

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 20th June 2018

1. Housing Delivery Vehicle – Middlesbrough Council building houses

At Executive in June, we approved the decision to embark on radical housing reform, which would see Middlesbrough Council being directly involved in the building and provision of housing in Middlesbrough for the first time in a generation.

For the first time in decades we are seeing population growth, with people being attracted to the huge opportunities that Middlesbrough has to offer – and we need housing that suits the diverse needs of our current, and future, residents. With an active role in providing housing, Middlesbrough Council will be able to ensure that these needs are catered for.

The establishment of a housing delivery vehicle will enable the Council to provide a steady supply of affordable housing, and increase to pace of housebuilding to ensure continued economic growth. Whereas the private sector is profit driven, our model will be driven by the needs of our residents.

A shadow Board is being established to explore the different structures and governance arrangements for a housing delivery vehicle, and which sites could be brought forward first.

2. Local Plan and consultation

At Executive in May, we approved decision to take the Local Plan Preferred Options – a document sets out the Council's planning approach for the period to 2034, and covers issues such as economic growth, retail, housing, infrastructure and the historic environment – out to consultation.

Middlesbrough Council already has an adopted Local Plan, and this is a refreshed plan as required by national government. A Local Plan gives the Council greater control over what is developed, and where.

The Local Plan sets out an ambition of 425 dwellings per annum as a minimum, but also sets out an ambition to deliver at least 500 dwellings per annum for the first 10 years of the plan to help support the Council's city-scale development ambitions. We believe our target to be achievable based on current trends, and in tune with recent positive developments in Middlesbrough. In contrast, the Government's minimum is based on old trends and is in effect, suggesting we build for decline.

Public consultation is taking place on the Local Plan Preferred Options with the full range of stakeholders between 24th May and 9th July, and the comments received during this period will be used in finalising the plan.

3. Office Block Conversions - Vancouver House and Rede House

- *Vancouver House*

A planning application has been received by the council for the conversion, extension and external enhancement of Vancouver House on Corporation Road in the Town Centre. The scheme seeks to re-use the partly vacated building for a mix of town centre uses. At ground floor proposals show the retention of retail premises, and the provision of restaurants / coffee bar, banqueting and conferencing facilities at first floor with a 104 bed Best Western Hotel and 71 one, two and three bed apartments above. The proposals detail 4 additional floors above the existing building which would occupy the apartments. A new glazed corner feature is proposed to the building which would serve to modernise its appearance and redefine the building within the streetscene.

- *Rede House*

Planning permission has recently been granted for the subdivision of Unit 3 on the ground floor of Rede House for a new retail premises. This signals the continued take up of space at Rede House which will assist in 'town centre living' by not only serving the needs of town centre users but also serving residents within the immediate area which include those within the student accommodation in the upper floors of Rede House and in the nearby Affinity Sutton Housing Development.

4. Middlesbrough Job Fair

Middlesbrough Council and key employment partners organised a job fair in Middlesbrough Town Hall on Wednesday 6 June 10 -3 pm.

A full day was planned for job seekers to include a range of organisations to support people into work, become self-employed or to change career. Over 30 employers were exhibited who were on the lookout for fresh talent including Sirius Minerals, Cleveland Cable Co, Middlesbrough FC and Splash Utilities.

The event was opened by Mayor Dave Budd and was a great opportunity for companies expanding or who have just relocated to the area to connect with local residents requiring job opportunities.

This was a free to attend event, with a free shuttle bus in operation calling at community hubs around Middlesbrough. The event was hosted by the Council in partnership with Jobcentre Plus, the National Careers Service, Middlesbrough College and Middlesbrough Community Learning.

Attendees were also able to find out more from Middlesbrough's growing digital sector who were on hand to showcase their industry and talk to jobseekers about the type of roles they have on offer. In addition, Bowmer and Kirkland construction also attended, as the contractor for the Grade A Office buildings at Centre Square East.

5. Road Safety Initiatives

Reducing Young Driver (17-24 year olds) casualties was a focus of several events in June for the Road Safety Officer. Multi-agency events including Cleveland Fire and Rescue/Cleveland Fire Brigade and other LA Road Safety Officers took place at

training colleges NETA and TTE, where students watched a mock collision and extrication demonstration before taking part in workshops such as drink & drug driving, speed and students also experienced the shocking outcome of a collision in full virtual reality.

Not content with delivering advice to those young people already driving we also hope to raise awareness of the risks and responsibilities to the pre-driver age group and beginning on 25th June and running for 7 days will be 'Wise Drive' again a multi-agency event targeting year 10 pupils from around the Cleveland area. Held at Stockton Riverside College and featuring a number of workshops including driving simulators and a seatbelt sled experience.

Bikeability - despite the winter weather complications 2017/2018 saw 733 year 5 or 6 pupils complete level 1 & 2 Bikeability training. The Council work in partnership with Middlesbrough Environment City who deliver the on-road training on our behalf. The council have DfT funding in place up to 2020 to deliver up to 815 places per year.

Middlesbrough Council has received funding agreement letters from the Tees Valley Combined Authority for the Access Fund programme to be delivered over 2018-19. This programme includes:

- Tees Valley Junior Road Safety Officer Scheme – A Tees Valley wide student led road safety initiative.
- Pedestrian / Cycling Training Programme – A school based pedestrian and cycling safety training, including Bikeability Plus. This is delivered in partnership with MEC.
- Town Rider Bus Service Contribution – An interim delivery of the bus link between Middlesbrough Bus Station, Rail Station, College and employment sites. It is hoped to expand this service once the new Middlehaven retail and leisure facilities come online.
- Active Travel Hub Contribution - The continuation of the existing function of Middlesbrough Cycle Centre in partnership with MEC.
- Independent Travel Training Contribution - Additional training / support for those wishing to use sustainable transport when travelling to / from school.

Tees Valley Wide programmes have also been confirmed, including:

- *Personalised Travel Planning* – encouraging the use of sustainable transport and the multi modal journey, targeting those who are already in employment and also Jobseekers. Delivered via Job Centres, workplaces, travel hubs and households.
- *Connect Employment & Training Marketing Programme* – Working in partnership with the bus and rail operators to promote public transport for access to employment as well as supporting town centre retail and leisure economies. Promoting the use of POP smartcards and various measures to help reduce the cost of travel including promotion of a multi operator ticket to students/apprentices, and supporting the Connect team.
- *Wheels to Work* – reduced cost of travel through loans of bicycles, electric bicycles or basic scooters. Including the provision of training and safety equipment.
- *Connect Education Marketing Programme* – national Walking and cycling campaigns within schools. Incentivising schools to increase participation of national campaigns by offering substantial prizes such as bike / scooter shelters, cycle / training sessions. Delivering a marketing campaign across radio, social media and relevant printed publications to raise awareness of the project brand.

- *Active Travel Marketing Programme* – promoting national walking and cycling campaigns, including Tees Valley safety campaigns aimed at pedestrians and cyclists, benefitting all road users. Other schemes will also be promoted such as Big Summer Days Out and various social media campaigns.
- *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. Including the development of web interface.

6. Rugby League World Cup 2021

In October 2017 Middlesbrough Council (MBC), in conjunction with Middlesbrough Football Club (MFC) made a proposal to the Rugby league World Cup 2021 on the basis to submit a further bid for the Riverside Stadium, Middlesbrough to be a host venue for the Men's games and that Rockliffe Hall would be a base camp and training venue for a home team and competing nations.

Middlesbrough has now been shortlisted to submit a bid to be a host venue. Bidding guidance was issued in January 2018 and final submissions are required by 31 July 2018. The formal announcement on host venues will be in January 2019.

There are many economic and social benefits to the town and region including a projection of up to £6m of economic impact to the area. All 31 of men's games will be broadcast on the BBC and there is support to build rugby league in the area working with hard-to-reach groups through volunteering and coaching.

MBC, TVCA and MFC have agreed to further the bid to a full application based on the core component of the Riverside Stadium to host two of the men's group games and one of the quarter finals, with Rockliffe Hall being a base camp and training venue for the home team.

Following the bid submission of the bid application and comments on the relevant sections of the template Hosting Agreement, it will be evaluated and if successful will lead onto a Candidate Stage, taking place from August 2018 – November 2018.

The evaluation stage commences from 1 December 2018 through to January 2019. Candidates will be evaluated on the assessment criteria within the bid application and be notified whether they have been successful or not on or before 25 January 2019. At this point RLWC2021 Ltd will countersign and return Hosting Agreements to successful host partners.