

ASHLEY WATERS

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 13th January 2021

DECISIONS

Linthorpe Road Consultation - Cycle Provision

1. Following the Governments ambitions to increase the uptake of cycling, Middlesbrough Council, in conjunction with Tees Valley Combined Authority have successfully gained funding from the Active Travel Fund to develop infrastructure along two key corridors in the region. The corridors were selected following analysis, which identified the areas with the greatest potential to achieve the ambitions of increasing cycle uptake. In Middlesbrough, this was identified as the Linthorpe Road corridor, due to:
 - Direct nature and connection to Town Centre
 - Numerous residential areas and businesses along the corridor, connecting origin and destinations
 - Opportunity to provide facilities where there are currently none, and transform the corridor
2. The benefits of cycling are widely noted, and are seen as a key means to reduce the congestion and associated problems that reliance upon the private car has created.
3. The Linthorpe Road area has been highlighted as an area for intervention to prioritise pedestrian and cycle transport, between Borough Road and Albert Park. Provisional designs are now released for consultation with local businesses, residents and stakeholders.
4. The Council is partnering with TVCA to undertake the consultation process. Due to the current COVID 19 pandemic, the majority of this will be undertaken online, with the opportunity to make comments available to all. Deadline for comments to be received is 29th January, 2021. Consolidation of all received comments will assist in final design and approvals.

STRATEGIC

Tees Valley Freeport bid

5. Tees Valley Combined Authority, with member Councils, is leading a consultation to shape the bid for Freeport status. Free ports offer taxation incentives and special administrative treatments to allow for the efficient processing of imported materials and exported goods.

6. The draft bid and consultation process will be conducted in early 2020, with the final bid submitted 5th Feb.
7. The Freeport area does have boundaries but these can be fragmented (dependent on the incentives bid for) and has the potential to touch on each of the authority areas in the Tees Valley. South Tees Development Corporation (STDC / TeesWorks) site lends itself to a share in this status, albeit key players in Middlesbrough's economy are major stakeholders i.e. AV Dawsons and PD Ports.
8. Council officials will form part of the consultation process and will firmly lobby for Middlesbrough's inclusion in the Freeport bid. Areas such as Riverside Park and TeesAMP stand to benefit from any associated status.
9. Boho 8 – Work continues on Boho 8 with a view to be complete towards the end of January 21. The 4 modular units are in place and the internal work within the buildings are being progressed and should be finalised early January 21. Following this, the final element of external works will commence with works to the upgraded external cladding to the units in line with Fire Services requirements and the public realm and seating works within the site with a view to complete by the end of January 21.
10. Boho X – RIBA Stage 2 design of Boho X has been completed and the planning application for the development was submitted on the 14th December 2020. BCEGI will commence with the design of RIBA stage 3 and look to reengage BAM Construction, the preferred contractor for Boho X with a view to commence development in August 21. There will be approximately an 18 month build period which is forecast to be complete by December 22.

PERFORMANCE

Centre Square

11. Tenants have commenced the fit out process in both Centre Square buildings 1 and 2. This paves the way for businesses occupying in early 2021 – subject to Covid-19 restrictions.

TeesAMP Lettings

12. An additional unit has been leased at TeesAMP and interest remains strong. The site is approaching 80% occupancy in terms of buildings let and / or finalising legal agreements.

INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION

Ridgeway Crossing

13. The Council has been consulting on a proposal to enhance the cycle / pedestrian network in the Hemlington / Coulby Newham areas. This proposal involves a new, safe, discreet and lit footpath / cycleway extension at Ridgeway.

14. The public consultation ran for 4 weeks from 30 October until 27 November 2020, with residents in The Birches and Woodlea. Residents of the Birches also conducted an additional doorstep survey with residents of Woodlea.
15. During the consultation period, it has become apparent that the scope of the consultation does not reach a broad enough representation of local stakeholders. It has now been agreed to extend the public consultation period and include resident stakeholders in both the occupied area of the Hemlington Grange site and a wider representation of Woodlea and The Briches, which are not directly adjacent to the proposed footpath area.
16. The consultation will extend into 2021 with the results brought back to Executive for consideration of the appropriate way forward.

Hemlington Grange - Stainton Way Crossing

17. A recent traffic incident at Stainton Way has raised concern over the ability for residents to cross Stainton Way safely, particularly from the new Hemlington Grange community and Hemlington residents. Options are being developed for an early response to a signalised crossing on Stainton way, immediately west of the Stokesley Road roundabout.
18. Middlesbrough Council allocated funds (via phased payments) from the sale of the Hemlington Grange land, to facilitate a range of Highway and community improvements; as the development of the site progressed. This allocation was agreed in 2011 and will need to be updated to cost for inflation; to optimise designs in line with best practice; and, to schedule a phased approach to implementation of measures, as the sale receipts come in and the development progresses.
19. A report will be brought to Executive in early 2021, to consider the phasing and implementation of the capital receipt allowance. This will provide the sequential phasing and delivery of the necessary interventions, in line with the available funding. This report should allow the early progression of a new signalised crossing (1st of a number) during 2021 calendar year.