

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 4th September 2019

DECISIONS

1. Strategic Housing Partnership

On August 27th the Executive considered the proposal to enter into a strategic partnership with Thirteen Housing Group and North Star Housing Group to develop social housing in the town. The partnership will look to develop a number of sites that will contribute to the identified housing needs in the town.

2. Development of Gresham

On August 27th the Executive considered the proposal for Thirteen Housing Group to develop 179 units of affordable housing on the cleared site at Gresham. The site would be leased to Thirteen, with the scheme expected to start in 2020.

3. Disposal of Denmark Street Car Park

On July 11th the Executive agreed to dispose of the Denmark Street Car Park to an educational institution for the development of a flagship new facility. The facility would provide new employment opportunities for the town, improve the vitality of the town centre, and add over £24m of economic benefit to the economy.

STRATEGIC

4. Economic development

The design team has been procured for the detailed design of the Boho 8 facility, as part of the Boho Next Generation programme. This phase will see the development of detailed design plans as part of the C. 10k sqft of new modular workspace to be delivered in Middlesbrough's Digital Campus. The £20m funding programme, developed in Partnership with TVCA will deliver:

- a) dedicating a large area (c. 11 hectares) of the former St Hilda's site, for the purposes of a mixed use Boho digital campus;
- b) the delivery of Boho 8 (Summer 2020) – high-specification, stackable, plug and play, modular units to be enabled at the rear of Boho One creating C. 10,000 sqft of 'pressure valve' expansion space to allow indigenous businesses to meet short term accommodation pressures.;
- c) the delivery of Boho 10 (Summer 2021) for the construction of C. 60,000 sqft of new, traditional build accommodation to allow for major expansion of the cluster and inward investment leads;
- d) associated public realm, parking, common amenities and services – high spec broadband as a minimum; and,
- e) additional phases of campus-based, urban living products which support the retention of young professional.

5. Marton Avenue

Marton Avenue was given outline approval by Planning Committee in the July planning meeting for 72 housing units. The approval now means that as per the strategic housing plan Marton Avenue will now be marketed through Savills at Newcastle. The format will follow that which was successful for the Brackenhoe sale with outline planning supporting the due diligence work with a view to de risk the site from a potential purchaser's perspective.

6. Local Plan Working Group

The Local Plan Working Group met on 15th August to re-commence the review of the Local Plan. The group will consider a number of issues over the coming months, including updating the evidence base around key issues, how national policy will affect local direction, and further consultation on key housing sites. The review will ensure that the process of preparing and implementing a Local Plan is open, transparent and sensitive to reflecting the views and needs of local communities. The group are working towards the production of a 'preferred options' paper by summer 2020, with full adoption by April 2021.

7. Town Centre Wi-Fi Provision

Middlesbrough town centre free public Wi-Fi is scheduled to go live in September 2019.

Cornerstone Business Solutions is installing 20 access points around Middlesbrough town centre including Centre Square, Albert Road, Corporation Road, Southfield Road and the Baker Street and Bedford Street area.

Twenty small devices comprising self-healing mesh will be installed on existing street furniture to provide a strong Wi-Fi connection that's free of charge, for the benefit of residents and visitors to the town. Customers and workers in the town will be able to utilise free Wi-Fi to check opening times of shops and restaurants, take a peek at a restaurant menu, look up bus and train timetables or simply follow the latest news whilst on the move.

Whilst shoppers will naturally benefit, there's no intention just to focus on the retail areas, we are keen to improve the Wi-Fi experience where people gather and socialise in the central part of the town centre. At the point of access, the service will also allow the council to promote services, events and important notices via the splash page through which the public will initially sign in each time they use the Wi-Fi service.

PERFORMANCE

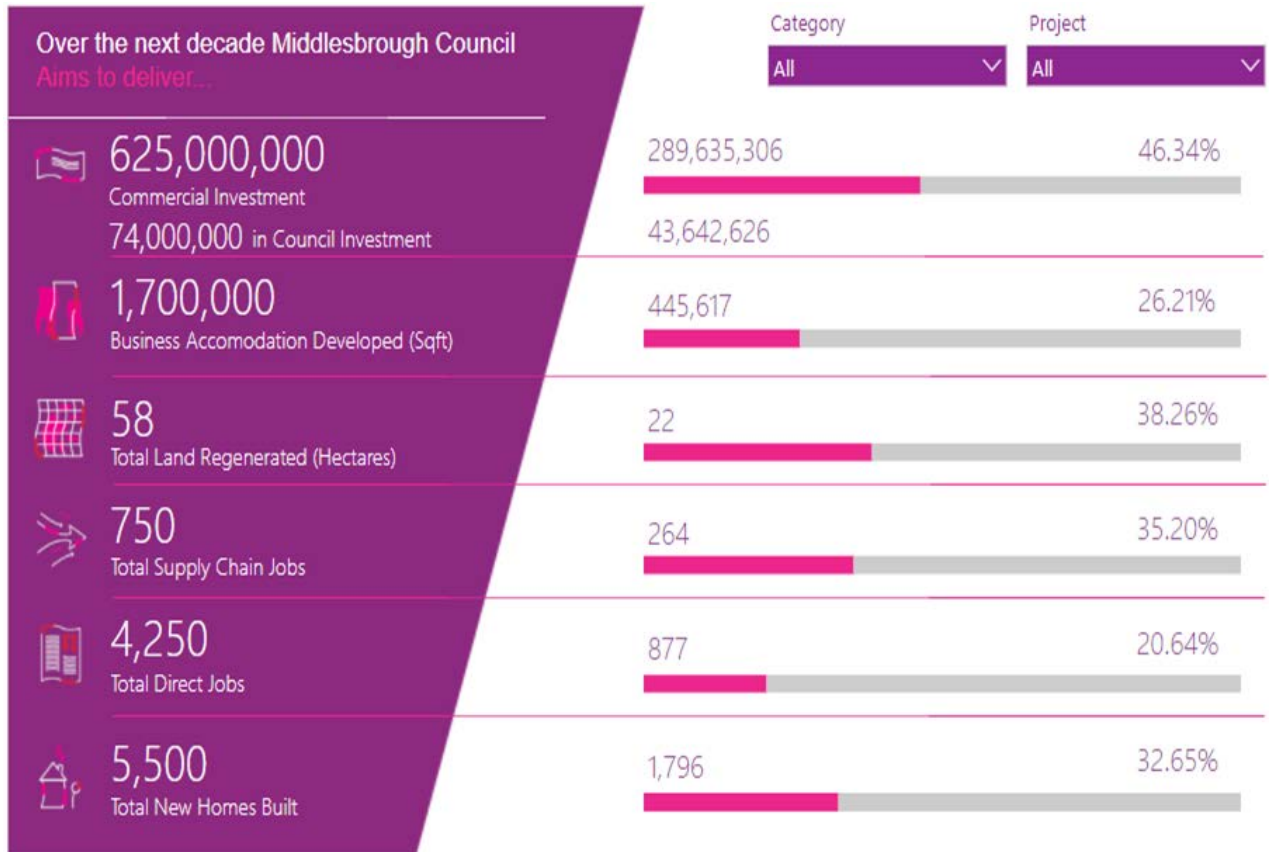
8. Investment Prospectus Progress – Q1 2019

Excellent progress continues to be made against the objectives within Middlesbrough's Investment prospectus. Total investment (public and private) has topped £330m and private investment alone, will break the £300m barrier in Q2.

Even given the natural time lag between investment being translated into new employment opportunities, Over 1,000 direct and indirect jobs have been created.

This quarter, some major investments of note include:

- The rapid progress of the construction of Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park;
- The completion of the first centre square office facility; and,
- The opening of the state of the art MD DIY facility at Cargo Fleet.



INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION

9. Road Safety: Car Seat Safety Checking Event

A free child car seat safety checking event was held at Teesside Park, 22nd August 10am-3pm outside Mama's and Papa's. The event is a joint effort between Middlesbrough Council and Stockton Council with professional car seat fitters and local Road Safety Officers available to check that seats are fitted correctly and that children are correctly restrained within the seat or to simply offer advice about types of seats/legal requirements. A similar event held last year highlighted that 66% of the seats checked had a fitting fault so the event has a real impact as children leave in a safer position than they arrive in.