

**EXECUTIVE**

A meeting of the Executive was held on Friday 26 February 2021.

**PRESENT:** Mayor A Preston (Chair) and Councillors D Davison, A High, C Hobson, D McCabe, M Smiles and A Waters

**PRESENT BY INVITATION:** Councillors M Storey, C Cooke and A Hellaoui

**OFFICERS:** C Benjamin, S Bonner, B Carr, G Field, R Horniman, C Lunn, G Moore and I Wright

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor J Thompson

20/115 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Name of Member	Type of Interest	Item/Nature of Interest
Mayor A Preston	Non-Pecuniary	Future Development of Middlehaven/part-owner of company that owns properties in the general Middlehaven area.

20/116 **IMPROVING ALLEYWAYS BY TACKLING CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The Executive Member for Environment and the Director of Environment and Communities submitted a report for the Executive's consideration. The purpose of the report was to request additional funding of £400,000 to the wider development of CCTV in alleys and hot spot areas throughout Middlesbrough to reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and environmental crime. The report also proposed a change in approach to collection of fly tips and enforcement of offences across Middlesbrough via the introduction of an 'Environmental Enforcement Flying Squad', meaning fly tips would be investigated and removed in one pass by a dedicated team.

Crime and antisocial behaviour in Middlesbrough continued to be the highest in the whole of the Cleveland Police Force area. When looking at the actual number of incidents for the financial year 2019/20 and the year to date information for 2020/21, Middlesbrough was 11% higher than Stockton which was 2nd highest. The submitted report contained statistical information and data pertaining to recorded incidents in Middlesbrough.

The £400,000 planned to enable the installation of 100 cameras in key areas, which had been identified using an intelligence led approach based on recorded data held by Cleveland Police and the Local Authority.

In conjunction with the use of CCTV cameras the Council may explore giving residents individual bins and removing communal bins, for areas covered by back alleys. That would allow residents to take more control of their waste. A pilot scheme was at present underway in parts of North Ormesby. Following an examination of the results of the scheme, a wider approach may be implemented.

The proposed 'Environmental Enforcement Flying Squad' planned to enable the Council to improve the aesthetics of Middlesbrough and in turn improve quality of life

for residents who were blighted by such activity. That would mean fly tips would be investigated and removed in one pass by a dedicated team consisting of 8 personnel, 4x Neighbourhood Safety Wardens (Enforcement) trained on current legislation and able to bring prosecution, 4x Area Care Operatives to work alongside officers to assist clearing the fly-tip/rubbish and 4x bespoke caged vehicles.

The proposal planned to:

- improve public confidence;
- deter people from committing crime and antisocial behaviour via the presence of more CCTV; and
- ensure that fly tips were collected in a timely manner - in turn reducing the amount of time debris was left in the alleys, streets, walkways etc.

A discussion ensued and Members commented that before considering granting approval for funding of £400,000, there was a need to conduct a pilot scheme to establish the effectiveness of the proposal in reducing crime, antisocial behaviour and environmental crime. It was also identified that, following delivery of the pilot scheme, there was a requirement to evaluate the impact of the approach by analysing data and reporting outcomes to the Executive. Upon receiving that information, the Executive would then be in a position to make an informed decision regarding whether additional funding should be invested.

Members also commented that there was a need to:

- take a town-wide approach;
- introduce mobile cameras to enable flexibility/responsiveness when monitoring hot spot areas throughout Middlesbrough;
- ensure adequate staffing and resources; and
- identify the legal and cost implications of using facial and license plate recognition.

Members were in agreement that the recommendations detailed in the report should be amended to reflect the comments made.

## **OPTIONS**

### **Continuing to do what the Council had always done**

**Data suggested that the current approach was not achieving the best possible results.**

## **ORDERED**

- 1. That funding of £50,000 be allocated to deliver a pilot scheme to introduce the wider development of CCTV in alleys and hot spot areas throughout Middlesbrough to reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and environmental crime.**
- 2. That following delivery of the pilot scheme, a report be presented to the Executive, evaluating the impact of the approach by analysing data and reporting outcomes.**
- 3. That the change in approach to collection of fly tips and enforcement of offences across Middlesbrough be noted, meaning fly tips would be investigated and removed in one pass by a dedicated team.**
- 4. That the pilot of replacing communal bins with individual bins in parts of North Ormesby and its potential for further use, if it was deemed successful, in other areas of the town be noted.**

## **REASONS**

**To enable the team to meet strategic and Mayoral priorities to tackle crime and Anti-Social Behaviour head on.**

**CCTV would enable the team to gather intelligence on the worst affected areas, increasing the opportunity of a successful prosecution of perpetrators.**

**The proposed approach would join-up environmental and enforcement teams and align to the locality working model.**

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## **FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF MIDDLEHAVEN**

The Executive Member for Regeneration and the Director for Regeneration and Culture submitted a report for the Executive's consideration. The purpose of the report was to set out proposals for the future development of Middlehaven and the steps required to take it forward.

The different investments and developments emerging at Middlehaven had the opportunity to make a significant difference to the area, and to the economy, but needed to be planned in a coherent way. There was a danger of different schemes competing with each other, infrastructure requirements falling between the boundaries of different schemes, and the phasing of activity working against what the wider market could accommodate.

There was therefore a need to have a clear, up-to-date strategic masterplan for developing Middlehaven, and for capitalising on the financial opportunities currently available.

It was also necessary for the Council to work closely with the relevant development partner to be able to put the strategic masterplan into practice and ensure that the available funding opportunities were not missed.

The submitted report set out how the Council proposed to work in partnership with a strategic partner to develop the masterplan for Middlehaven, develop the necessary site infrastructure and move into the delivery phase on multiple projects.

The Council had worked closely with a company called BGEI on the Boho X project, following its appointment as Development Manager on the scheme in 2019. BGEI was an international property developer and construction company, specialising in bringing projects to fruition through strategic partnerships and investment. Operating in 27 countries, BGEI was currently leading on billion pound projects such as Airport City and Middlewood Locks in Manchester.

BGEI was originally procured via the NEPO503 Neutral Vendor Managed Service for Specialist Professional Services (NEPRO3) framework and there was the ability to extend that engagement beyond Boho X and into wider work at Middlehaven.

It was proposed that via the NEPRO 3 Framework, BGEI be formally procured as the strategic partner for Middlesbrough Council.

The boundary of the area proposed for the arrangement with BGEI had been identified in Appendix I of the submitted report.

The masterplan would be used to guide investment decisions, prioritise projects and manage timelines for utilising external funding. It was intended that BGEI would develop the masterplan, in conjunction with Council staff, to ensure that the transport infrastructure, public realm and heritage assets were built into it.

The Council had secured access to a number of funds, for a range of projects across

Middlehaven.

A discussion ensued and Members expressed concern with regard to recommendation C, which referenced the reallocation of £3.9m of TVCA and Council resources being freed up from the Boho X budget into the wider development of Middlehaven, with a further £1.5m returned to the Council's Capital Programme. Members were in agreement that, prior to approving that allocation of such funding, further work/discussion was required to identify funding sources.

In response to a Member's comment querying whether the non-approval of recommendation C would impact on recommendation G (allocating up to £538,000 from the former Boho X funding to the stabilisation of the Captain Cook Pub), the Director Regeneration and Culture advised that alternative funding sources would be explored with the Director of Finance to ensure delivery.

Members were in agreement that approval should be granted for all of the proposed recommendations, with the exception of C. The Mayor abstained from voting on the report due to his non-pecuniary interest, which had been declared at the beginning of the meeting.

#### **ORDERED**

**That the following be approved:**

- a) the appointment of BCEGI via NEPRO3 Framework as the Council's strategic partner at Middlehaven;
- b) the development of a masterplan to be brought back to Executive for endorsement;
- d) ring-fencing the income generated from Boho X to supporting the wider development of Middlehaven;
- e) accepting the Brownfield Housing Fund offer of £7.9m from TVCA, subject to final sign off by the Director of Finance;
- f) commencing the infrastructure works identified through the Brownfield Housing Fund;
- g) committing up to £538,000 funding to the stabilisation of the Captain Cook Pub.

#### **REASONS**

The redevelopment of Middlehaven was key to the future economic growth of the town. The funding package identified to deliver the Council's aspirations at Middlehaven was starting to come to fruition, but needed to be applied to a coherent strategy and phasing plan and delivered in partnership with an organisation that was capable of taking it forward.

**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.**