

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 23rd December 2019

STRATEGIC

1. A66/A171 Cargo Fleet Junction Improvements – Update

The A66 is the busiest east-west route in Middlesbrough, carrying between 50,000 and 90,000 vehicles on a typical weekday, over 10% of which are HGVs. As well as serving the town centre, the A66 plays a key strategic role in connecting the A19 and A1(M) Trunk Roads to the west with Teesport and the South Tees Development Corporation site to the east. A171 Cargo Fleet Lane is one of the Borough's busiest north-south routes, serving east Middlesbrough and linking the town centre with Guisborough, Whitby and Scarborough. The A66/A171 Cargo Fleet junction carries around 5,000 vehicles per hour during the morning and evening peak periods, and operates close to its practical capacity at such times. This frequently results in delays and congestion, increasing journey times and reducing journey time reliability on two of the Borough's most important roads.

Works on site to deliver this major highway improvement scheme started on Monday 21st October, with completion envisaged by late Spring 2020. Site set up is now complete, and the first phase of works – comprising the realignment of the existing kerblines of Cargo Fleet Roundabout in the vicinity of Cambridge Road and the construction of a concrete retaining wall adjacent to the exit from the roundabout to the A66 (westbound) – commenced on Monday 4th November.

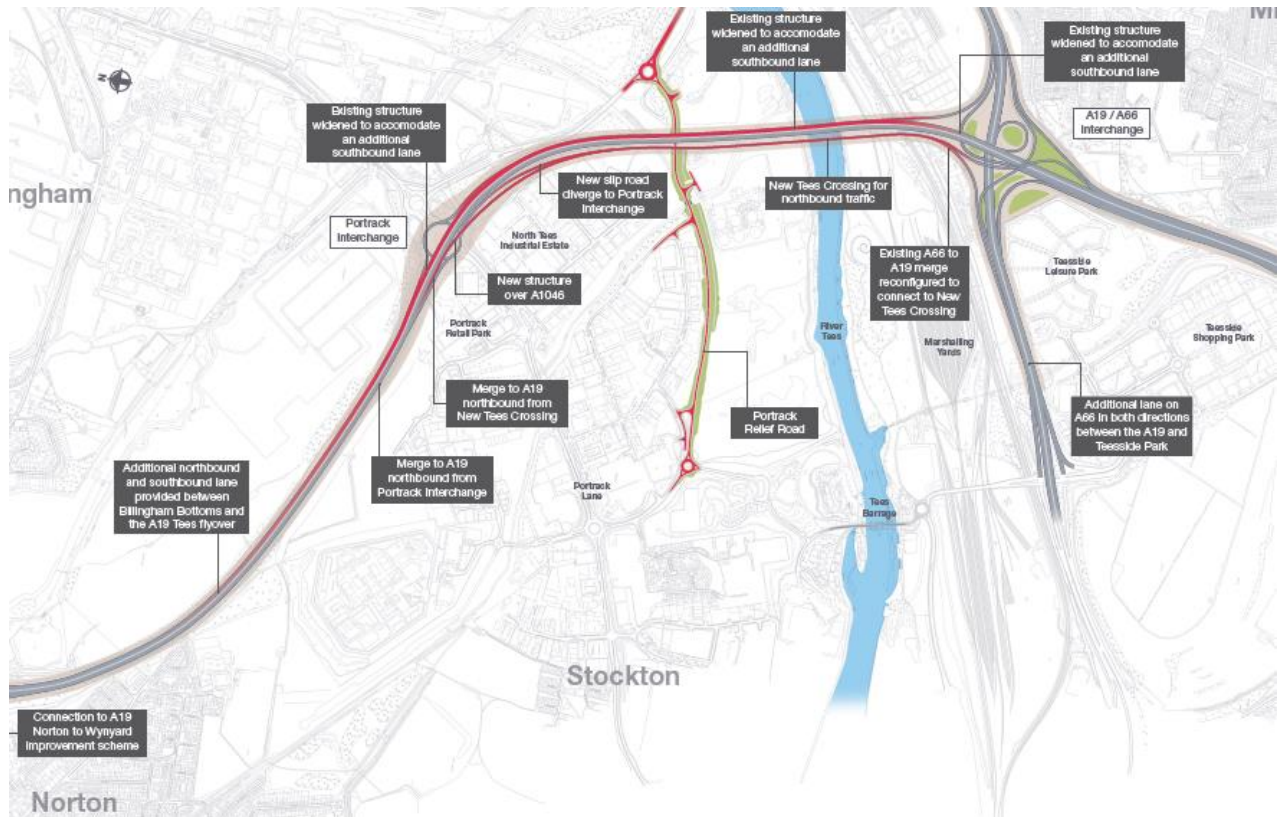
Two lanes of traffic will be maintained in each direction on the A66 between 7 am and 7 pm, Monday to Saturday inclusive whilst works are underway in order to minimise the impact of the works on this strategic route connecting the A1(M), A19, Middlesbrough town centre and Teesport, and a temporary 30 mph speed limit is in place on the A66 to ensure the safety of site operatives and the travelling public. Camera enforcement of the 30 mph speed limit will be carried out as and when required to encourage compliance. The section of Cargo Fleet Lane between the A66 and South Bank Road will be closed to traffic for the majority of the contract period, with diversion routes in operation.

A major stakeholder engagement exercise was carried out prior to the commencement of works, and this will continue throughout the life of the project. Further details about the scheme are available at: <https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-footpaths/roads-and-highways/highway-improvements/a66a171-cargo-fleet-junction-improvements>.

2. New Tees Crossing – Submission of Outline Business Case

The Outline Business Case for the New Tees Crossing was submitted to the Department for Transport on Friday 25th October. Developed by the Tees Valley Combined Authority in partnership with the five Local Authorities in the sub-region and Highways England, the preferred scheme comprises a new two-lane bridge adjacent to the existing A19 Tees Viaduct carrying northbound traffic, together with widening of the existing Viaduct to create an additional lane for traffic heading south. The preferred funding route is for the scheme to be included in Highways England's Route Investment Strategy programme,

reflecting the fact that it will provide additional capacity that will relieve congestion at a key bottleneck on the Strategic (i.e. Trunk) Road Network as well as improving the resilience of the local road network serving Middlesbrough, Stockton and the wider Tees Valley area. The Department for Transport's decision is currently awaited. Because of the uncertainties around the outcome of the General Election on 12th December, it is likely that this decision will be made early in the New Year.



INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION

3. Transport & Infrastructure

- The department submitted an Expression of Interest submission to DfT Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund – joint bid with RCBC for A66 maintenance repair and resolve long standing issues to improve vehicular flows at all times, reducing congestion and keeping the economy moving along the strategic route. The value of the bid is £12.3m, which £11.1m is an ask from the DfT. The remaining is matched funding contribution (coming from both local authorities). All stakeholders are awaiting response from DfT as to whether we progress to the next stage, which is expected December / January.
- The Council has been involved in an Electric Vehicle charging facilities assessment, in partnership with TVCA. Proposals for Middlesbrough include facilities at BOHO one, Resolution House Depot, Captain Cook Car park and Zetland Car Park. A report commissioned by TVCA will be used to formulate an action plan/strategy across the region, and be used to attract funding to develop the infrastructure.

This is proposed to provide 19 spaces as below:

Rapid Charge facility – BOHO one (7 spaces - 2x150 + 3x50 + 2x7Kw capacity)

Mixed – Resolution House (7 spaces – 1x50 + 1x22 + 5x7kW capacity) & Captain Cook Car park (3 spaces – 1x22 + 2x7kW Capacity)
Slow charge – Zetland Car Park (2 spaces 7kW capacity)

- LED upgrade programme is continuing and it has replaced 1170/6114 units to date.

4. STAGE (Safer Travel with AGE) Event

Timed to coincide with International Older Persons Day, this event – which was specifically aimed at older road users – was held at Middlesbrough Sports Village on Tuesday 1st October. Andy Preston, the Elected Mayor, welcomed visitors to the event, the organisation of which was led by Middlesbrough Council's Road Safety Team on behalf of the Cleveland Strategic Road Safety Partnership.

STAGE was a 'market place' style drop-in event, which was specifically designed to include something of interest to all older road users, whether they were pedestrians, cyclists, motorbike riders, car drivers or just thinking of changing the way that they travelled around. As we get older it is perfectly normal for our transport habits to change, sometimes due to health reasons or the increasing challenges of our busy roads. The purpose of STAGE was to give older road users the opportunity to seek out advice and guidance to help them keep active and safer for longer on the roads across the Cleveland area.

Older drivers were encouraged to take part in a free practical driving assessment at the event. This confidential, 20-minute assessment was carried out by an approved driving instructor. Any safety issues that arose during the assessment were discussed in order to allow them to be addressed and improved.

Older road users also had the opportunity to speak to representatives from a wide range of organisations, including Age UK, Arriva, Boots Opticians & Audiology, Cleveland Fire Brigade, Highways England, Kwik-Fit, Middlesbrough Environment City and the Police Motorcycle Unit, together with mobility scooter advisors, personal travel planners and highways experts, all of whom agreed to support the event.

5. Starting School Leaflet

A road safety themed 'Starting School' leaflet was distributed to every reception class child in Middlesbrough during October. The leaflet consists of an A4-size parents' newsletter that opens up into an illustrated A2-size poster containing fun activities for them to complete with their children. It covers all of the important road safety topics, including holding hands, stop, look and listen, safer crossing places and in-car safety. Information is also provided on vital issues such as route planning, mobile phone use, school gate parking and the benefits of parents walking their child to school.

6. Road Safety Week 2019

Road Safety Week 2019 will begin on Saturday 16th November, and Middlesbrough Council's Road Safety Team will once again be partnering with Cleveland Police, Cleveland Fire Brigade, the North East Ambulance Service and other Local Authority road safety officers to deliver a powerful and emotive stage presentation to college students across Cleveland, highlighting the 'fatal four' causes of collisions – i.e. speed, seatbelts, drink & drug driving and distraction. Students will also get the chance to experience a road collision for themselves through the use of virtual reality equipment, including the 'cut out' carried out by the Fire Brigade at the scene of many accidents.

7. Annual Winter Driving Campaign

The annual winter driving campaign will also begin on Saturday 16th November, when drivers can call in to Coulby Newham Fire Station between 10 am and 3 pm to receive a free five point vehicle safety check plus a free window ice scraper. The event is a partnership between Cleveland Fire Brigade and Middlesbrough Road Safety Team with assistance from National Tyres and the Derek Campbell Tyre and Exhaust Centre, both of whom provide qualified staff to carry out the checks. This has become a popular event, with many drivers returning year after year.

8. School Crossing Patrol Officer Recruitment Exercise

The Council has recently been successful in recruiting five new school crossing patrol officers. The new officers have filled vacancies at Fulbeck Road, Netherfields (serving Pennyman Primary Academy), Cass House Road, Hemlington (serving Viewley Hill Academy), Laurel Road, Marton (serving Captain Cook Primary School), St. Mary's Walk, Acklam (serving Green Lane Primary Academy) and Union Street, Gresham (serving Newport Primary School). This leaves two vacant school crossing patrol sites, at Emerson Avenue, Linthorpe (serving Green Lane Primary Academy & St. Edward's RC Primary School) and Saltersgill Avenue, Saltersgill (serving Newham Bridge Primary School).

9. Future High Street Fund

In being selected through the second round of Future High Street Funds, Middlesbrough Council has been awarded £150k to secure expertise and evidence in support of a substantive Future High Streets Fund Business Case. An early draft business case needs to be submitted by 15 January 2020 and a final business case needs to be submitted before 30 April 2020. Successful bids will be announced in Summer/Autumn 2020.

Work has commenced with sector-specialists Knight Frank – to outline the key components of the business case and apply all of the commercial considerations required to transform the high street economy. Consideration is being given to how best to align Middlesbrough Council's planned investments and Tees Valley Combined Authority Investment Funds (and Indigenous Growth Funds) to maximise the impact of this programme. Members will be updated on proposals as they emerge.

10. Towns Fund

In addition to the Future High Streets Fund application process, Middlesbrough has been shortlisted as one of 100 areas eligible for the Towns Fund. This programme considers applications for up to £25m to boost economic growth objectives, transport, culture and infrastructure in an eligible area.

The fund encourages management and administration through a Town board, made up from key community, business and public-sector partners; to steer investment at a local level.

Plans will be refined through early 2020, with a view to submitting a formal business case to seek funding. Where appropriate, it is envisaged that this will be aligned to current, and emerging, economic growth objectives.

11. Boho Next Generation - Boho 8

A planning application for the first phase of the Boho Next Generation Project was submitted in November 2019. Following consultation with cluster businesses, the exciting

plans were very well received. Seymour Architecture submitted their designs on behalf of Middlesbrough Council and have created an extremely novel configuration of the modular units, which has been of huge appeal to prospective tenants.

Upon planning determination, the on-site works will commence during spring 2020, with the development ready for occupation in summer 2020.

12. TeesAMP update

On 10th October, the £55m high-profile TeesAMP development welcomed Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry MP to view the significant construction progress and to announce the addition of a state-of-the-art £8m technology centre has been lined as an extension to the existing TWI research facility. This was TeesAMP's second ministerial visit following the former Business Secretary Greg Clarke's visit to site in September 2019.

Work on TeesAMP started in April this year and is due to complete, as planned, by March 2020. The development is now a visible presence from the vantage of the A66/A19 and railways into Middlesbrough. The construction of a great boulevard entrance is underway with the tarmacking of the new road network nearing completion. All the buildings are on track to be watertight by the year's end. The remaining months through to the end of March will be spent fitting out the building with offices and facilities to a standard which will result in TeesAMP providing some of the highest quality specification industrial units in the northeast.

TeesAMP will deliver up to 1,000 jobs on the 11-hectare site with buildings ranging in size from 3,000 sq. ft. to 30,000 sq. ft. available early next year. Tenant enquires are very strong despite the prevailing national political and economic uncertainty. It is anticipated that a number of pre-lets to advanced manufacturers may be announced prior to the site officially being opened in April 2020.



13. Housing

A Housing Development conference was held in Middlesbrough Town Hall on the 13th November 2019. The event was attended by over 50 representatives from major house builders and developers and showcased upcoming residential development opportunities, including town centre sites that would kick-start the Mayor's urban living agenda. The event has generated a lot of developer interest that is being followed up to facilitate future investment in the town.

A Housing Development conference was hosted in Middlesbrough Town Hall on 13 November 2019. The event outlined land available for development and ensured that major housebuilders and developers were aware of the land coming forward for

development and the expectations which Middlesbrough Council has in terms of development standards and creating communities.

The event was very well attended and emerging opportunities are being followed up to enable future investment in Middlesbrough.

14. Northern School of Arts

Northern School of Art – During November the Northern School of Art (previously Cleveland College of Art and Design) secured £14.5m of devolved Tees Valley Combined Authority funds to enable their relocation to central Middlesbrough. The move allows for the new campus to be closer to Boho and at the heart of the creative and digital cluster in the town. This funding announcement was followed by the submission of a detailed planning application for the development, which will be heard by planning committee in the New Year, following a period of public consultation.

The new three story building will accommodate a cohort of up to 725 students, aged from 16 to 19. The new campus facility is anticipated to be completed for the September 2021 academic year.



15. Marton Avenue Disposal

The Council has recently completed the marketing of the “Land North of Marton Avenue” housing site. The 6.7 acre site, located at the northern end of Marton Avenue, was marketed for the development of around 70 high quality homes to support the town’s economic growth and stem outward migration. The marketing exercise generated bids from nine house builders and Executive will consider a report in January that will recommend the sale of the site to the preferred bidder.