



Middlesbrough
City Bid 2022

Middlesbrough City Status Bid 2022



The Beating Heart installation at Church House
in central Middlesbrough, October 2021

#BoroCityBid2022

Middlesbrough
moving forward





Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art



**Middlesbrough
City Bid 2022**

Middlesbrough Council is proud to submit this application for city status to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

On this page we have outlined where to find the sections detailed in the application instructions.

Please contact Director of Regeneration Richard Horniman via richard_horniman@middlesbrough.gov.uk for further information.

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City status would be clear evidence of levelling up

We built the world... and now we need your help to build the UK's newest city.

We've got an illustrious history of innovation and industry, a proud and passionate community and a track record of determination that has seen us through good times and bad.

Now we are eager to take the next step in our journey to become the greenest, most creative and forward-thinking city in the United Kingdom.

And, most crucially, we have our residents, friends and neighbours behind us. This is their bid. With every town and city in the region backing us, it really is a bid from the whole North East and beyond.

They realise that city status for Middlesbrough would be clear evidence of levelling up and a shot in the arm for the whole region.

Middlesbrough's story dates back to the 7th Century. Our past is punctuated by giants of history including St Hilda, St Cuthbert and Robert de Brus, forefather of the King of Scots.

By 1862, Chancellor William Gladstone had christened us 'the infant Hercules'. Our boom was based on industry and the migration it attracted.

City status would be welcome recognition for the role our region plays in the United Kingdom and across the globe.

We'll do our best to summarise our rich history later in this bid, which has our area's distinct identity and record of innovation flowing through it.

As we look forward to Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, our bid also reflects on Middlesbrough's many links to the Royal Family.

We proudly note our associations with figures including one of history's greatest explorers, Captain James Cook. We summarise our powerful educational offer, including being home to Teesside University, which with its 18,000 students is arguably the biggest in the country not located in a city.

We will bring you up to date on our bold regeneration ambitions, supported by government schemes such as the Future High Streets Fund and Towns Fund.

We believe city status, refreshed perceptions and new investment potential can help us be an even better place to live, learn, do business and relax.

An online poll promoted to Middlesbrough residents found 91% of people wanted us to bid. We've thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to put our case forward.

After reading it, we hope you agree: it's our time.



**Independent
Directly Elected Mayor
Andy Preston**



**Conservative Deputy Mayor
Cllr Mieka Smiles**



Support for our bid

North East united

Our bid for city status has support from around our brilliant region

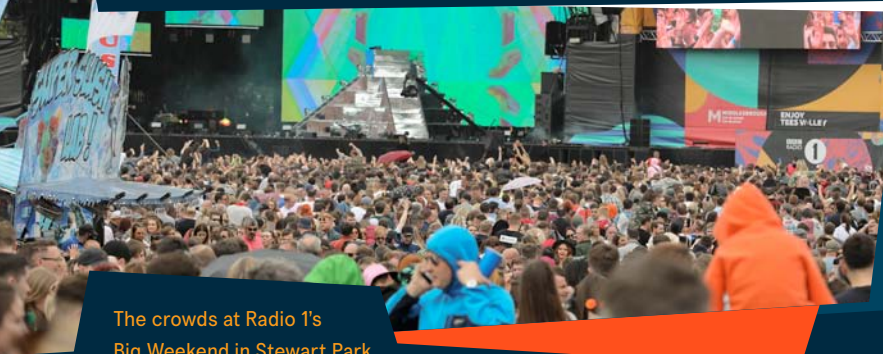
Middlesbrough is the business, culture and education capital of the Tees Valley - which at almost 700,000 people is the biggest urban area in the country without a recognised city.

Making Middlesbrough a city would bring benefits to all of the Tees Valley and the entire North East. That's why every single council and combined authority from North Yorkshire to the Scottish border have united around our bid, urging our application to succeed

We are also grateful for the backing of Simon Clarke, MP for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland and Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Andy McDonald, MP for Middlesbrough.

We've included a selection of testimonials on this page

Introduction: Civic pride & sound governance and administration



The crowds at Radio 1's
Big Weekend in Stewart Park

Pride of the Boro

We're immensely proud of our people, and our people are proud to come from Middlesbrough. The heroic, community spirit of our residents is celebrated at the annual Civic Awards.

For Tony Wedlake, Middlesbrough's newly-crowned Citizen of the Year, to be recognised by his hometown meant everything.

"That's the greatest thing I will ever achieve. There's nothing that will top that," said Tony, who co-founded the Teesside Family Foundation - a charity which has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds to provide specialist equipment for disabled people, homelessness help, and support for Forces veterans.

But in Middlesbrough, we don't wait all year to honour those who deserve it - our Boro Hero awards are evidence of that

Keep Boro Tidy

We love Middlesbrough - and our civic pride shines through in how we look after it.

Our campaign Keep Boro Tidy encourages and helps our residents, businesses, and community groups to tidy up their communities

The council has committed £150,000 over the next three years to help volunteers look after our town - whether it's picking litter, transforming an alleyway or sprucing up a grass verge.

Did you know...

Teesside University lecturer Sharon Gayter broke two world records for running Land's End to John O'Groats.

In recent months, Mayor Andy Preston has recognised a lifesaving bus station security guard, a hairdresser who delivered 10,000 care packages during lockdown and a hero council worker who protected schoolchildren as he chased a knife-wielding supermarket robber for more than a mile



Citizen of the Year
Tony Wedlake

And we support our veterans in Middlesbrough, with the council recognised in the Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Awards for its outstanding support for the Armed Forces community.

Governance and administration

Middlesbrough Council has a strong record of good corporate governance

It assesses itself annually against the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's good governance guidance and prepares a detailed statement of its arrangements that is scrutinised by both internal and external auditors. Its governance response to 2020's adverse Ofsted judgement has been praised by the Department for Education's appointed commissioner

Middlesbrough is the main public administration and service centre in Teesside, not only hosting the town's public institutions such as the council but also Teesside Magistrates' Court, Teesside Crown Court, the Crown Prosecution Service, and Cleveland Police Headquarters

Royal connections



The Queen opens Pallister Park, 1993

Royals at the heart of our history

The Royal Family have been at the heart of many milestones in Middlesbrough's history - right up to the present day. As well as grand civic events, visits have also reflected the Royal Family's support of the local community.

As Victorian Middlesbrough expanded, the Royal Family came to play a central role in landmark occasions that underlined the growth and evolution of our town

The opening of the new Middlesbrough Town Hall in January 1889 was attended by the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The Prince was presented with a key of gold and Teesside steel before declaring the building open.

The event also marked a milestone in Royal history Princess Alexandra's setting in motion the town hall clock by means of an electric button represented the first time a member of Royalty had set a clock going with electricity

The opening of the landmark Tees Transporter Bridge in October 1911 by Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, brought thousands of joyous people onto the streets in celebration

In 1917, with industries along the River Tees at the heart of the nation's First World War effort, the King and Queen visited town

The inter-war years brought a number of visits that saw members of the Royal Family play a key role in opening and raising the profile of key institutions In 1930, the Prince of Wales officially opened Constantine College - the predecessor to today's Teesside University

In 1934 the Duke and Duchess of York visited Teesside to open the new Tees Newport Bridge, built by Dorman Long, and then the largest bridge of its type in the world

The Second World War brought Royalty to the town in 1941 when King George VI and Queen Elizabeth paid a

surprise visit to the town's Albert Park and inspected the Middlesbrough contingent of the National Defence Corps, with the Princess Royal opening wartime children's nurseries in 1944.

The post-war era brought further Royal visits spanning the Queen's and the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Middlesbrough Town Hall (1956) and in the 1960s the Duke of Edinburgh returned to open Clairville Stadium.

As part of the Jubilee tour in 1977, the Queen visited Middlesbrough's Prissick Base and local schools as the streets were lined to greet the monarch. The popularity of the Royal Family in the town was evident again in the 1980s and 1990s, including a number of visits from the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Her Majesty's most recent visit to Middlesbrough came in 1993, when she toured Pallister Park.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Duchess of Cornwall joined an excited class of Middlesbrough primary school children to virtually celebrate World Book Day

“It may truly be said that at the present moment Middlesbrough ranks amongst the highest reputations - not of England only but of the World.”

The Prince of Wales at the opening of Middlesbrough Town Hall, 1889.



The Duchess of Cornwall speaking to children from a Middlesbrough school in 2020.



For King and country

Middlesbrough has produced some of the UK's bravest men and women. The courage of two men in fighting for King and country stands out and is recognised permanently in the town.

On May 12, 1917, Private Tom Dresser etched his name into history

Twice wounded on the way, exhausted and in great pain, Pvt Dresser - a Green Howard - showed fearlessness and determination to convey an important message from battalion headquarters to the frontline trenches on foot

The VC was presented to him by King George V outside Buckingham Palace on July 21, 1917

The almost unbelievable bravery of Stanley Hollis made him the only man to be awarded the VC on D-Day.

Part of the 6th Green Howards who landed on Gold Beach, Hollis went with his company commander to investigate two German pillboxes which had been by-passed.

He stormed the first pillbox, taking all but five of the occupants prisoner, then took 26 prisoners at the second before clearing a neighbouring trench

Later that day, he led an attack on an enemy position containing a field gun and multiple machine guns - it was unsuccessful, but after discovering two of his men had been left behind, he took a grenade and threw it at the enemy

He'd failed to prime the grenade but the enemy didn't know that and kept their heads down waiting for an explosion.

By the time they had realised their mistake Hollis was on top of them, and had shot them down.

In September 1944 he was wounded in the leg and evacuated to England, where he was decorated by King George VI on October 10, 1944

Statues of both men stand proudly next to the Cenotaph, at the gates of the grand Albert Park.

A third man, James Alexander Smith was awarded the VC for his incredible compassion and bravery during the First World War.

He and a fellow soldier voluntarily rescued a wounded man who had been lying exposed against the enemy's trenches for 15 hours, on December 21, 1914

When asked about his courageous act, he replied with typical Middlesbrough modesty: "It was nowt, just the usual thing."



The Prince and Princess of Wales during a visit to Middlesbrough Enterprise Centre, July 1985



The Queen at Middlesbrough Town Hall, 1956

History, heritage, record of innovation and cultural infrastructure



Middlesbrough firm
Dorman Long built the
Sydney Harbour Bridge

A boom town that built the world

Middlesbrough certainly isn't alone in having a motto. But we think ours is pretty special. Erimus. It means 'we shall be'. And it perfectly captures our spirit, our passion, our ambition. Our future stretches out before us, and there's lots to plan and hope for. However, as anyone from Middlesbrough will tell you, our roots are deep.



In fact, Middlesbrough's origins stretch back to the 7th Century. Our most famous son, Captain James Cook, is one of history's greatest explorers and our industrial boom helped build the world.

7th Century beginnings

Ancient Middlesbrough's remarkable story is intertwined with the tales of two titans of history.

In 686 A.D. an ecclesiastical settlement was founded in the original Middlesbrough in dedication to St Hilda. It was later consecrated by St Cuthbert at the request of Hilda, who was the ultimate pioneering female and the founding abbess of Whitby Abbey.

Middlesbrough's name is derived from the fact it was the midway point between the key religious capitals of Whitby and Durham. Proud neighbourhoods of today's town, including the former Viking settlements Ormesby and Tollesby, date back more than 1,000 years and featured in the Domesday Book.

Middlesbrough's magnificent coat of arms features a rampant lion and was inspired by the shield of the revered de Brus family. Throughout Henry I's reign, Robert de Brus was Lord of Cleveland. He established a church here in 1119. His direct descendant, the warrior Robert The Bruce, became the King of Scots in the 1300s.

1830s boom

Middlesbrough became a global industrial giant thanks to the extension of the Stockton and Darlington Railway.

The line had international significance and Middlesbrough was the first planned railway town anywhere on the planet.

St Hilda's became the name for the earliest part of the new town as well as its new church, built in the 1840s.

Influential parishioners there included Henry Bolckow and John Vaughan, names which resonate through Middlesbrough's history.

The pair first purchased land in 1840 on the riverbank in St Hilda's, which they used to manufacture iron. A decade later they lucratively discovered iron ore in the nearby Cleveland Hills.



An 'infant Hercules'

News of a powerful emerging town in the North travelled fast

Chancellor William Gladstone was on a tour of our Old Town Hall in 1862 when he declared: "This remarkable place, the youngest child of England's enterprise, is an infant, but if an infant, an infant Hercules"

His remarks, just three decades into the town's modern life, demonstrate just how much the 'metropolis' was booming

Middlesbrough became a borough by Royal charter in 1853 and saw rapid expansion with ironworks and mills popping up on the banks of the River Tees.

Building the world

Middlesbrough hands have shaped modern cities around the world

Companies such as Dorman Long were key players in the British Empire construction trade.

The firm built landmarks including the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Chien Tang River Bridge in China and Zimbabwe's Birchenough Bridge.

Closer to home, Dorman Long built the Tyne Bridge, and the Newport Bridge across the river Tees

And of course, our Transporter Bridge, the oldest of its type in the world, was designed by Teesside company Cleveland Bridge and opened in 1911.



The Curve on Teesside University's campus

Our bold cultural future

We will make Middlesbrough the most creative place in the UK

We are brave, ambitious and radical - our vision is to be internationally renowned for our culture, where creatives inspire positive change

Our active cultural sector is particularly strong in the visual arts, digital and music sectors - and we boast three National Portfolio Organisations: Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art; Middlesbrough Town Hall; and the Dorman and Captain Cook Birthplace museums

The Dorman is home to the Linthorpe Art Pottery collection, the largest public collection in the world featuring the work of one of the most innovative and exciting potters of the Victorian era

Our thriving digital and innovation sector, with a growing number of creative and digital start-ups, has been highlighted by Tech Nation as a 'high growth potential' area, and in 2018 as one of the FDI's Top Ten small European cities and regions of the future.

Did you know...

Mackenzie Thorpe's work is owned by the Queen and Elton John - his art depicts his Middlesbrough roots including steelworks and football fans.

Teesside University is a leading institution for digital and creative industries.

It hosts the annual Animex International Festival of Animation and Computer Games, an industry-leading conference, which over 20 years has grown to become one of the world's premier games and animation events

Representatives from the likes of Pixar, Disney, Aardman Animation, DreamWorks and Electronic Arts have all spoken at the event, cementing the status of the university - and Middlesbrough - as an industry hub.

Middlesbrough is also home to The Northern School of Art, which names Sir Ridley Scott, Mackenzie Thorpe and Richard Milward among its alumni

Typifying the bold changes ongoing in Middlesbrough, its £14m, purpose-built, three-storey new college building opened in the centre of town in September

Our notable people



Making our mark around the world

Take a two-minute trip through our history courtesy of just some of the men and women who have made their Middlesbrough mark on the world.

Captain James Cook rose through the ranks of the Royal Navy and went on to map the Pacific, New Zealand and Australia. Cook was born in Marton in the south of Middlesbrough

Industrialists **Henry Bolckow** and **John Vaughan** helped to discover iron ore in the Cleveland Hills in 1850. This untapped resource led to a boom for the area

War heroes **Tom Dresser** and **Stanley Hollis** are two of Middlesbrough's most famous sons. Private Dresser was awarded the Victoria Cross for outstanding bravery in the First World War. Close to Dresser's statue near the town's cenotaph is one depicting Hollis, the only soldier to win the Victoria Cross on D-Day

Ellen Wilkinson, Middlesbrough MP from 1924-1931, later became the first ever female education secretary. A true pioneer.

By the time you read this, *Driving Home for Christmas* will be on the radio and being played in shops. Middlesbrough-born **Chris Rea** released it for the first time in 1986. Rea's father owned a famous ice cream factory and café frequented by **Brian Clough** during the footballer's time at his hometown club.

Clough went on to become one of the game's finest ever managers, winning back-to-back European Cups at

Nottingham Forest. One of Clough's fiercest rivals in the game, **Don Revie**, was also born in Middlesbrough.

Middlesbrough FC chairman **Steve Gibson** was made an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list of 2016 in recognition of his services to sport, the economy and community.

Gibson's childhood friend **Chris Kamara** played professional football before becoming a favourite on Sky Sports where he still works as a pundit.

Sir Liam Donaldson was the UK's chief medical officer from 1998-2010. His work contributed to the smoking ban in licensed premises and minimum pricing for alcohol in the devolved nations.

Swimmer **Aimee Willmott** competed in her first Commonwealth Games in 2010 and won six major medals before retiring following the rearranged 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Comedian and national treasure **Bob Mortimer** and journalist and presenter **Steph McGovern** are national TV personalities who do as much as anyone to project our accent across the country.

Cricketer **Liam Plunkett** played a leading role, taking three key wickets, as England won the 2019 World Cup final.



There's a togetherness here

Middlesbrough boomed and thrived on the back of immigration attracted by the town's unprecedented sprint to become an industrial powerhouse. Our population soared thanks to iron and steel. Today the town is still home to many vibrant and complementary communities and cultures.

Visiting Ayresome Primary School just a brisk five-minute walk from the centre of Middlesbrough is an uplifting way to learn about the town's diversity

Passionate headteacher Charlotte Haylock explains the school is home to pupils of 38 different nationalities.

"Not that you would know that there are that many different cultures here," she says.

"Everyone just gets on. There are no issues between the children. They will tell you, for example, that there are Romanian children here and Czech children. They're aware of that, but it's celebrated. There's a togetherness here.

New arrivals to Ayresome learn quickly about their local surroundings. Children who need additional help with English are supported in the school's language hubs.

Mrs Haylock explains: "We take them through things step by step. So this is our school, this is our community and this is Middlesbrough. The children develop a sense of belonging and link it back to their home country as well."

Community Queen

From Africa to Middlesbrough, Latifa Shomari's story is one of compassion and care.

Latifa moved here with her family and instantly set about becoming part of the community.

She organises the Creative Minds group, which brings together women from different cultures to tackle isolation and loneliness.

"I want to empower them", she says. "I want to let them

"We are blessed to be near Albert Park, for instance, and to be able to walk there and take in the surroundings."

Bubbly year 6 students Shanya and Benicia are each in the process of applying to Middlesbrough's highest achieving secondary schools.

Shanya is excited to learn more about science while Benicia is keen to explore technology and art.

Benicia describes how everyone at Ayresome works together to help newcomers fit in.

"We make them feel confident about joining our school by helping them with speaking English and making new friends," she says.

The thoughtful girls are excited about the possibility of city status.

"It would mean something really nice because I want our town to stand out," Shanya says. "The people are really kind, especially in this school."

know what opportunities they have to be part of their community.

Women from different religious and cultural backgrounds - many from African countries such as Sudan, Somalia, Gambia and Sierra Leone - now take part in park walks, and female-only fitness classes organised by Latifa.





Profile:
Economic profile

Middlesbrough's worldwide reach

AV Dawson's home, the Port of Middlesbrough

Middlesbrough's huge economic influence touches every country of the world.

We are the beating economic heart of Teesside - with a workforce twice the size of our neighbouring towns across the Tees Valley, which is the largest urban area in the UK without a city at its core.

Offices are once again buzzing in Middlesbrough, with an army of employees working to make a global impact.

They include Double Eleven, a publishing and development studio which is expanding at light speed and has worked on some of the world's biggest video games

Big Bite, which builds platforms for brands like the New York Post, Wall Street Journal and The Times, is another booming business based at the internationally renowned Digital City, in the innovative Boho Zone

These kinds of high paid, skilled jobs are increasing rapidly due to the global reach of our tech sector, as we aim to become *the* digital city in the UK

At the Port of Middlesbrough, global and modern industry leader AV Dawson is growing rapidly and delivers full freight logistics from its hulking base near the mouth of the River Tees

TeesAMP - a super-charged cluster of like-minded businesses from a variety of industrial sectors - was opened in 2019, boasting modern facilities designed to support innovation, helping businesses to transform technologies and drive business growth.

Middlesbrough's Centre Square is the largest civic open space in the region, framed with state-of-the-art Grade A office buildings providing thousands of jobs at businesses such as GB Bank.

If Middlesbrough becomes the UK's next city, we would be the eighth largest in the North of England, according to major towns and cities built-up areas geography research by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

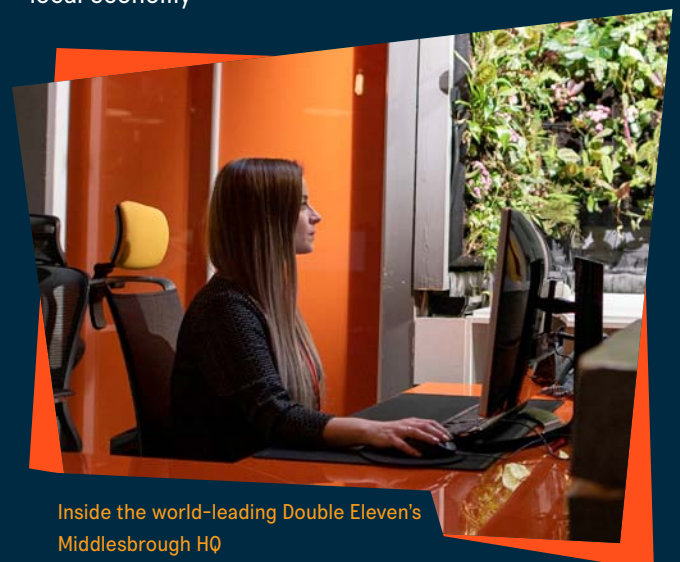
Our local authority population is 141,285, but Middlesbrough's larger urban area is actually home to 177,354 people while around one million live within a 20-mile radius of the centre of Middlesbrough.

There are close to 420,000 economically active people living within a 30-minute drive of Middlesbrough, and there are 71,000 employees working here, according to the ONS Business Register and Employment Survey from Nomis, in August

The Tees Valley - a collection of five local authorities, including Middlesbrough - is on the up.

Through the positive work of Middlesbrough's directly elected Mayor Andy Preston, Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen and local MPs, our region is a keen supporter and recipient of the Government's Levelling Up agenda

Announced in March 2021, and covering 4,500 acres, the Teesside Freeport is the largest in the UK and is set to create more than 18,000 jobs and inject £3.2bn into the local economy



Inside the world-leading Double Eleven's Middlesbrough HQ



TeesAMP

The investment which has already seen GE Renewables commit to build a new wind turbine factory, bringing up to 1,250 jobs, at Teesworks - the largest brownfield development opportunity in Europe on the site of Teesside's former steelworks, now brought back into public hands.

The pioneering Net Zero Teesside was named the Government's leading Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage project in October, which will trigger significant investment from the £1bn green fund.

Treasury North and Trade North have been set up in neighbouring Darlington, alongside the Office for National Statistics and Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, moving thousands of civil servants and decision makers to our region.

In Middlesbrough alone, we've been successful in a bid for £36m from the Government's Towns Fund and Future High Streets Fund.

We want to ensure young people from Middlesbrough are in the best position to benefit from these investments and the high-skilled, high wage jobs that will follow

That's why we're so proud of the three thriving higher education institutions we can boast in Middlesbrough

Middlesbrough College, the Northern School of Art and Teesside University are all supporting this bid for city status.

With 18,000 students, Teesside University employs almost 3,000 staff. The university is a big draw for international students, with one year's intake of around 4,000 contributing £240m to the UK economy, according to research for the Higher Education Policy Institute

As well as seeing itself as a global institution, the university is deeply committed to its roots and was named University of the Year for Social Inclusion by the Sunday Times Good University Guide 2021.

And its eye-catching investment in bold architecture has helped transform the centre of Middlesbrough and deliver the best learning environment for students.

Professor Paul Croney, vice-chancellor and chief executive, said: "Middlesbrough is home to a global community of students, is a gateway for international trade and partnerships and is an incubator for innovation and enterprise. It is a place where talent can thrive and young people secure their future

"The award of city status would galvanise civic pride and signal a pivotal change in how Middlesbrough is perceived, focusing on achievement and success

Middlesbrough College delivers courses in every occupational sector from entry level through to postgraduate qualifications from its futuristic £100m campus at the Middlehaven dockside

Zoe Lewis, principal and chief executive, believes it's vital that young people realise they can forge successful and good quality careers in their hometown

City status is another reason for students to take confidence that Middlesbrough offers them opportunity," she said

The Northern School of Art has recently moved into its new £14.5m campus in central Middlesbrough.

Principal Dr Martin Raby said the school was "delighted" to support the bid and had "unshakable" confidence in the town.

Did you know...

Middlesbrough-born Judith McKenna, the president and chief executive of Walmart International, was recently named the world's 11th most influential woman.

Shopping and town centre vision



Middlesbrough's city-scale retail offer is one of the biggest and best in the North East. And we've got ambitious plans to reinvent and reimagine our centre, to build a city for the future.

Our main shopping street, Linthorpe Road, already offers shoppers a vibrant and exciting mix

There are village-style amenities at one end of the 1.3 mile stretch which also features multicultural food stores, Middlesbrough-grown independent boutiques and high street favourites

The centre of Middlesbrough is home to three indoor shopping centres - the Cleveland Centre, the Hill Street Centre, and the Dundas - supported by local shopping precincts in urban population centres and a growing retail park at Middlehaven.

And large retail parks with the biggest names in the world of shopping and food - Teesside Retail Park and Cleveland Retail Park - both sit just metres away from Middlesbrough's local authority boundaries to the west and east

Our retail centre welcomed 953,614 people in August - already back to 89% of pre-Covid-19 levels and 105,000 shoppers higher than the previous August - showing Middlesbrough is bouncing back after the Covid-19 pandemic

And Centre for Cities research shows the number of visitors to our centre in 2021, and the amount of money spent, beats the national average and contemporary cities like Sunderland

Independents like Triads and Bakers Tailoring mark out Middlesbrough as a shopping destination alongside all the high street fixtures like Marks and Spencer, Next and Flannels. We're also proud that national chains are based here, like Charles Clinkard which launched in Middlesbrough in 1924

Our independent food, drink and cultural scene has exploded in the past few years - with many of those businesses centred around two streets, Baker and Bedford Street, which were transformed from empty terraces into a vibrant hub for local culture

But we are looking beyond retail for the centre of Middlesbrough - and are grateful for Government help to completely reinvent it for generations to come

It has already welcomed the Northern School of Art into a stylish £14m building, with diggers and cranes ready to go on a number of new office and residential developments



A CGI of Boho X and photo showing progress on site in November 2021. The complex is due to be completed in late 2022

We're rebalancing our retail offer and promoting more leisure and office space, as well as encouraging up to 10,000 people to come and live in the centre.

That is the way to protect, maintain and grow our shopping offer in the future

Middlesbrough Council was awarded £14.1m from the Future High Streets Fund, and £21.9m from the Towns Fund, earlier this year

More than £9m from the Future High Streets Fund pot will go towards transforming the council-owned outdoor shopping centre Captain Cook Square into a leisure hub

Part of those plans will also see the neighbouring House of Fraser building, a smart art deco fixture in the centre and also purchased by the council, transformed into a leisure destination.

It's hoped these bold steps will negate the natural decline of the high street nationally and the impact of the pandemic

A total of £3.5m from the Future High Streets Fund has been set aside for residential properties - including a 15-storey apartment block and 80 new homes, while £1m will go towards transport adaptations and improving the safety of town centre areas

Cycling infrastructure will also receive a £250,000 boost from the Government pot

And local businesses have benefited from £10,000 grant funding to make improvements to their premises to ensure Middlesbrough bounces back better from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The money granted from the Towns Fund will transform Middlesbrough's historic centre.

It will help convert office space and build more high-specification accommodation to attract even more workers to the centre of Middlesbrough

One of those is Boho X, a cutting edge development which will be among the best office spaces between Glasgow and Leeds.

It will also help to regenerate land at Middlesbrough's dockland and its original Victorian heart, St Hilda's, known locally as 'over the border', into a retail, leisure and residential hub for the next century.

We will do that by continuing to invest in our thriving digital industry in the Boho Zone, build new houses, a school and help the successful Middlesbrough College expand further

We will also restore Middlesbrough's oldest standing pub, the historic Captain Cook, and renovate the original town hall into a new market hall

Did you know...

St Agnes Church, with its unique steel spire, was built with a donation from Agnes Spencer, the late Middlesbrough-born widow of M&S founder Thomas Spencer.



A CGI of new homes in Middlehaven

A hotbed of sporting pride and achievement

Some of the world's biggest sporting stars have called Middlesbrough home. And our football club, Middlesbrough FC, embodies the best of our pride and culture.

England and Great Britain captain George Hardwick, the legendary goalscorer Brian Clough and Wilf Mannion – the footballer Stanley Matthews described as “the Mozart” of the sport – were all local men who represented the club as it became a fixture of England's top divisions.

In 1986, the club went into liquidation and the gates to its famous old stadium Ayresome Park, which witnessed one of the great World Cup upsets when North Korea beat the mighty Italy 1-0 in 1966, were padlocked.

Minutes before the club was lost forever, local businessman Steve Gibson and a consortium of financial backers saved it from the brink. A young team made up mainly of players from Middlesbrough, including iconic captain Tony Mowbray, motored up the divisions and reached the club's first ever Wembley cup final.

Over the next 20 years Middlesbrough became the centre of the football world – the club was the first in the Premier League to build a new stadium following the Taylor Report, appointed England captain Bryan Robson as manager, and welcomed worldwide stars such as Juninho and Fabrizio Ravanelli as English football emerged into the global powerhouse it is today

The club won its first trophy in 2004, the League Cup and reached the UEFA Cup Final for the first and only time in 2006

And it continues our proud history of developing some of the best players for the international team such as Stewart Downing, with current home-grown youngsters like Dael Fry and Nathan Wood representing the national under-21 side

The next generation of sporting stars can develop their skills at some of Middlesbrough's fantastic sporting facilities.

Middlesbrough Sports Village was opened in May 2015

It features an athletics stadium with a 400m track, an indoor 40m athletics track, a fitness gym, an indoor multi sports court for basketball, netball, futsal and roller hockey and seating for 300 spectators

The wider site includes a 1km cycle circuit, skate park, and 11-a-side, seven-a-side and five-a-side 3G football pitches.

We're also home to the Rainbow Centre and Neptune Centre leisure facilities, the latter of which is home to Middlesbrough Amateur Swimming Club – which produced world-record breaking Olympic silver medallist Jack Hatfield, and Olympic star and Commonwealth gold medallist Aimee Willmott

The town and its clubs and facilities has also produced Paralympic gold medallist Jade Jones, Olympic long jumper Chris Tomlinson and world champion boxer Cornelius Carr.

And Middlesbrough Rugby Club honed the skills of England's record international try scorer in rugby union, Rory Underwood.



Middlesbrough Sports Village



Crowds flock to Orange Pip Market

A city-scale destination

Middlesbrough is a cultural hotbed and the biggest leisure hub in the Tees Valley.

Visitors from across the north flock to Middlesbrough for events such as the Mela - celebrating our diverse communities during a free, multi-cultural festival which is one of the largest of its kind

Up to 75,000 descended on picturesque Stewart Park for Radio One's Big Weekend in 2019, with BBC presenters and musicians falling in love and praising our restaurants and nightlife US superstar Miley Cyrus even went for a late night stroll to explore the surrounding areas after her late night set

We've always welcomed the biggest names in entertainment, from Charlie Chaplin and Laurel and Hardy playing The Empire to The Beatles rocking thousands of screaming fans at the Astoria in 1963

Orange Pip Market has become a monthly cultural fixture, an artisan street market which celebrates independent businesses, expanding to showcase the best of our art, entertainment and hospitality.

And in 2021, Middlesbrough held its first ever large scale, free Diwali festival - the biggest in the North East.

Musically, Middlesbrough's Twisterella attracts the hottest emerging artists to its award-winning festival, held in some of the most renowned venues in the region

Our strong, independent hospitality businesses make Middlesbrough stand out. Visitors can enjoy Brazilian churrasco, freshly cut Japanese sashimi and Middlesbrough-made craft beer or gin as part of our vibrant night time offer.

Middlesbrough Town Hall underwent a £7.7m full refurbishment in 2018 and is a hub of leisure - bringing

big name comedians and musicians, and showcasing independent and up-and-coming artists alongside Middlesbrough Theatre

The Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art will be working with internationally renowned artists represented at Tate and MoMA over the next five years, including Lucie Rie, Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen

But the leisure offer enjoyed by our residents isn't simply confined to Middlesbrough - within 10 miles on all sides is some of the UK's most beautiful countryside and stunning coastline

The Victorian splendour of Saltburn, traditional family seaside fun of Redcar, and the dramatic cliffs and hidden beaches on the North Yorkshire and County Durham coast are within touching distance.

Did you know...

Middlesbrough's grand Albert Park traditionally played host to the annual England v Scotland croquet match.

The spectacular Cleveland Way walking route, taking in landmarks like Roseberry Topping and Captain Cook's Monument, is a 10-minute drive from our centre and close to pretty satellite market towns like Stokesley and Great Ayton

Then, there's mile after mile of the breathtaking North Yorkshire Moors.

Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art





Albert Park

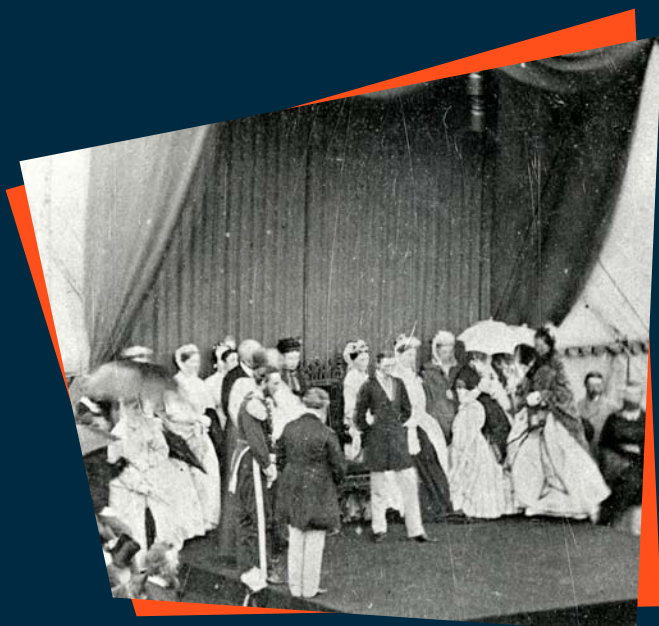
Royally great park just one of town's green gems

Beautiful Albert Park is a piece of Victorian treasure in the heart of Middlesbrough.

The park is one of our proudest Royal boasts, opened as it was in August 1868 by Prince Arthur, the third son and seventh of the nine children of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. It was named after his late father.

In his speech to open the park, the 19-year-old prince said Henry Bolckow had “stood by the side of the iron cradle in which Middlesbrough was rocked, and had watched over the child with care as it grew”.

Today the park is one of seven open spaces in Middlesbrough to have Green Flag status.



Prince Arthur opens Albert Park, 1868

Our magnificent 7

Albert Park

Currently being upgraded as part of a £100,000 investment, Albert Park is home to a boating lake, tennis courts, children's play areas and a statue of one of Middlesbrough most famous sons, Brian Clough. Visitors can also get their rollerskates on and take part in weekly parkruns

Fairy Dell

A short journey from the town centre, Fairy Dell is on land originally home to Gunnergate Hall, built in the 1850s for a wealthy Quaker banker. The dell is a treasured local wildlife site dotted with ponds and mature woodlands

Hemlington Lake

A nine acre lake complemented by a children's play area, skate park and playing fields

Linthorpe Cemetery

The oldest working cemetery in Middlesbrough and the most wooded area in the town. There are several walking routes within its 52 acres. The cemetery contains over 50,000 graves and is used by community groups and children to learn about the town's social history

Pallister Park

Facilities include two floodlit 5-side-courts, a bowling green, tennis court, a large children's play area and performance amphitheatre. A judo club manages the park centre building



Stewart Park

The town's largest park and the site of the former Marton Hall estate, constructed for the Bolckow family. The park boasts a tree collection unrivalled in the North East and a museum celebrating Captain James Cook

Thorntree Park

A cherished green space in the east of the town, Thorntree Park is home to Cargo Fleet Junior Football Club



Our own Jurassic World

There are parks... and then there are dinosaur parks!

Teessaurus Park, set on the banks of the River Tees, is the home of Middlesbrough's dinosaurs

Adored by children who are amazed by the enormous models of dinosaurs including a stegosaurus, brontosaurus and triceratops, the park is undergoing a significant revamp to introduce children's play equipment and an educational app trail

The Avenue of Trees

This magnificent corridor is a captivating sight whether it's a frosty winter morning or roasting summer afternoon. In one direction the avenue leads walkers to the Grade I-listed Acklam Hall, built in the 1680s by the MP, Sir William Hustler

The Hall is now a hospitality venue and its grounds are popular with walkers.

Protecting our planet

As you can see, Middlesbrough is blessed with open green space.

But we also want the town to be renowned for being a leader on environmental issues.

We have Tree City of the World status and are currently planting 150,000 trees each year

The council is spending £1m on improving parks and creating glorious community orchards to boost sustainability and help teach residents about caring for their planet



Voluntary sector



Staff at Teesside Hospice

The best in the world

We believe Middlesbrough has the biggest hearted and most compassionate voluntary sector in the world. And they deserve the best.

Middlesbrough Council empowers our communities by providing tailor-made help and support - including core grant funding through the Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Organisation (MVDA).

It offers all the advice and information volunteers need to understand how to apply for grants, help them build contacts and provide governance advice. We also support a specialist office and conference space to help groups get on their feet.

In 2020/21, almost £1.4m in grants was awarded to the voluntary and community sector.

The Council works with the voluntary sector to ensure no one needs to go hungry in our town. Emergency food parcels are available seven days a week.

Ending isolation

The buzz of conversation, shared laughs and passionate debates of a typical social club were sorely missed during the Covid pandemic

Thankfully in Middlesbrough, dedicated volunteers were ready to step in and help with the help of a £14,160 council grant

The late Ali Brownlee was a beloved radio personality known as 'The Voice of the Boro' for his spine-tingling radio commentary on many of Middlesbrough Football Club's most glorious moments

With the blessing of Ali's family, local musician Mike McGrother started the Ali Brownlee Social Club as an online space to welcome anyone with links to Middlesbrough and the wider region.

As restrictions eased, the social club grew into a physical home - welcoming fans to an inclusive regular event at Middlesbrough's trendy Base Camp arts venue

Teesside Hospice

The hospice is a beloved institution in Middlesbrough - known for its compassionate end-of-life care, and the wellbeing support it provides in the community

During Covid-19, the council issued a £20,000 grant to improve its website to help reach patients and visitors during lockdowns, as well as supporting its core nursing.

A further £15,000 will go towards a project which the hospice hopes will widen access to its services among groups which are currently under-represented including BAME communities, LGBTQ people and refugees.

Innovative and inspirational

The amazing Community Champions Middlesbrough are a giant-hearted group of grassroots volunteers who happily give up their time to make our town better.

The group has enabled people across the town to become involved in litter picking, taking on huge areas including the banks of the River Tees - while another brainchild was the restoration of the dinosaur models at Teessaurus Park.

To help supporting volunteers, we have launched the Middlesbrough Lottery. Every £1 ticket guarantees 50p going to a good cause nominated by the player, with 10p going to cultural initiatives in Middlesbrough

Middlesbrough in numbers



£21.9m

Towns Fund
money awarded



£14.1m

Future High
Streets funding
awarded



Around 1 million
people live within
a 20-mile radius of
the town centre.



71,000 employees
work in
Middlesbrough -
that's 27% of all
the jobs in the
Tees Valley.



Middlesbrough's urban
area is made up of
177,354 people - larger
than neighbouring
northern cities such
as Sunderland, York
and Durham.



There are 420,000
economically
active people living
within a 30 minute
drive of the centre
of Middlesbrough.

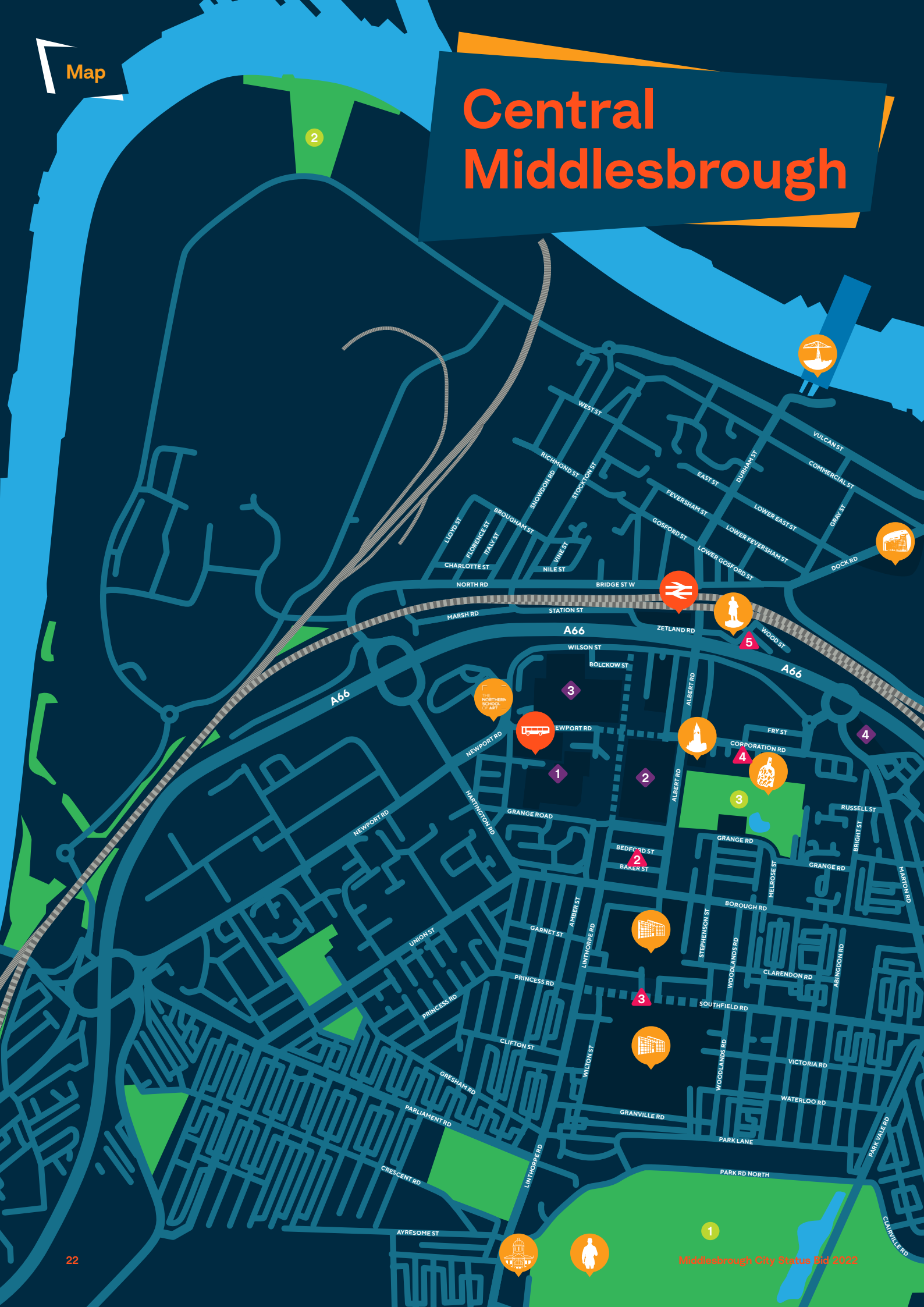


18,000 study at
Teesside University,
which is a big draw for
international students.
The institution employs
3,000 staff.













Miles to nearest
cities:
Durham - 26 miles
York - 49 miles

Central Middlesbrough





Key:






Landmarks

-  Transporter Bridge
-  Middlesbrough Town Hall
-  Dorman Museum
-  Temenos
-  Bottle of Notes
-  Teesside University
-  Middlesbrough College
-  Northern School of Art
-  Bolckow statue - Exchange Square
-  Clough statue - Albert Park




Leisure:

-  1 Captain Cook Square
-  2 Cleveland Centre
-  3 Hill Street Centre
-  4 Cineworld



Entertainment:

-  1 Riverside Stadium
-  2 Baker and Bedford Street
-  3 Southfield Road
-  4 Empire
-  5 Base Camp

Green spaces:

-  1 Albert Park
-  2 Teessaurus Park
-  3 Centre Square

Transport

-  Middlesbrough Rail Station
-  Middlesbrough Bus Station

Rail

Approximately nine trains call at Middlesbrough railway station per hour.

To Newcastle - 18 trains per day (1 hour journey time)

To Manchester via Leeds and York - 15 trains per day (2 hours 28 minutes to Manchester, 1 hour 21 minutes to Leeds, 1 hour to York)

To Whitby - 6 trains per day (1 hour 30 minutes journey time)

To Darlington for connections to the East Coast mainline for services to London and Scotland - trains every 30 minutes (30 minutes journey time)

Road

Middlesbrough has strong road connections north and south via easy access to the A19 and A66 onwards to the A1(M)

To Durham - 27 miles (40 minutes journey time)

To Sunderland - 30 miles (40 minutes journey time)

To Newcastle - 40 miles (50 minutes journey time)

To Leeds - 70 miles (1 hour 20 minutes journey time)

To Manchester - 112 miles (2 hours 10 minutes journey time)

Local bus services

The main bus corridor in Middlesbrough is Linthorpe Road, which has a frequency of 36 services per hour between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Saturday inclusive.



Appendix

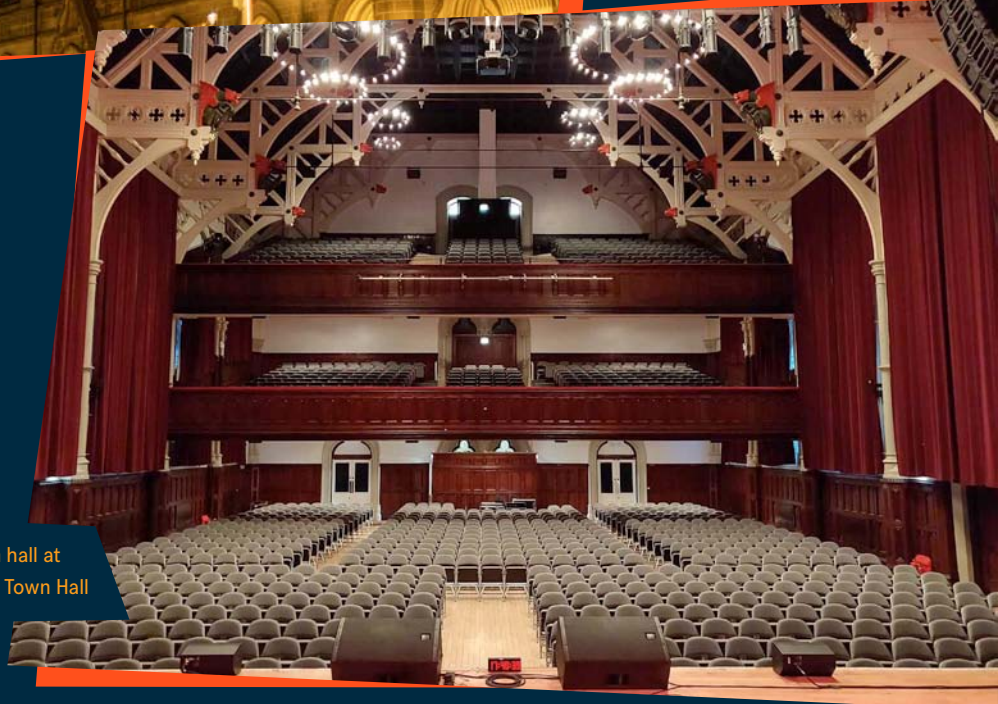
The Beating Heart installation at Church House in central Middlesbrough



The Grade II* listed Middlesbrough Town Hall, built in the 1880s



Inside the main hall at Middlesbrough Town Hall





The Tees Transporter Bridge is the longest of its kind in the world



The Tees Newport Bridge opened to traffic in 1934 and crosses the River Tees



Grade I listed Acklam Hall, built in 1680

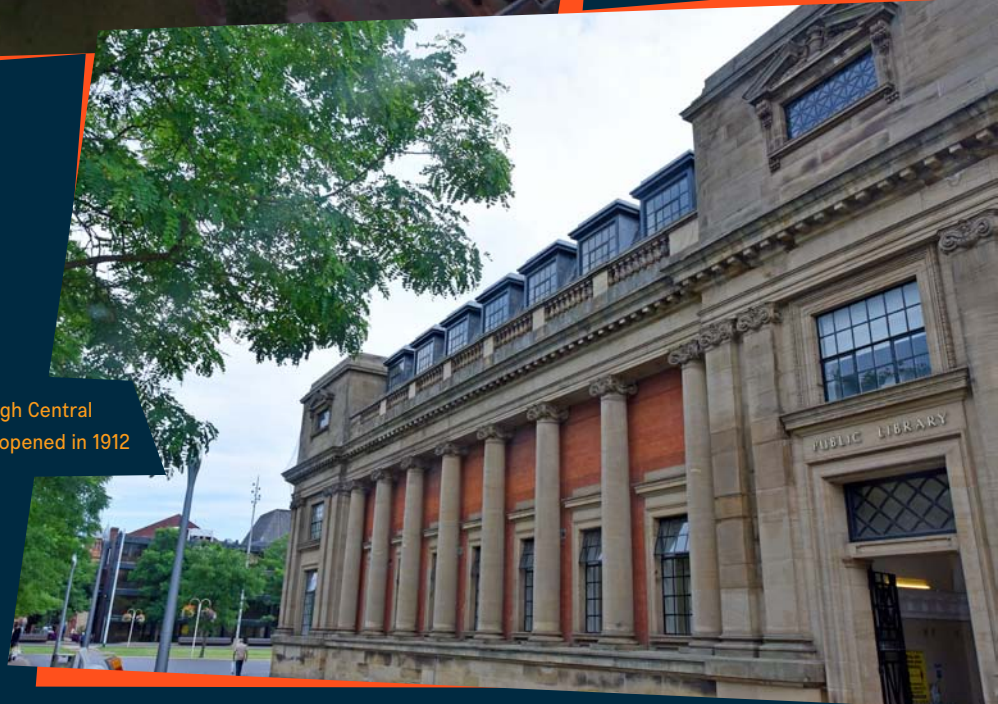
Appendix (continued)

Formerly a theatre, the Empire is now one of Middlesbrough's main nightclubs and concert venues



Centre Square is surrounded by Middlesbrough's civic buildings, law courts and the central library. It is a huge outdoor event space

Middlesbrough Central Library was opened in 1912





The Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art in Centre Square



Teesside University's Library and Curve buildings on central campus



Teesside University's Student Life building

Appendix (continued)

An aerial view of Teesside University's campus in central Middlesbrough



The Waterhouse Building at Teesside University



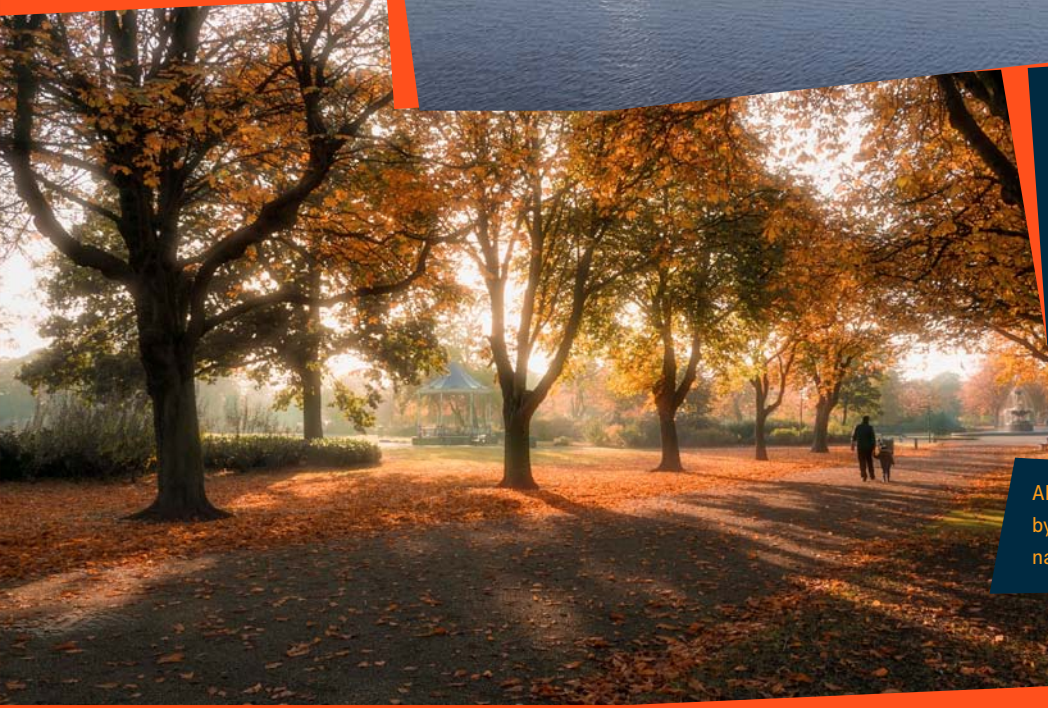
The university is a major contributor to Middlesbrough's economy



THE
NORTHERN
SCHOOL
OF ART



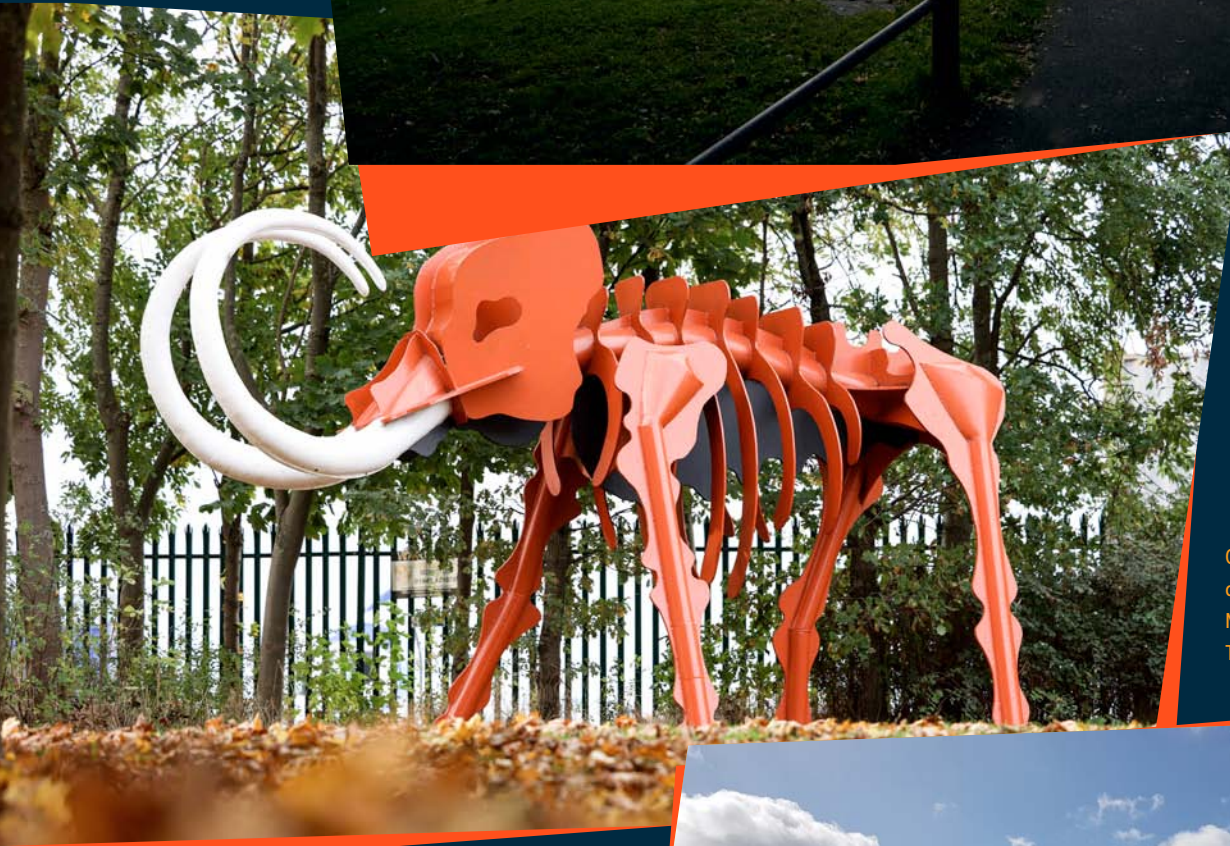
Middlesbrough College's campus dominates the waterfront at Middlehaven dock



Albert Park was opened by Prince Arthur and named after his father

Appendix (continued)

Stewart Park boasts a tree collection unrivalled in the North East



One of the resident dinosaurs at Middlesbrough's Teessaurus Park



Hemlington Lake and the surrounding area has Green Flag status



Roseberry Topping, pictured from Middlesbrough



The magnificent corridor of trees leads to Acklam Hall



A statue of Stanley Hollis, the only man to be awarded the VC for actions on D-Day, next to Albert Park

Appendix (continued)

Tom Dresser was awarded the VC for his service in the First World War. His statue stands next to the Dorman Museum



James Cook University Hospital is one of the most well-equipped modern hospitals in the country



Middlesbrough's war heroes are remembered at the Cenotaph at the entrance to Albert Park



Captain Cook Birthplace Museum opened on October 28 1978 – the 250th anniversary of Cook's birth



Dorman Museum stands next to Albert Park and is home to the largest public pottery collection in the world



The Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park opened in 2019

Appendix (continued)

The Port of Middlesbrough, home to AV Dawson, is one of Middlesbrough's gateways to the world



The Riverside Stadium with the statue of one of the club's most legendary players, Wilf Mannion

Middlesbrough's state of the art Sports Village





The Grade II-listed former Park Methodist Church is now home to luxury apartments



Temenos is an Anish Kapoor sculpture on the banks of the River Tees, close to the Riverside Stadium



The Bottle of Notes is a sculpture by internationally renowned artists and creators of public artworks, Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen

Just one of many pieces of public poetry dotted around central Middlesbrough



The beautiful Sacred Heart Church towers over Linthorpe Road



The area around Exchange Square and the railway station is being revamped

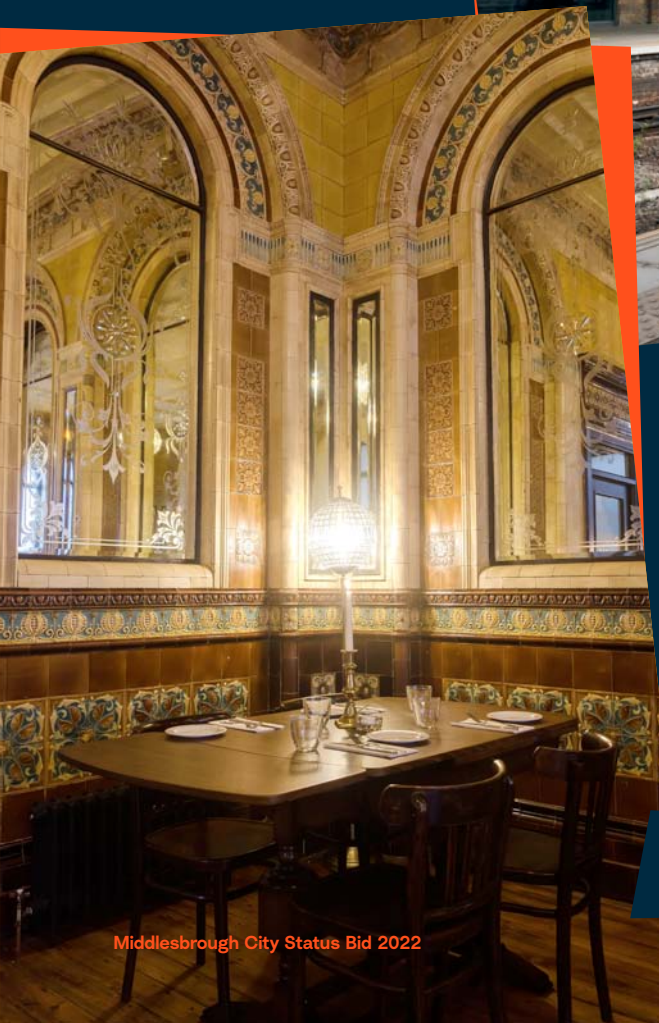




A statue of one of Middlesbrough's founding fathers, Henry Bolckow, stands proudly in Exchange Square



Direct trains to London commenced from Middlesbrough station in December 2021



The Zetland Hotel is an architectural gem dating back to the town's Victorian heyday

Appendix (continued)

The Boho Zone, a digital and creative hub, is home to world-leading innovative businesses



Gibson House was formerly home to the National Provincial Bank. It's now part of Middlesbrough's Boho Zone

Middlesbrough's original town hall is to be restored and brought back into use





Middlesbrough City Bid 2022



#BoroCityBid2022


Middlesbrough
moving forward

