

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL**  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017**

**1. Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) – Single Pot Bids**

Middlesbrough Council recently submitted seven expressions of interest to the current round of TVCA's Single Pot.

Four projects have secured development funding to progress their investigations and feasibility work and work towards the submission of an outline business case for further funding. They are:

1. Teesside Advanced Manufacturing Park (TAMP) - £120k development funding for site investigations.
2. Rail and Historic Quarter - £650k development funding for design and feasibility works.
3. Boho Next Generation - £100k preliminary design works and financial modelling.
4. TMIV - £1m plus (subject to additional information) towards design, masterplanning and feasibility.

TVCA have indicated that funding agreements will now be drafted and the process for formalising this financial support is scheduled to commence on 13th October. This raises the prospect of the funding agreements being in place by early 2018.

TVCA are also in discussion on how they can assist on the delivery of infrastructure required for housing.

**2. Gigabit City**

The Economic Growth team is in the early phases of exploring options to enhance the broadband infrastructure across Middlesbrough to a full fibre network capable of supplying gigabit speeds. The feasibility of such a scheme is being considered in consultation with TVCA and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. Middlesbrough hopes to take forward a business case to pilot the area as a Gigabit city, enhancing its role as a commercial hub, improving connectivity for residential areas and providing the conditions to continue to support inward investment. If successfully piloted, the system could be rolled out across the Tees Valley to continue to provide a competitive edge.

**3. Middlehaven Relief Road**

Since the start on site (24<sup>th</sup> July) by contractor, Balfour, work has progressed significantly. Key items include: removal of footbridge; removal of roundabout; demolition of former Able buildings; and, extensive earthworks in preparation for the new road, and approaches for the bridge. Currently there are preparatory works ongoing in preparation for the piling to commence for the bridge. There has been some early positive communication with Middlesbrough College, with the view to their construction students using this work as a basis for part of their syllabus and project work, details are to be developed on such. The College is extremely keen, as well as Balfour, to pursue such, various PR will follow in due course. In addition, pro-active work with the football club, with weekly meetings scheduled for duration of contract, has proved useful as any issues on match days are picked up relatively soon.

#### **4. Captain Cook Public House - Middlehaven**

The lease agreement has been validated by both parties and is progressing to engrossment and sign off by mid-October. The lessee will then undertake some works (likely early spring) to ensure that the building is weather tight and prepared for substantive repairs. Work will continue to explore opportunities with both the lessee and the Heritage Lottery Fund, to maximise funding opportunities which can help to protect the heritage features.

#### **5. Enterprise Zone**

Middlesbrough has processed the first successful applicants in its Historic Quarter Enterprise Zone. As part of the Tees Valley Enterprise Zones, the initiative offers qualifying businesses, up to 100% business rates relief over a five year period. This is an important lever in attracting inward investment and new employment to Middlesbrough. The scheme has directly secured important jobs, investment and occupancy which will be announced publically, shortly.

#### **6. Boho 5**

An agreement has been reached with Teesside University to encourage a higher volume of throughput for new digital and creative businesses, from Teesside University's Victoria Road incubation unit to the Boho 5 accelerator unit. Interest in the facility has been significant with occupancy tipping 60% in October 2017.

The continued churn of new and growing businesses is a healthy position for the sector and is to be encouraged. This is entirely consistent with the ethos of the Boho facilities and contributes to the start-up rates of new digital businesses within Middlesbrough.

Increasingly, the emphasis is turning to how Middlesbrough can maintain throughput and churn within the sector. Middlesbrough Council has been successful in securing development funding from Tees Valley Combined Authority to investigate the viability of providing grow-on space for Middlesbrough's burgeoning sector and allowing the established businesses to put down permanent roots. It is critical that such growth is captured and retained in Middlesbrough's economy.

#### **7. Town Centre Investment Update**

Middlesbrough's Town Centre Investment programme has been designed to allow for strategic responsiveness to emerging investment opportunities. Aligned, to enable and maximise the impact of the Investment Prospectus, the programme of works aims to support the economic vitality of the Town Centre and explore the feasibility of future opportunities.

The Baker / Bedford Street areas, Public Poetry, The Holiday Inn / Cleveland Centre frontage facing centre square are early phases and work will continue on to the Albert Road / Corporation Road corner. Finishing touches will be applied in the New Year as not to clash with the Town Centre Christmas works embargo. Various initiatives will continue to progress including the enhancement of the Linthorpe Road / Corporation Road intersection (House of Fraser, Debenhams, Flannels), with options to develop a focal point for the area.

The prospect of these enhancements have provided confidence to the local business community and encouraged multimillion pound investments such as Holiday Inn Extension, Bistrot Pierre, Turtle Bay, Flannels, Soho and the newly announced investment in Lane Seven in Centre North East. These investments support the Council's own investment into the Town Hall Concert facilities and enhance the reputation of Middlesbrough as a destination; pivotal in encouraging Premier Inn and their imminent opening.

The investments have brought, and will bring, hundreds of new employment opportunities to the area and represent tens of Millions of pounds in private sector investment to the local economy.

**8. Centre Square Offices**

Whilst marketing of the Grade A office development has yet to commence, Ashall's are in advanced discussions with two potential major occupiers. It is anticipated there will be a report to Executive on the next stages of implementations by January 2018.

**9. Teesside Advanced Manufacturing Park (TAMP)**

The developer of the site is now in discussion with four developers in respect of potential occupation. A report to Executive on taking the site forward will be in December/January.