Southfield Road – University Consultation

Purpose of Consultation
Successful universities are synonymous with successful cities. They educate our workforce, employ our residents, supply our industries and boost our economies. The fortunes of Teesside University and Middlesbrough are fundamentally linked. We have common goals and aspirations and are committed to working closely, and to our mutual benefit.

National funding arrangements for universities make it necessary for Teesside University to adapt its business model to attract students and remain competitive. Teesside University’s academic offer is strong; however, as competition becomes increasingly fierce, the University is maximising student interest by complementing its academic offer with an improved environment and lifestyle experiences.

Teesside University understands that prospective students opt for their preferred university based on numerous factors, some of which are within the influence of the University, and others which are not. As part of raising the global appeal of Teesside University, plans are being explored which include a new pedestrian square on Southfield Road and an overall consolidation of the heart of the campus.

Currently, traffic flows on Southfield Road create a barrier, which carves through the spatial and student centre of the University campus. Working with Middlesbrough Council, solutions for an integrated campus core, and the long term treatment of Southfield Road, are being investigated. This involves a process of public consultation to gauge local opinion and inform the design of a suitable solution. As staff and students of the University, you are key stakeholders in this process and your opinions will help to determine the long term vision for the area.

Architect’s impression
What is being proposed?
The options below provide a framework for consultation. Through the consultation process, these options will be refined and amended and there will be opportunity for alternative suggestions to be explored in more detail.

Once the initial consultation is complete, the submitted information will be compiled and reported to the Mayor for consideration. The Mayor will then determine which options will be discarded and which will be explored in more detail. A further consultation period will follow on the remaining options. Following the second consultation period, the Mayor will determine the most suitable treatment for Southfield Road.

Options currently up for consideration include:

- No closure
- Daytime closure between 8.30am and 5.30pm
- Daytime closure between 8.30am and 5.30pm and one-way traffic
- Permanent full closure
- Weekday closure

The consultation runs until Monday 11th March 2013.

As a Board member, employee, student and/or alumnus of Teesside University, the Council would be grateful for your input into this consultation process – ideally through completion of the consultation questionnaire at:

Middlesbrough Council’s consultation portal
http://consult.middlesbrough.gov.uk/portal;

or, alternatively, you could have your say in any one of the following ways:

- By emailing your queries to transportconsultation@middlesbrough.gov.uk;
- Through consultation information available at the following libraries: Acklam, Berwick Hills, Central, Easterside, Grove Hill, Hemlington, Marton, Newport, North Ormesby, Rainbow, Thorntree; or
- By taking part in one of the following drop in sessions:
  - Breckon Hill Community Centre, Breckon Hill Road, Tuesday 26th February 2013 – 9am to 1pm
  - Civic Centre, Middlesbrough – Tuesday 5th March 2013 – 9am to 1pm