



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **PUBLIC COMES OUT IN FORCE TO COMMENT ON TOWN CENTRE PLANS**

#### **More than 1,600 people attend public exhibition to have their say on Town Centre proposals**

An exhibition about proposals for regenerating Billingham Town Centre brought out more than 1,600 people to view and comment on the draft plans for the town last week. Members of Stockland and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council were delighted by the interest in the proposals and with the number of people that visited the exhibition at 108 Queensway to give their views.

The exhibition was part of a major consultation programme to get input to Stockland's draft Masterplan for investing in and regenerating Billingham Town Centre.

Commenting on the success of the exhibition, Simon Hoad, Development Director for Stockland, said: "We have had a phenomenal response and I am delighted that so many people have taken the time and effort to look at our proposals and to contribute their views. Our approach for regenerating Billingham Town Centre is based on combining our own ideas and knowledge of what is technically and economically deliverable with ideas from local people, businesses, and local elected representatives. We have had great interest, valuable feedback and some really good ideas. We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed so far and look forward to hearing more views before the consultation closes at the end of November."

The Masterplan sets out details for upgrades to Billingham's shopping centre, including proposals for a new food store in West Precinct, improvements to shop frontages, new lighting, paving, and a general overhaul of the town's main shopping area.

The exhibition was open and staffed by members of the Stockland and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council teams from Monday 2 November to Wednesday 4 November. The displays will remain on show in the shop window of 108 Queensway until Saturday 14 November.

People can comment on the plans by completing a feedback form. Forms are available from the Town Centre Manager's Office at 130 Queensway, Roseberry Library, Billingham Library (on Bedale Avenue) and can also be completed on Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's website at [www.stockton.gov.uk/billingham](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/billingham). All comments should be returned by 5pm on Monday 30 November.



Councillor Bob Cook, Stockton Council's Cabinet Member for Transport and Regeneration, said: "It is very encouraging that so many people took the time to go along and look at the proposals and make their comments. There is still plenty of time for people to have their say either online or via the feedback forms."

Feedback from the consultation will be used to refine the proposals ahead of the Masterplan being formally agreed with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. The results of the consultation will be published on the Council's website in the coming months.

Presentations of the proposals have also been provided to The Billingham Partnership, Billingham Town Council, local Billingham town centre retailers/traders, Frank Cook MP and members of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council as part of the ongoing consultation process.

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#### **Notes to editors**

The Masterplan is being brought forward by Stockland working with Colman Architects and a professional team.

The Masterplan will provide a framework to shape the regeneration of Billingham Town Centre. Specific proposals for new shops and/or major changes to the Town Centre will require planning permission in their own right. Planning applications would be brought forward to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council in line with the statutory process.

Further information on Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's plans/policies for regeneration of Billingham Town Centre is available on the Council's website at [www.stockton.gov.uk/billingham](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/billingham) or from Louise McDonald / Nicola Garnham in the Regeneration Team.

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