

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
Wednesday 17th October 2018**

1. TeesAMP

Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park (TeesAMP) was formally launched with the official ground breaking by Dave Budd – Mayor of Middlesbrough, on Thursday 20 September 2018. The event was also attended by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (and local boy) the Rt Hon Greg Clarke MP and Ben Houchen – Mayor of the Tees Valley.

The event marks a key milestone in the delivery of 180,000 sq. ft. of industry-leading manufacturing accommodation, which will host up to 1,000 skilled, well-paid and high-value jobs and attract new businesses and industries to Middlesbrough. The event will further enhance the profile of the site and add to the already impressive interest which the development has generated. Working with partners such as TWI, Teesside University and Middlesbrough College, the aim is to meet the skills requirements of new companies with our domestic labour force.

The project is nearing the completion of the tender stage to appoint a contractor for the development and construction work will commence later in the year. The first units will be available in early summer 2019 and work continues to meet with interested parties to formalise their interest and agree tenancy arrangements.



We are delighted to announce that the terms of a lease have been agreed with IMH – International Marine Hydraulics, allowing them to meet their growth ambitions within Middlesbrough and not having to look outside the Tees Valley for new accommodation. This lease takes a large, 26,000 sqft unit, which accounts for 15% of the available units on the site; all before a spade has entered the ground. Talks are progressing with other interested parties and we hope to announce further new tenancies soon.



2. City Centre

In response to the evolving consumer environment and challenges in the retail market place, Middlesbrough Council is working with sector-specialists Central Management Solutions (CMS), to conduct an economic assessment / city centre health check to assess Middlesbrough's comparative performance now, and to identify practical recommendations as to the future actions that could be taken to improve prospects in the long term.

Part of this assessment involves detailed local stakeholder engagement and, as such, Middlesbrough Council and CMS hosted a DNA workshop with local retailers and businesses; on Wednesday 19 September 2018. Using the existing structure of Middlesbrough's Town Centre Partnership Board, the event was designed to consult with the retail community and build a local consensus amongst wider stakeholders as to the opportunities to extend the appeal of Middlesbrough City Centre, both to absent consumers and absent businesses.

The event was a great success and was an extremely valuable opportunity to take a pragmatic look at the fundamental issues which will shape the success of Middlesbrough's retail area, in a challenging consumer environment. This event has captured the practical issues and responses to achieving Middlesbrough's potential and will inform the targeted interventions of the upcoming City Centre Strategy for Middlesbrough.

3. Teesside University Business School

Teesside University's £7.5m investment in their new Business School has completed in time for the new academic year. The total refurbishment of the Student Centre has provided contemporary new teaching space, equipped with the latest technology-enabled facilities. The work forms part of a £350m investment commitment, by Teesside University, in its campus, over the next ten years.

Serving approximately 4,000 full-time undergraduate's, the facility builds an ethos which stresses the importance of working together with business to ensure that graduates are meeting its needs and, ultimately, contributing to the economic growth of the Tees Valley.

Next up for Teesside University is the £12.5m Student Life Building.



4. Invest Middlesbrough Breakfast Exchange

The next Invest Middlesbrough breakfast exchange will take place in Middlesbrough's newly refurbished Town Hall on Thursday, October 11. The free networking event provides businesses with an opportunity to meet up on a less formal basis, chat, share, learn more about Middlesbrough's ambitious regeneration plans and do business.

In this event the Council will be shining the spotlight on Centre Square. This ambitious development has taken a major step forward recently. The breakfast exchange provides an opportunity to get a behind scenes look at how the development came about and meet with the businesses involved including Ashalls Development, Bowmer and Kirkland Construction and Seymour Architects.

5. Middlesbrough Rail Station

The Council is continuing to work with Network Rail, TVCA and the franchise operators to improve the fabric of the station building, along with improvements to rail services in and out of Middlesbrough. The Council is leading a workshop with all stakeholders to produce an output specification for building improvements, namely improvements to the southern entrance and the undercroft/former Cornerhouse nightclub. This will then result in design options being drawn up and finalised for the redevelopment.

Northern Rail are testing new 'rolling stock' on their network in the coming months, with the planned introduction to be late December/early January. This will see newer carriages that will begin the phasing out of the 'pacer' trains across the local network. Customer will see improvements such as Wi-Fi, air conditioning, greater leg room and improved capacity on their services. In addition to this, First Group announced the extension of the Manchester Airport, Trans Pennine service to Saltburn. This will provide greater connectivity from East Cleveland into Middlesbrough and the wider northern region. This is due to be implemented from December 2019.

6. Christmas 2018

This year's Christmas campaign is now underway which will include the Christmas Events programme. This has now been finalised and will include annual highlights such as the lights switch on, Magical Middlesbrough Parade, The Big sing and Santa's Grotto. The festive period will also be a busy time for the newly refurbished town hall with a busy schedule of

performances including the Czech National Symphony Orchestra, Ron Wood and the Bootleg Beatles.

Late night Thursday shopping will launch on 22nd November to coincide with the Christmas Lights Switch On, with extended late night shopping, between Monday 17th December and Friday 21st December until 7pm apart from Thursday's until 8pm. In addition to this the Town Centre Team are introducing the 12 Days of Christmas Campaign, which will link retail and Food and Beverage offers together on different days to create a route around the town centre. Businesses will also be encouraged to put special offers on, on the days of the Light Switch On and Magical Middlesbrough Parade.

7. Gresham Student Village

Negotiations with Teesside University

A Task and Finish Group has been established with Teesside University to develop an action plan to progress the sale of the Student Village site following the Executive approval on 1st August 2018.

The parties will seek to agree the redline boundary of the site with discussions ongoing regarding the exclusion of areas to facilitate the development of a Council operated car park to support the University, Linthorpe Road businesses and the night time economy, and the potential extension of The Crown.

Property Acquisitions

There has been good progress since the Council introduced the enhanced relocation packages, with only nine properties yet to be acquired across the whole of the site.

Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)

The Land at Newport Ward CPO Order was submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for confirmation on Wednesday the 19th September 2018.

Officers will continue to progress the acquisition of the remaining properties by negotiation throughout the CPO process.

8. Middlehaven Access Road

Balfour Beatty have completed the works to construct a new access road over the entrance to the Dock at Middlehaven. This key bit of infrastructure provides the missing piece of the jigsaw in the wider Middlehaven infrastructure and completes a crucial east west road corridor through the site. The addition of the access road will open up land on the north side of the Dock for further development. The road will be officially opened by the Shadow Secretary for Transport (Andy McDonald) on the 19th October.