

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 29th March 2017

1. Middlesbrough Investment Prospectus

Bold and ambitious plans to drive forward Middlesbrough's future were formally launched on Monday, March 13.

The strategy - spearheaded by Elected Mayor Dave Budd and Middlesbrough Council Chief Executive Tony Parkinson – will see Middlesbrough transformed through investments totalling almost £700 million.



Over the next four years the Council is committed to an injection of £74 million into a series of exciting developments as part of the town's far-reaching Investment Prospectus.

Confidence in Middlesbrough's growing stature as the city heart of the Tees Valley will serve as a catalyst for the creation of 5,000 new jobs, in tandem with inward investment from the private sector and other parts of the public sector.

Developments featured in the Investment Prospectus include a £30 million snow centre at Middlehaven, a 450-bed student village linked to Teesside University, a brand new Media and Innovation Village and Grade A town centre office space. New regeneration will transform more than 57 hectares of land, with the development of an estimated 1.7 million sq. ft. of new business accommodation.

The plans to shape the town's future as the economic, cultural and leisure heart of the region were formally launched at the Riverside Stadium, with over 100 potential investors present.

2. Planning and Development Update

Trimdon Avenue Housing Site has gained approval from Planning Committee on the 3rd March 2017 with an imminent start on site anticipated. Officers worked with the developer, Persimmon Homes, to achieve a development that would integrate well with the existing housing and estate layout whilst provide positive places to live for future residents. The scheme takes the opportunity for housing to look out over the adjacent open space to the rear of the site and has sought to increase parking throughout in line with suggestions made by local residents.

The planning application for the Snow Centre at Middlehaven is progressing towards determination by the Planning Committee. Officers are recommending approval of the scheme which will pave the way for the construction of a regional leisure destination

anticipated to attract 2.2million visits a year and bring significant inward investment and jobs into the area not only through the construction phase of the development but through the longer term use of the development. The development will provide a landmark building within the ongoing Middlehaven Development area and will include other leisure, retailing, restaurant and café type uses.

The Acklam Iron and Steel Works Club applications for housing and a new club building are temporarily on hold while the implications for the loss of playing field space at the site is considered in detail which will involve the review of pitch's in the area.

The planning application for a proposed assisted living scheme at Strait Lane, Stainton is currently being revised by the applicant following discussion with officers in a joint attempt to make improvements which would include a reduction of the proposed buildings massing.

A planning application has been submitted for St James House on the corner of Albert Road and Grange Road. The proposal is to retain office at ground floor and high quality student accommodation above. The proposed scheme proposes some external improvements to modernise and uplift the buildings appearance which are welcomed given the buildings prominent position within this area and being close to other buildings which have recently being brought back to life by improvement works such as the Holiday Inn and properties in the Bedford Street / Baker Street Area.

The materials for the external elevations of the Acklam Hall Medical Centre have been agreed by officers and are considered will introduce the centre as a positive and contemporary addition without competing with the architecture of the historic Acklam Hall and thereby allowing the Hall to retain its visual significance with the surrounding area.

An application for development of 299 houses at 'Land at Stainsby Hall Farm' in the south of the Borough has been submitted for consideration and is currently out to consultation. Detailed pre-application discussions have taken place between the developers and officers in an attempt to ensure the scheme is well laid out and will serve the future population well in terms of movement through the estate and links to open space.

3. Stainton and Thornton Neighbourhood Plan:

On 7th March 2017 the Council approved an application, made by Stainton & Thornton Parish Council, to designate the area of Stainton & Thornton Parish as a Neighbourhood Area, in order to enable the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. This approval follows a public consultation held between 20th January and 20th February 2017, and consideration of comments received as part of this consultation. The Council can now apply to the DCLG for series of grants (up to £30k) to support the Parish Council as it progresses its Neighbourhood Plan.

4. Town Centre Investment Programme

The Town Centre Investment Programme aims to build upon existing and new developments in the town centre meeting the aims and objectives set out in the Council's Investment Prospectus. The programme aims to increase area appeal, by improving the image and perceptions of the area, encouraging further regeneration and investment.

The Council has already approved an allocation of £3m over a four year period to invest in the town centre. A number of projects will be delivered over this period, in order to achieve this, which will include improvements to the public realm as well as the refurbishment and restoration of prominent town centre buildings. To date circa £1m has been committed to the following projects:

- Baker Street/Bedford Street Wrap Around and Albert Road Central
Public realm improvements including new street lighting, new paving and resurfacing of public highways. This will build upon the success of Baker Street and Bedford Street and complement Centre Square, the Holiday Inn and Town Hall developments.
- Commercial Property Improvement Scheme
External improvements to commercial properties initially focusing on the area of Linthorpe Road between Borough Road and Grange road Junctions.

5. Road Safety Initiatives

Seatbelt Sheriff has recently visited assemblies at Hemlington Hall and Corpus Christie primary schools and sworn in 650 Deputy Seatbelt Sheriffs to help encourage Middlesbrough school children to understand why they need a child car seat and the importance of always wearing a seatbelt on every journey. Deputy Seatbelt Sheriffs are also given the extra duty of reminding everyone in the vehicle to 'buckle up'.

Green Lane Primary and Corpus Christie Primary have become the latest schools to join the Junior Road Safety Officer Scheme (JRSO) making a total of 15 primary schools currently participating. JRSO's raise awareness of road safety issues to fellow pupils, parents and the local community and are supported by the Road Safety Officer.

Students at Teesside University will be targeted on Monday 13th March to raise awareness of the new mobile phone legislation, for new drivers who are within their two year probation a mobile phone offence from 1st March 2017 will mean 6 penalty points and a £200 fine, this will result in new drivers losing their licence including the theory test part so it's important they understand the consequences in legal terms and also the possible consequences which could even cost an innocent person their life.

6. Shop Shutter Improvement Scheme

Shutter Media have now been appointed to undertake the Shop Shutter Improvement Scheme at Eastbourne Road, Grove Hill.

The schedule of works is as follows:

13th - 17th March: Discussion with local businesses to establish opening times

13th - 24th March: Design and approval of shutter artwork

27th - 7th April: Production

10th - 26th April: Shutter presentation and fitting

The artwork has been designed by local, award winning illustrator Sean Sims, a graduate of Cleveland College of Art and Design and Teesside University. Sean completes commission based illustrations for national and international clients (including Disney, Waitrose, Fisher-Price, The BBC and Virgin Trains. Currently residing in Brighton Sean was very keen to get involved in a project that supports his hometown.

The concept artwork selected was designed to display a generic Middlesbrough skyline therefore the more businesses which consent, the greater the impact. The shutter

artwork is scratch resistant and the lamination layer would prevent any spray paint damage, should the shutters be targeted by vandals.

7. Middlesbrough Means Business

The last breakfast exchange of the financial year took place on 2 February at the STEM building Middlesbrough College. It was a great turnout with over 80 businesses in attendance providing businesses with the opportunity to tour the Stem building as well as hear from Rob Earnshaw new Director of Digital City and Richard Wilson about the new restaurant plans on Albert Road. Programme now under evaluation with a view to relaunch in May and align with Invest Middlesbrough.

On 7 March Middlesbrough Council hosted an Innovate Tees Valley workshop in partnership with Teesside University – approx. 10 businesses have signed up to the sword programme which provides the company with 8 workshops (fully funded) with the university to create new ideas, support expansion and ultimately generate a profit.

There will also be a ‘Doing business with the Public Sector’ seminar at the Teesside Business Show on 22 March (held at the Riverside) in partnership with FSB/NEPO and the Bid and Research Company, as well as working with MCLS to deliver a guide to apprenticeships for business on 31 March.

8. Broadband Infrastructure

As part of the BT upgrade programme, 25 cabinets are due for upgrade imminently. Options to support new development and a comprehensive town wide infrastructure are being explored with Cityfibre to ensure maximum coverage for the whole of Middlesbrough.

9. Economic Snapshot News -

Caribbean restaurant and bar Turtle Bay is just weeks away from opening up in Middlesbrough. The national chain will be welcoming its first diners at its new town centre venue on Corporation Road on Sunday, April 23.

There has been an £800,000 investment in the site, formerly Walkabout, that has transformed the interior and exterior to a capacity of 231 seats. 50 new jobs have also been created including management, chefs and serving staff roles

Work to build a new Premier Inn hotel in central Middlesbrough is underway. The hotel will be located on the car park alongside the existing Jury’s Inn hotel and Unite buildings on Wilson Street in central Middlesbrough.

The ground floor of the new building will consist of the reception area, a restaurant and bar and a number of bedrooms with the remaining floors each having a similar layout of 16 bedrooms, with a total of 83-rooms in the building.

10. Unemployment Rates –

Middlesbrough
16-64 yrs

The number of people unemployed in Tees Valley has increased slightly by 115 claimants from 16,170 in November 2016 to 16,285 in December 2016 with the rate remaining the same at 3.9%.

Dec 2016 4.8%

Jan2017 4.9%

18-24 yrs

The number of people aged 18-24 unemployed in Tees Valley has fallen by 50 claimants from 3,935 in November 2016 to 3,885 in December 2016 with the rate remaining the same at 6.5%.

Dec 2016 6.1%

Jan 2017 6.0%