to access work, training and education by active modes.

It is important that the town continues to promote alternatives to car based travel, especially to support those without access to a vehicle and also in respect of reducing congestion and helping reduce pollution, making Middlesbrough a better place for all.