

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
Wednesday 1st November 2017

1. South Middlesbrough Highway Improvements

Traffic congestion on the A172 Marton Road Corridor is not a new issue, and a certain level on the main routes is inevitable given the high level of demand during the morning and evening peak periods. Excluding the A19, the Marton Road Corridor is the busiest north-south route in the Borough, carrying up to 25,000 vehicles a day.

Congestion also impacts on other north-south routes in the town such as Cargo Fleet lane. As a result, the Middlesbrough Council has introduced a number of improvements in recent years to increase the capacity of many of the key junctions. These improvements have reduced average journey times during both the morning and evening peak periods by a variety of measures, such as signal timing improvements to allow quicker traffic dissipation blocking junction operation at various locations. Other significant improvements include;

- A new rail station to the rear of James Cook University Hospital, with additional services to and from Nunthorpe.
- As part of the of the Prissick site- a 1,100-space staff car park was constructed to serve the Hospital accessed via Alan Peacock Way and became operational in November 2016, with the net effect removing between 150 and 250 car journeys an hour in the area during morning and evening peak periods.

We are aware that traffic growth will place additional demands on the existing road network. Consequently, we have carried out a major exercise to establish where and when the additional traffic associated with the new housing sites will impact on the network, and identified a set of inter-linked proposed improvements to address this impact. The following package of measures have been developed:

The **Stainton Way Western Extension** – a new road that will run between Mandale Road and Low Lane, which will relieve pressure on the A19/A174 Parkway Interchange and provide access to the designated housing site to the west of Brookfield;

The **Longlands to Ladgate Lane Link** – a new road that will run between Longlands Road and Ladgate Lane; relieving congestion on Cargo Fleet Lane, Marton Road and Ormesby Road. A recent Government statement regarding a new funding scheme was recently announced, allocating £1.1bn for improvements on our local roads. The Department for Transport will be going out to consultation with Local Authorities by the end of the financial year, with an announcement expected shortly after. The Council is due to conclude a more detailed review of the above scheme, which ensures all of the data that will be required for a funding bid, is up to date and takes into account all committed and future developments in the area.



2. A172 Dixons Bank/Stainton Way Highway Improvement Scheme – Public Consultation Exercise

We have carried out a major exercise to establish where and when the additional traffic associated with the new housing sites will impact on the existing network, and identify the improvements that will be required in order to address this impact. As a result of this exercise, the Dixons Bank/Stainton Way (Southern Cross) junction has been identified as the first priority for action, and public consultation is currently underway on a major highway improvement scheme at this location.

The proposed scheme – the first aspect of our South Middlesbrough Highway improvements to be implemented – comprises widening of the existing carriageway on Dixons Bank and Stainton Way to provide two lanes on the northbound and eastbound approaches to the junction. All of the carriageway widening works will be carried out within the existing highway boundary. In addition, the scheme includes a major upgrade to the existing traffic signals at the Dixons Bank/Stainton Way junction, including the introduction of specialist software designed to improve the efficient operation of the signals and, therefore, the capacity of the junction. This upgrade, together with the proposed carriageway widening, will remove the existing 'pinch points' for traffic travelling in a northbound and eastbound direction during the morning and evening peak periods respectively, thereby reducing the queueing and

congestion that currently occurs at such times. The proposed scheme also includes the resurfacing of both roads and improvements to the existing highway drainage system, together with the introduction of improved street lighting. The existing 'toucan' pedestrian and cycle crossing on Dixons Bank will be retained, as will the existing bus laybys.

Given the high traffic volumes on both roads, careful thought is being given to the temporary traffic management measures that will be required during the construction of the scheme in order to minimise disruption both to the travelling public and to the occupiers of the properties directly affected by the works. These details will be finalised should the proposed scheme proceed to the implementation stage.

3. National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) Funding Bids

We recently submitted bids to the Department for Transport's NPIF process, which is aimed to boost productivity in areas where transport improvements are required to facilitate this;

- A number of **Junction Improvements on B1365 Hemlington Lane and Stainton Way**, which will improve the capacity of both of these routes and, therefore, relieve congestion on the Marton Road Corridor.
- **Additional Rail Improvements**
Both Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council are currently exploring the benefits of a park & ride scheme in Nunthorpe. The Council is about to undertake a joint commission as to the feasibility of such a scheme, which will include potential locations, benefits, costs, funding options and working with rail industry partners to ensure the regulatory aspects of new rail schemes are technically feasible and have their support.

4. Successful NPIF bid – A66 / Cargo Fleet Lane Improvements

We have already been informed that one of our NPIF bid's has been successful, and we are set to receive £2.95m of funding from the Department of Transport for the introduction of a 'throughabout' at a key junction on the A66.

The scheme will smooth traffic flow and reduce journey times for vehicles to pass through the junction. This will reduce the accumulation of point source emissions at the junction and, hence, improve air quality.

5. A1085 Longlands Road/King's Road/Ormesby Road Junction Improvement Scheme

Work to introduce a major improvement scheme at one of the busiest junctions in the town were completed on Sunday 1st October.

The scheme comprises the complete renewal of the existing traffic signal infrastructure, including the signals themselves, the signal controller and the underground ducting and cabling linking them, together with the introduction of specialist software designed to improve the efficient operation of the signals and, therefore, the capacity of the junction. An uninterruptable power supply has also been introduced to ensure that the signals continue to operate in the event of failure of the mains power supply.

The scheme is already delivering a significant reduction in congestion and journey times at the junction, particularly during the busy morning and evening peak periods, which has had a positive 'knock on' effect on the operation of the Longlands

Road/Cargo Fleet Lane (Brambles Farm) junction as well. Further evaluation is underway to ensure that the junction continues to operate as intended and the benefits continue to be felt across the wider road network.

6. Joint Strategic Transport Needs Assessment

The Council has recently begun a joint commission with Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council to produce a cohesive Joint Strategic Transport Needs Assessment. The commission proposes that through a transparent and robust process - both Boroughs will further build on strategic transport projects currently being undertaken by each authority; contributing effectively to the production of the wider Tees Valley Combined Authority Strategic Transport Plan, and provide evidence for the future Examination in Public of their respective updated Local Plans.

The Transport Needs Assessment will build on previous work undertaken in relation to forecast future housing and economic growth, identifying the transport needs of the respective Boroughs through understanding the current challenges and existing investment proposals, as well as future interventions. This will enable any connectivity “gaps” to be identified and future transport needs to be specified. The commission will develop and implement an Influencing and Advocacy Plan to report on progress with the agreed strategic priorities to each respective Local Authority’s Executive, and TVCA Transport Committee by exception.

7. Avenue of Trees

A location of significance in the Acklam area, we are working with Acklam 2020 to enhance the Avenue of Trees. Acklam 2020 is keen to develop plans to improve the southern entrance features and is bringing the bulk of the funding to the plans for the area. For its part, the Council will not only help in the coordination of activity, but also direct some of the S106 funding from the Acklam Hall development, to the benefit of this project. The project will engage with Historic England, the planning system and heritage contractors to ensure a sensitive approach to restorations and enhancements.

8. Starting School Road Safety Leaflet

Every reception class pupil in Middlesbrough will shortly be receiving a road safety advice leaflet. The A4 leaflet opens up into an illustrated A2-sized poster that parents can complete with their children, covering all of the important topics for this age group including holding hands, stop, look and listen, safer crossing places and in-car safety. The leaflet also contains advice to parents on vital issues such as route planning, mobile phone use, school gate parking and the benefits of walking.