

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
Friday 15th March 2019**

1. New Housing Company – MHOMES

On the 22nd February 2019, the Council received confirmation that MHOMES (MIDDLESBROUGH) LIMITED has been registered by Companies House. The registration of the company follows the Executive approval of the 18th December 2018 to create a Housing Delivery Vehicle to intervene in the housing market in order to exert greater control over the pace and quality of housing development across the town, develop brownfield sites – which can be unattractive to private developers, and create affordable homes for current and future residents. Following the Executive approval, branding has been developed for the company, and the Shadow Board has subsequently approved the MHOMES name and initial branding material.

As set out in December's Executive report, MHOMES will initially develop 100 units over two years on three Council owned sites, Gresham (Phase 1), Beechwood and Hemlington North, including 37 units for low cost affordable rent, 35 units for market sale and 28 mixed tenure units respectively.



MHOMES

Homes for Middlesbrough

2. Northern Rail Ticket Offer

Middlesbrough Council has worked with Northern (Rail) to introduce a free ticket offer to support job seekers travelling on dedicated Northern Rail lines. The initiative was first launched with Northern at the Middlesbrough Job Fair in Summer 2018 and has since been introduced in Redcar. Since the launch we have sought an appropriate route for delivery and this is now in place.

200 complimentary tickets have been provided in the first instance by Northern and will be distributed by the MCLS team to jobseekers. These are available to Middlesbrough residents who may wish to travel via Northern to an interview, training or voluntary opportunity (up to 3 tickets per person).

The scheme will be monitored and evaluated, and, in the meantime, further talks will be held with Northern and Transpennine Express (TPE) about the possibility of expanding the scheme to include TPE routes in the future.

This Northern Rail scheme is separate to the Jobseekers scheme through the Job Centre which offers jobseekers a 50% discount.

3. Gresham Neighbourhood Forum

In December 2018, the Council received two applications from Streets Ahead for Information (a local community charity located within the Gresham area), local Gresham residents and business owners to have the previous Gresham Ward boundary designated as a Neighbourhood Area, and to set-up the Gresham Neighbourhood Forum for the purposes of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The designation of a Neighbourhood Area enables the relevant approved body (Forum) to establish a vision and general planning policies for the development and use of land in their designated neighbourhood. This takes the form of a Neighbourhood Plan, which the relevant body prepares. Once adopted, following a successful referendum the Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the Council's statutory Development Plan for the area.

As part of Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, the Council undertook a seven-week period of consultation; 18th December 2018 to the 5th February 2019 in relation to the submitted applications. Since no objections were received during the consultation period and given that the applications met the requirements of what a Neighbourhood Area should be, the applications were approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation on the 18th February 2019.

4. Affordable Warmth Scheme

To ensure Middlesbrough Residents could maximise the funding available from the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) aimed at providing affordable warmth and tackling fuel poverty, the Executive Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure approved the creation of a Council Statement of Intent in March 2018. The Statement of Intent allows the Council to identify those residents living in fuel poverty of which would otherwise not be eligible through the Governments eligibility criteria for ECO.

Co-ordinated by Middlesbrough Environment City, the Middlesbrough Affordable Warmth Partnership have been able to expand its relationship with 0800 Repair, a ECO funding and delivery organisation, and since October 2017, Middlesbrough resident have received Private Sector funding of £433,259 to assist with energy efficiency measures. This equates to over £4million saved in lift time energy costs.

0800 Repair funded a post at Middlesbrough Environment City to help promote the scheme in the area, making the most of the Council's Statement of Intent. In the last Quarter (1st Oct 18 to 31st Dec 2018), referrals increase significantly, and over half of the investment and money saved mentioned above was delivered in this quarter. It is hoped that with the new approach, this level of delivery will continue, if not grow.

5. Masterplans and Design Guidance

- **Nunthorpe Grange**

A planning application has been submitted for a new roundabout on the A1043 between the Poole Hospital Roundabout and Field House. The works proposed as part of the application will facilitate both the development of Nunthorpe Grange housing site (to the north) and the potential Park and Ride facility to the south. In doing so the roundabout will enable the Council to deliver its aspirations as set out in the Investment Prospectus, Local Plan, and Strategic Plan.

- **Stainsby**

Following an extensive consultation period including three workshops, the draft masterplan for Stainsby was presented to Executive in January 2019. Approval was granted to proceed with the development of a detailed masterplan, planning application for the Stainton Way Western Extension and all relevant site investigations which will feed into both the detailed masterplan and the planning application for the Stainton Way Western Extension. The Council are currently in the process of developing the required road designs to support the planning application.

A final masterplan will be prepared for use in negotiations with developers to ensure they deliver the key design objectives set for the development.