

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

11 FEBRUARY 2016

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET/COUNCIL DECISION

Regeneration and Transport – Lead Cabinet Member – Cllr Cooke

SOUTH OF THE BOROUGH INVESTMENT UPDATE

1. Summary

We are living in challenging times; with limited resources and increasing responsibilities. The pattern of economic growth, impact of the National Planning Policy Framework and infrastructure needs in general in the Borough continue to change rapidly.

Stockton-on-Tees is a growing borough that has proved resilient in the face of significant economic challenges. Its population, workforce and overall number of jobs have increased in the past 20 years, despite the impacts of recession.

Traditionally the focus of housing development in the South of the Borough has been in Ingleby Barwick. However, with a high demand for the properties has come significant pressure on the local road network and community facilities. Continued investment by private housing developers, and further housing and school planning permissions, some granted at appeal, now see yet more pressure on our local facilities and road network. Additionally, there have been a number of planning permissions granted in the Allens West and Urlay Nook areas of Eaglescliffe, and in and around Yarm.

The Council's desire to create and retain top class infrastructure and facilities remains, and so in the 2015-16 budget setting process, the Council agreed the allocation of nearly £10M to support future (infrastructure) investments and regeneration related activities, following their 2014-15 allocation of nearly £6M.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Cabinet on the work associated with investments in the south of the Borough that Cabinet approved in October 2014.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended:

1. Cabinet note the content of the report and support the work undertaken to date and planned

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

Over the years there has been significant pressure on the local road network and community facilities. The Council's desire to create and retain top class infrastructure and facilities remains, and so in the 2015-16 budget setting process, the Council agreed the allocation of nearly £10M to support future (infrastructure) investments and regeneration related activities, following their 2014-15 allocation of nearly £6M.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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SUMMARY

We are living in challenging times; with limited resources and increasing responsibilities. The pattern of economic growth, impact of the National Planning Policy Framework and infrastructure needs in general in the Borough continue to change rapidly.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

1. Cabinet note the content of the report and support the work undertaken to date and planned.

DETAIL

Ingleby Barwick Leisure Facility

1. Work continues on a range of possible options have been reviewed and some initial investigations undertaken on the preferred site of All Saints Academy existing car park. More detailed surveys will, however, need to be undertaken when the exact location of the

building is determined. Detailed discussions with land owners have started in order to progress this further.

2. The proposed building will likely be two storeys and in the region of 3,500m². Evaluating the local demographics has helped inform a list of proposed activities including a 25m swimming pool plus learner pool, a health & fitness suite, exercise studio, gym, multi-activity room, community library and customer service point. The site will also include a customer car park.
3. Discussions are ongoing with Sport England regarding the possibility of securing further funding. Public consultation will take place in spring / summer 2016, prior to a full planning application submission, and the facility will be open for use in late 2017.

Road Network Improvements

4. A number of road network improvements have been completed in recent months including the widening and realignment of the A1044 Thornaby Road junction, and dualling of the A174 (parkway extension) to a new roundabout access to Teesside Industrial Estate. Alongside this, works at the A174(T) / A19(T) and Stainsby Beck area were also completed. The improvements, which cost nearly £13M, have effectively dealt with the morning peak congestion problem, leaving Ingleby Barwick, as well as enhancing access to a major employment location.
5. Quarry Farm roundabout widening was completed in September 2015 at a cost of £1.1M. The scheme has provided two straight ahead lanes as well as providing two controlled pedestrian crossings. The scheme was the first phase of improvements to this route and landscaping, which had to wait until the start of the planting season, is now taking place.
6. In February 2016, the dualling of Myton Way / Ingleby Way; the second phase of works, is set to start and the Myton Road access to Tesco will be widened. The total value of the work is approximately £4.6M. An acoustic fence (to mitigate noise pollution) has been installed in advance of the works and landscaping has also commenced.
7. Works are underway to construct a roundabout on A1044 Low Lane that will provide access to the Free School site, along with two controlled pedestrian crossings, provided at Low Lane (to the Co-op shop) and Barwick Lane (to Ingleby Mill school). Various other zebra and pelican crossing points are planned in Ingleby Barwick over the coming several months.

Preston Park

8. In December 2015, Cabinet was advised that work to improve access to Preston Park and increase the capacity for car parking took place through winter 2014 / spring 2015. A new track was constructed on the Yarm Road side of the park which provides access to the North Field and Paddock areas close to Preston Lane. This is now used for overflow parking on occasions when traffic flow is difficult in the area around the main gates and when the other car parking spaces are full.
9. The South Field car park has also been improved through the surfacing of new areas. This has increased capacity dramatically and stewarding to control parking has been employed over very busy events/periods. In the longer term, however, there is a need to consider a more permanent car parking solution, which will not only address any car parking issues, but will also accommodate the increased use of the Park and address over-spill into residential areas. It is intended to review car parking in adjacent streets and ensure this is properly managed.

10. Within the same Cabinet report, details were provided around the proposal to create a Park masterplan, the purpose of which would be to create options for general improvements and to prepare for a potential Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) 'Parks for People' bid for funding. Work continues to examine infrastructure, current facilities and the need, where feasible, to restore the park's heritage landscape. A brief for the work focuses on short-term pressures for developments; developments which could be delivered through a HLF application; and longer-term &/or more radical developments.
11. A study is being undertaken to investigate the feasibility of providing a pedestrian / cycleway bridge, connecting various elements of the Borough's cycling network, and linking across the River Tees from the Preston Park site to Ingleby Barwick. The detailed feasibility work is yet to conclude and a number of land ownership issues would need resolving.

Green Infrastructure

12. A number of green infrastructure projects have been implemented in the past year, including works carried out to develop the Thornaby and Ingleby Trails, which provide a high quality countryside path network easily accessible to local residents. Additionally, improvements have been carried out to the Teesdale Way, as part of the River Tees Rediscovered Landscape Partnership Programme, which will also help to deliver further environmental enhancements in and around the Tees Heritage Park over the coming years.

Yarm High Street & Library

13. Works to Yarm High Street to improve the paving area around the Town Hall, provide heritage-style and new lighting, enhance CCTV coverage, clean the war memorial, and upgrade pelican and puffin crossings are now all completed and the Town Centres Cabinet report (February 2016) provides further detail on improvements.
14. Yarm library will close in mid-February 2016 to allow a complete refurbishment to be carried out. Work will include a new layout, including improved access from the street, furniture and fittings. It will also see the introduction of new self-service kiosks and better computers for public use. The value of the work is £270,000 and the library will re-open on 5 September 2016.

Teesside Park Highway Improvements

15. Essential structural repairs on the access road to Teesside Park have been completed and the road re-opened just before Christmas 2015. The repair works cost £2.37M, and were carefully planned to minimise disruption to shoppers. Severe subsidence at the Teesside Park Drive junctions with the westbound slip roads to and from the A66 had caused repeated damage to the road and needed rectifying before it severed the power supply to the traffic signals.
16. British Land has provided funding for landscape enhancements on the main Teesside Park access and the Newmarket Avenue roundabout. Soft landscape works to the access verge will be completed this spring and works to the roundabout works, which may include artistic enhancements, are anticipated to be completed in autumn 2016.
17. A further progress report will be brought to Cabinet in due course.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

18. There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

19. There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

20. There are no risk implications as a result of this report. Any 'project' specific risks would be assessed and placed on the Councils Corporate Risk Register as appropriate.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

21. These projects / schemes contribute to the Council Plan 2015-2018, in particular to:

a) Big Plans for an Outstanding Borough

i) Delivery of key infrastructure including enhancing the transport network

b) Big Plans for Great Experiences

- i) Making more people aware of local history and heritage
- ii) Improving our plans for the library services
- iii) Supporting all sectors of our communities to secure enjoyment, learning, and achievement through sport and active leisure
- iv) Improving our understanding of the culture and leisure needs and aspirations of our residents, customers and audiences

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

22. This report itself is not subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

23. Relevant portfolio holder and appropriate officers.

Name of Contact Officer: Louise McDonald
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Education related

N/A

Background Papers

February 2014 MTFP report to Cabinet and Council
October 2014 Infrastructure Investment report to Cabinet
February 2015 MTFP report to Cabinet and Council
December 2015 Preston Park museum and grounds update report to Cabinet

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

All

Property

South of the Borough