

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020**

### **Decisions:**

#### **1. Green Waste Collections**

This year's fortnightly Green Waste Collections were due to commence on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April. However, on 24<sup>th</sup> March an Executive/Gold Meeting decision was made to suspend the service due to the risks associated with Covid 19 i.e. social distancing & the need to protect our staff; a range of communications were issued to inform the residents. During late April, Gold agreed to reinstate the service, albeit at the reduced 4 weekly intervals. Subsequently, the service commenced on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May with 4 weekly collections. Following this, the service continues to operate on a 4 weekly collection cycle for the remainder of 2020. This decision was based on:

- There remains by a need to control the risk of infection, via social distancing of MBC Staff.
- Green Waste Collections are a non-statutory service, therefore MBC priorities remains the statutory refuse collections service.
- By remaining on a 4 weekly collection cycle, we can minimise our operational staff numbers and therefore reduce the risks of infection.
- We need to manage our resources accordingly, therefore protecting the statutory refuse collection service & ensuring we have built in resilience within our staffing capabilities.
- Green Waste tonnages remain comparable with that of previous years, averaging 700 tonnes/month.
- In a "normal" year, the Green Waste Collections would fall into 1 collection per month for October & November. Therefore, given that we are into August, it is not practical to commence with a recruitment process for the required seasonal staff
- Residents can take excess Green Waste to the Household Waste recycling Centre (HWRC) at Haverton Hill, via an online booking system, which is free to the public.

#### **2. Transporter Bridge**

Atkins Global are close to completion of the principal inspection which will give us an indication of the current condition and what works are going to be required to make the structure safe and inform our decision on the future operation of the bridge. A full Executive report will be presented in Autumn, outlining the maintenance requirements following publication of the principal inspection report.

### **Strategic:**

#### **3. WEBASPX**

Environment services have finalised the contract for an InCab system for Recycling and Waste Services which will enable for live data to be fed and monitored throughout the working day. This will digitalised the service and provide automated business processes in line with the Green Agenda, improve performance management, improve the quality of service for the customer, reduce missed bins. We are aiming to be fully up and running by September 2020.

#### **4. Green Strategy**

Middlesbrough Council is setting out an ambitious vision through an environmental strategy to rise to the challenge of climate change and meet our obligations through the Government's Environment Bill. The Environment Bill aims to manage the impact of human activity on the environment, creating a more sustainable and resilient economy, and enhancing well-being and quality of life. In order that a structured approach is taken, a "Terms of Reference" document has been agreed and a series of action groups are about to be established. The groups will be the delivery mechanism to develop and deliver the Green Strategy on behalf of the Council, businesses and residents to make Middlesbrough a greener and more

sustainable town for the 21st Century. They will ensure that environmental and sustainable thinking is at the forefront of all decision making, in order that it will be a mandatory part of council process and agendas. The purpose of the Action groups is for the Heads of Service to focus on an array of pre-determined “principles” which underpin the Green Strategy and are aligned to the One Planet Living principles of:



The Objectives of the Green Strategy are:

1. To ensure Middlesbrough Council is net carbon neutral by 2030.
2. To ensure Middlesbrough as a town is net carbon neutral by 2040.
3. For Middlesbrough to be a lead authority on environmental issues.

## **5. Electric Charging stations**

We have a proposal to have 5 V2G Vehicle to Grid charging stations (10kw) supplied by EON. This is a partnership with Nissan and will operate from Resolution House for fleet use only and for charging of Nissan eV200 vans. Once approved there will be an upfront cost of £24k against a total cost of £78k met by EON plus further savings on returning unutilised electricity to grid overnight. This is dependent in us acquiring the Nissan EV vehicles.

## **6. Main Waste Disposal Contract**

The future waste project is continuing well. The OJEU Notice went live on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020, (OJEU Notice which publishes live tenders within the European Union). It is hoped the project will have a partner in place by December 2021. As part of the project the First Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) was signed by all parties on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The parties included are Darlington Borough Council, Durham County Council, Hartlepool Borough Council, Middlesbrough Council, City of Newcastle Upon Tyne Council, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

## **7. Pot Hole Initiative**

The responsive maintenance team are now into week 4 of a planned 20 week programme and have so far carried out work in 4 wards and have identified and repaired 2618 defects, laid 254 tonnes of tarmac over an area of 3243 square metres and have programmed a further 5515 square metres of resurfacing works to be carried out by a main contractors to repair those areas too large to patch.

## **8. Street Lighting**

We have now resumed with the LED replacement programme following relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions and are now scheduled to complete the installations by mid November 2020. Following completion of this programme we will resume with planned column replacements with 300 columns due to be replaced by the end of March 2021.

## **9. Permit Scheme**

Following Executive approval the Permit to Work on the Highway scheme was implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and the permit team are now successfully managing and co-ordinating all permit activity on the highway. The permit scheme will enable the Council to have much more control of utilities activities on the highway and fulfil our statutory duties in the Traffic Management Act 2004 to manage our network.

## **10. Fleet**

In support of the Council's Green Strategy Agenda, Fleet Services have purchased 2 Toyota Hybrid vehicles for the newly formed Future for Families service to be based in Thorntree. The service will support the needs of families across Middlesbrough.

## **11. Electric Vehicle Charging**

In collaboration with the Councils newly appointed Environment Sustainability Manager, Fleet Services are exploring the option of entering into a Vehicle to Grid innovation programme co-funded by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Office for Low Emission Vehicles. The

scheme will help and trial vehicle to grid charging technology in partnership with Nissan and E-On and which may enable the Council to have fully funded electric vehicle charging point installed at Resolution House and upon the purchase of compatible Nissan vehicles will allow surplus energy from the vehicle batteries to either be sold back to the energy supplier or used as supplementary overnight power to Resolution House. There will also be additional fuel and servicing savings from the use of the electric vehicles.

## **12. Traffic Signals/UTMC**

The new UTMC and UTC system development is progressing well with Siemens carrying out the works to have the new system in place soon. TCF funding is available to expand our UTMC assets across the Tees Valley, with the UYTMC manager currently working with Fore Consulting to develop an asset plan for hardware type and location (VMS, CCTV, ANPR, Air Quality, Traffic Counting, Weather monitoring etc.) We are also looking for funding to roll out some extra emission monitors along corridors such as Linthorpe Rd in Middlesbrough, Woodlands Road in Darlington and Norton Road in Stockton. Traffic signal installations are currently being finalised at the new A66 throughabout and adjacent roundabout at Cargo Fleet Lane/South Bank Road junction. These two junctions will work collaboratively so that coordination and congestion can be controlled and monitored via UTMC. The works are nearing completion and due to be switched on and operational late August start September.

## **13. Highways Projects**

Whilst progress with the planned capital verge and footway scheme works has been significantly delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions the planned highways team have now started on the 2020/21 works programme and are working towards having all of the scheme works complete prior to April 2021.

## **14. Flood Management - Marton West Beck Flood Alleviation Scheme**

The Environment Agency (EA) and Middlesbrough Council (MC) are working in partnership to reduce flood risk from the Marton West Beck in Middlesbrough. A range of options were closely looked at and it was decided on a number of new flood risk management measures which will provide improved protection to 485 homes in central Middlesbrough. Of these 244 homes will be protected from a 1 in 75 year flood event which is a flood which has a 1.3% chance of happening in any given year.

## **15. Trash Screen in Albert Park**

At present, the screen in the corner of the park prevents large rubbish entering the culvert and therefore stops the beck that runs beneath Park Vale Road from blocking. Any blockage in the culvert would force water out the beck causing damage and flooding. However, it is possible for the screen to block which forces water out of the channel and this provides the greatest risk to homes in the area and further north into the town. The new design of trash screen will reduce the impact that debris and rubbish has on the flood risk. The new screen will still catch the rubbish but will allow the water to flow into the culvert by using the new side screen. This will also make it easier and safer for our staff to clear the screens.

## **16. Flood Walls**

New formal flood walls are required on the banks of the beck adjacent to Park Vale Road in Albert Park. These new walls will be constructed near the new screen to help retain the water in the park and preventing it from flowing down Park Vale Road to people's homes. A new raised defence is also needed around the north end of the Lower Lake in Albert Park to retain and prevent water overflowing from the lake. This will mean some landscaping changes to the footpath, cycle path, and park entrance in the corner near East Lodge. Walls are also required on the open section of channel in the Borough Road and Lytton Street areas. These walls will help prevent flooding from the Beck but also extreme tidal events.

## **17. Surface Water Management**

As part of the scheme, we will also be creating three earth bunds or small raised grassed hills, which will intercept surface water flows in times of extreme rainfall. These bunds will retain water so the river water can be managed by the flood walls downstream. One bund will be in Albert Park and there will be two upstream near Newham Beck.

The scheme will cost £4.8m and will provide £59m of economic benefit to Middlesbrough over the next 50 years. The business case has approval from central Government and construction started in June 2020.

### 18. Saltersgill Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Saltersgill Flood Alleviation scheme covers the area of fields either side of the Beechwood allotments between Saltersgill Avenue and Marton Road. The works will protect 200 properties across the Saltersgill estate from flooding during periods of heavy rainfall.

The scheme has two distinct phases and proposes to create a series of surface water storage features on the fields to the east and west of Beechwood Allotments. Phase 1 (Between Saltersgill Avenue and Beechwood Allotments) Within phase one we have created three flood storage areas the first two storage areas have been designed to be normally dry with the intention for the third area to become a wetland. Underground pipes connect the first large storage area, which intercept surface water flows in times of extreme rainfall, to the other two. The system is fitted with a hydro brake, which will limit the flow into the ditch/culvert during extreme rainfall and will see the storage areas retain water to enable the culvert to cope with surface water downstream.

Phase 2 (Between Beechwood Allotments and Marton Road). Within Phase 2 we have created a containment mound around the edge of the fields creating a large storage area. The storage area has been designed to be normally dry, with two French drains at the lowest points. The storage area will intercept surface water flows during times of extreme rainfall and will discharge into the adjacent watercourse/culvert.

### Involvement and Promotion:

#### 19. Refuse Vehicles

ECS are in the process of arranging for Vehicle Wraps for a number of our refuse vehicles. The wraps cover a number of “Blue Planet” and “Environment” issues. Two designs are attached for information. In addition to these two, we also have designs for: Water Vole, Turtle and Basking Shark. The wraps are designed to raise public awareness of Environmental and Climatic issues. Approval is currently being sought for final designs, so we are hopeful that they will go on show soon.

