

## THE EXECUTIVE

A meeting of the Executive was held on 2 October 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in Mandela Room, Town Hall, Middlesbrough.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Brunton Dobson, Hellaoui, C Rooney, D Rooney, Rostron, M Thompson, N Walker and Young.

**PRESENT BY**

**INVITATION:** Councillors Lewis, McGee, J Sharrocks and M Walters.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** J Cain, Gazette.

**OFFICIALS:** A Allen, J Bromiley, D Johnson, L Kelly, A Pain, K Parkes, T Parkinson, S Reynolds, E Scollay and H Watson.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mayor D Budd and Councillor M Carr.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

18/28 **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2018**

The minutes of the Executive held on 4 September 2018 were submitted and agreed as a true record.

18/29 **MIDDLESBROUGH RAIL STATION - CAPACITY & ENHANCEMENTS**

The Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for City Centre Strategy submitted a report to update the Executive on the proposed works to Middlesbrough Rail Station, rail capacity issues that need to be addressed, and the proposed joint working with TVCA to accelerate progress.

The report required a decision as the proposed capital works to the station required significant investment from TVCA. Member approval was required to trigger a request for funding, which was scheduled to be submitted to the TVCA Board in November.

The report outlined that Middlesbrough Rail Station played a key role in the transport infrastructure for the North East, and particularly the wider Tees Valley, with its success being critical to the economic ambitions set out in the sub regional Strategic Economic Plan. Middlesbrough's role as the commercial centre at the heart of the Tees Valley relies on having excellent connectivity, and modern, accessible public transport. As a result, the Rail Station was identified as a key priority within the Council's own Investment Prospectus.

The station itself was located in the heart of the historic quarter and the area acted as the northern gateway to the City Centre. The surrounding area was host to some of Middlesbrough's most historically significant buildings and provides direct access to Middlesbrough College, the proposed snow centre and burgeoning digital hub at Boho.

The arrival of seven direct trains to London each day, secured from 2020 offers a huge economic boost to the area, and has been a key factor in securing investment for schemes such as the Grade A office development at Centre Square. Rail travel was seeing a real resurgence in both Middlesbrough and the wider Tees Valley. The Station has seen an increase in passenger numbers in the last five years with them now being in excess of 1.3 million per year, with continued growth expected in 2018.

Despite this increase in passenger numbers, the potential role that the station could play in growing the local economy was however under threat. Capacity issues caused by the existing rail timetable was resulting in the delay and cancellation of trains at Middlesbrough, with the knock on effect being felt throughout the network – particularly across the North West. The

addition of regular London bound services would significantly exacerbate this situation, and without major investment in the station, and additional track capacity, the infrastructure would simply cease to function.

Although the case for investment in the station was widely understood within the rail industry, work had been undertaken to define the extent of the issues faced, and the potential for improvement, if addressed.

The management of the station, the rail infrastructure, and the train services operated throughout the network are all under different management, and the Council has taken a proactive role in drawing the various parts of the rail industry together to plan the activities required to move from the existing capacity issues through to modern, towards a fit for purpose infrastructure, that supports the economic growth aspirations of the area.

As the cost of the work required to provide additional capacity at Middlesbrough, and provide a modern customer experience has been estimated at £20m+, the options for securing this funding are naturally limited.

The report outlined the work undertaken and provided information on platform capacity, providing additional capacity, transforming Cities Fund (TCF), providing temporary capacity and discussed the further development of Middlesbrough Station.

## **OPTIONS**

### **Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended**

1. As identified in the report, pursuing the resources through DfT was highly risky, and would take a significant number of years to achieve. This would not be acceptable, given the franchise commitments in place for 2019 and 2020.
2. An alternative option would be for the Council to borrow the funding required, but as the works are expected to cost in excess of £20m, the Council would not be able to accommodate this level of borrowing, or have any means of recouping the funding.
3. Network Rail do not hold budgets to undertake this scale of work, and are required to bid to DfT for resources, on a case by case basis.

## **ORDERED**

### **That the Executive:**

1. **Notes the commitments and timescales for the southern entrance;**
2. **Notes the platform capacity issues and timescales;**
3. **Approves the principle of working with Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) to secure the funding to accelerate the platform and capacity enhancements required to secure direct trains to London; and,**
4. **Notes the interim capacity proposals being pursued to address immediate capacity needs.**

## **REASONS**

### **The decisions were made for the following reasons:**

1. **The recommended decisions were considered to be the most appropriate course of action for the Council to take, as capacity issues at Middlesbrough Station continue to increase. The multi-year process for securing DfT funding, and the risk of being rejected means that the Transforming Cities Fund is the only viable option if the capacity issues are to be addressed in a reasonable timescale.**
2. **Working jointly with TVCA to secure TCF would be essential to accelerating the work, and ensuring the period where capacity issues would cause most damage to the network is minimised.**
3. **It did not seem feasible to secure the direct trains to London without this work**

**being accelerated.**

18/30 **PUBLICATION LOCAL PLAN**

The Executive Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure and the Executive Director for Growth and Place submitted a report that sought approval for the Publication Local Plan and its subsequent submission to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination.

The report required a decision as the decision to approve the Publication Local Plan was a non-executive function, and must be made the Borough Council, in accordance The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 and the Council's constitution.

The report outlined that under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Council was required to prepare a statutory development plan for the borough that sets out the policies and land allocations to guide development in the area.

The Local Plan was being prepared to replace the Council's existing planning policy framework. It set out the Council's long-term development strategy for the borough, for a variety of different types of development including housing, employment, retail centres, the natural and built environments, and transport. Critically, it aimed to deliver sufficient housing to reverse population decline and support economic growth.

The Executive approved the Local Plan Preferred Options in May 2018, following which a period of public consultation took place between May and July. During this period, 762 comments were received, along with three postal petitions (72, 36 and 156 signatures respectively) and an online petition (1,035 signatures). All of the issues raised from the comments received have been taken into account in preparing the Publication Local Plan.

6. Details of the consultation on the Preferred Options are set out in the 'Middlesbrough Local Plan Review – Preferred Options Consultation', which was attached as Appendix 2.

The next stage was to publish the Local Plan for a period of six weeks. This was the 'final' version that the Council intends to adopt as its statutory development plan. 'Publication' was a statutory requirement within the plan making process, the purpose of which was to make the Local Plan available for inspection and invite formal representations upon it. It was important to note that this was not a consultative stage where comments can change or shape the Local Plan. Instead, it provided the opportunity for interested parties and stakeholders to make formal representations, which must relate only to matters of soundness or legal compliance. The representations period for the Publication Local Plan will be from 9th November until 21st December 2018.

During the meeting, the Councillor J McGee commented from a Health Scrutiny perspective and circulated a letter contained recommendations for the plan. The Executive agreed to include these within the final report's recommendations.

The Executive formally thanked the officers involved in the development of the plan.

### **Options**

#### **Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended**

Not to approve the Publication Local Plan. This would mean that the Council would no longer progress the Local Plan review as agreed previously by Executive, and would retain existing out-of-date policies for longer. This would, in turn, present more challenges in achieving the type and quality of development that would help the Council realise its ambitions.

### **ORDERED**

- 1. That the Executive endorses the Publication Local Plan and recommends that the Borough Council approves it and its subsequent submission to the**

- Secretary of State for Independent Examination.**
2. That Policy EG7 on Hot Food Takeaways, as detailed in the Local Plan, be fully endorsed by the Health Scrutiny Panel following the inclusion of additional point e. applications for A5 uses will be required to be accompanied by a Health Impact Assessment, and, where an unacceptable adverse impact is established, permission will not be granted.
  3. That the Council prepare a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to control Hot Food Takeaway proposals, particularly from the perspective of improving the health and well-being of Middlesbrough's population.

## REASONS

The approval of the Local Plan would allow it, invite formal representations to it and, subsequently, submit it to the Secretary of State for its Independent Examination. The Local Plan was critical for delivering some of the Council's key strategic objectives, in particular reversing population decline, increasing the housing supply and supporting economic growth. It is a statutory requirement to prepare a Local Plan. It will be used as a basis for determining planning applications and will, ultimately, help the Council maintain control of the quality of development in the borough.

18/31

## OPPORTUNITY MIDDLESBROUGH STRATEGY

The Executive Member for Culture and Communities submitted a report to improve how the Council delivers work experience, apprenticeship and volunteering opportunities. This would be achieved by introducing a clear commitment to trainees and volunteers through new charters and by changes to apprenticeship terms and conditions.

The report required a decision as the report and associated strategy was suggesting a change in the way the council works with volunteers, work placements and apprenticeships. The report was also suggesting a change to the terms and conditions of all apprentices employed within the council.

The suggested changes have a small budgetary and structural impact which will be absorbed within existing budgets and resources.

The council has always shown a strong commitment to apprenticeships, providing high quality training and experience. The Council has always shown that it values volunteers that work with us helping the community and the Council continue to deliver work experience opportunities. This Opportunity Middlesbrough strategy is a step change in how we deliver these opportunities. The strategy improves the terms and conditions of apprentices, it commits to providing a set number of high quality work experience opportunities and it establishes a charter for volunteers and increased support.

The strategy also recognised the Council's social responsibility by actively targeting those that maybe disadvantaged in the jobs market and providing additional support such as mentoring and a guaranteed reference to help them gain employment.

A key driver for the development of the Opportunity Middlesbrough strategy was the need to recruit a constant stream of high quality volunteers and apprentices to support the councils work. The second driver is the social need to support and develop high quality work placements in order to improve the employment chances for school leavers and unemployed adults. The recruitment of work experience candidates is closely aligned to the need for good apprentices as these are the apprentices of the future.

Currently the three functions of Volunteers, work experience and apprenticeships were separate entities within the council's structure. This strategy brings them all together so that individual applicants can be managed and supported more effectively so we can better meet theirs and the Council's needs. The strategy has a vision of one entry point or portal into the council for all prospective volunteers, work experience or apprenticeships. Opportunity Middlesbrough is suggesting a clear charter for the management of volunteers and work experience candidates. This work will open up these experiences to all aspects of the

community including adults, long term unemployed and children in care. Finally the strategy would ensure that apprentices within Middlesbrough council are seen as a good career opportunity for anyone by improving conditions and pay.

## **OPTIONS**

### **Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended**

It was considered that the Council could leave apprenticeship terms, conditions and pay as it currently stands. Redcar and the northern authorities have increased what they pay apprentices. The business development team are reporting that young people are very focussed on the pay and rewards whilst employed. For the council to be on an equal footing when recruiting young people, we need a good offer with good terms and conditions.

## **ORDERED**

- 1. That Executive approves the Opportunity Middlesbrough strategy as a means to develop high quality career and voluntary pathways**
- 2. That Executive approves the change in apprenticeship terms and conditions to NJC**
- 3. That Executive approves the increase in apprenticeship pay to the national under 18 rate of £4.20 an hour**

## **REASONS**

Middlesbrough Council were in competition for the number of young and talented people it needs to recruit in order to meet its objectives. Good apprentices are hard to recruit and it takes time visiting schools and promoting these positions. This strategy proposes a focus on providing high quality work experience placements to help feed the talent pipeline.

The council are approached by schools, FE institutions and the general public on a regular basis to provide work experience placements. Traditionally a small number of these requests have been met with placements that vary greatly in the value to the participant. This strategy was proposing that the Council identify and promote high quality work placements that people can apply for and meet our Social responsibility by increasing the number of Work Experience opportunities and Apprenticeships for those that find it difficult to gain employment. All placements will have an agreed role description and provide a varied experience of working in the local authority. For the people that attend these placements we will provide a reference to be used for employment applications.

Every participant under this 'Opportunity Middlesbrough' Strategy would be assigned a work mentor to support them.

Volunteering was a key component of the structure we need to support the communities we serve. The value that volunteers bring to the community is beyond monetary calculations with their experience and enthusiasm. The social value to an individual becoming a volunteer is high with the volunteer feeling part of something.

All volunteers should be supported with a mentor and the training needed for their role.

This strategy had the ability to centralise the application and support process for all apprentices, work experience and volunteers so that we can more effectively monitor and support these people.

Currently Apprentices were directly managed by the community learning team. Volunteers are managed through both Community Learning and Community Infrastructure. Work experience has no lead department. The Strategy is recommending that Community Learning manage this process for the council so that the application and support of every applicant is standardised based on the charters

**within the document. The teams and resource needed to deliver this strategy exist in similar functions within Community Learning.**

**A number of council departments and LMT have been involved in the ongoing development of this strategy.**

18/32

### **JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - CONSULTATION**

The Executive Member for Environment and Commercial Services submitted a report to gain approval for public consultation on the Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy.

The JWMS for the Tees Valley set out the Council's approach to the management of Local Authority Collected Waste over the period from 2020 to 2035. The strategy would be supported by action plans that would provide details of each individual Council's activities at a local level; these would be prepared by the individual Councils.

The report advised of why the report was necessary, outlining that the Tees Valley authorities; Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC), Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC), Middlesbrough Council (MBC) and Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) have an existing waste treatment solution under contract with Suez (formerly SITA) until 2025. The arrangement were put in place as part of a joint procurement between the four local authorities on Teesside in 1995 and led to a 250,000 tpa (tonnes per annum) Energy from Waste (EfW) incineration facility at Billingham. The facility came online in 1998 and planning needs to take place as to how the Tees Valley treats its waste at the conclusion of this contract.

A key part of this is the refresh of the Tees Valley's Joint Municipal Waste Strategy to look at how the area would deal with its Waste up to 2035.

#### **OPTIONS**

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

Another option would be to continue with the existing JWMS dating from 2008. The strategy would be based upon old and possibly obsolete national policy and legislation which could leave the Council open to challenge from businesses and the public when making future service decisions.

#### **ORDERED**

**That approval be given for public consultation on the Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy.**

#### **REASONS**

- 1. The JWMS for the Tees Valley sets out the Council's approach to the management of Local Authority Collected Waste over the period from 2020 to 2035. The strategy will be supported by action plans that will provide details of each individual Council's activities at a local level; these will be prepared by the individual Councils and presented to Council when they have been completed**
- 2. The JWMS strategy together with the SEA Environmental Report form the basis of the consultation.**
- 3. The JWMS has not been examined by the Overview and Scrutiny Board or Scrutiny Panel.**

18/33

### **COUNCIL, OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - MATTERS FOR RECONSIDERATION**

No items.

**18/34 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL - LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF THE CHILD - SERVICE RESPONSE**

The Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel had undertaken a review of the Voice of the Child. A copy of the full report was attached at Appendix 1.

The Scrutiny Panel made eleven recommendations upon which a response was sought from the relevant service area. The Executive Member for Education and Skills and Director of Children's Services submitted a service response to the recommendations of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel. A copy of the response was attached at Appendix 2.

Councillor M Walters, Vice -Chair of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel when the report was produced presented the final report to the Executive.

The Executive Member for Education and Skills presented the service response.

**Options****Other potential decisions and why these had not been recommended**

The option to reject these recommendations was not recommended because the Panel's ambition to encourage more people to participate in local democratic processes should be welcomed, and a commitment to take the additional steps outlined in the proposed response could be made at this point in time, within existing resources.

**ORDERED**

1. **That Executive approves the directorate response to the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel's review of the Voice of the Child.**
2. **That the information, as presented, be noted.**

**REASON**

**The Executive needed to take a decision on the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations in light of the response from the service area.**

**18/35 CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL- SELECTIVE LANDLORD LICENSING - SERVICE RESPONSE**

The Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel had undertaken a review of Selective Landlord Licensing. A copy of the full report was attached at Appendix 1.

The Scrutiny Panel made nine recommendations upon which a response was sought from the relevant service area. The Executive Member for Culture and Communities and Director of Growth and Place submitted a service response to the recommendations of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel. A copy of the response was attached at Appendix 2.

The Chair of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel presented the final report to the Executive.

The Executive Member for Culture and Communities presented the service response.

**Options****Other potential decisions and why these had not been recommended**

Full details of what the Scrutiny Panel took into consideration when arriving at their recommendations are contained in the Scrutiny report (Appendix I).

**ORDERED**

1. That Executive approves the directorate response to the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel's review of Selective Landlord Licensing.
2. That the information, as presented, be noted.

**REASON**

**The Executive needed to take a decision on the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations in light of the response from the service area.**

The decision(s) will come into force after five working days following the day the decision(s) was published unless the decision becomes subject to the call in procedures.