

**ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL
MAINTENANCE OF OPEN SPACES – ACTION PLAN**

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	BY WHOM	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
<p>a) That the scripts used by the contact centre be updated in light of the recent budget reductions to ensure that accurate advice is given to residents when enquiries relating to the maintenance of open spaces are submitted. The department's service promises should also be refreshed and updated to reflect the current budget position.</p>	<p>All Scripts and Service Promises currently used by the Contact Centre will be reviewed and updated where necessary.</p>	<p>Julie Parry</p>	<p>NIL</p>	<p>Review Feb/March. Implement 1st April 2015</p>
<p>b) That guidance be produced and published in the Love Middlesbrough magazine and on the Council website which advises residents of the actions they are legally entitled to undertake directly outside of their premises in respect of tending grass verges, weed removal and litter picking.</p>	<p>We will work in conjunction with the Website Team to ensure the relevant information is provided on the Councils website and in the Love Middlesbrough magazine</p>	<p>Julie Parry</p>	<p>NIL</p>	<p>Implement for 1st April 2015</p>
<p>c) That a wild flower initiative is undertaken on a key grass verge gateway into Middlesbrough as a trial project in an effort to fully assess the potential benefits of introducing this type of scheme in Middlesbrough.</p>	<p>We are currently exploring a partnership proposed development with Groundwork Tees to enhance an area along the A66. This proposed landscape will incorporate a large swathe of wildflower. Further opportunities with invest to save will be explored to plant wildflower areas on the A66 'Bowl' and Stainton Way.</p>	<p>Andrew Mace</p>	<p>NIL</p>	<p>Sept 2015</p>

<p>d) That Community Councils be approached by the department to establish if there is interest from individual Community Councils to fund / sponsor the provision of bedding plants / wildflower projects / bulb planting schemes in their respective wards and to inform Community Councils of the individual beds that will be grassed if the necessary funds cannot be raised.</p>	<p>We will approach all Community Councils regarding the possibility of their sponsorship/funding for planting projects. This will be carried out in conjunction with the new Sponsored Roundabout Tender. The letter will detail any identified flower beds which as a result of budget cuts were deleted from the spring/summer planting.</p>	<p>Julie Parry</p>	<p>NIL</p>	<p>June 2015</p>
<p>e) That the contract for business sponsorships for roundabouts be retendered in an effort to generate additional income for the Council.</p>	<p>Work is currently ongoing with the Authorities Legal and Procurement departments regarding the production of a new Tender document.</p>	<p>Colin Smith</p>	<p>NIL</p>	<p>April 2015</p>
<p>f) That work be undertaken to establish the feasibility of developing new business opportunities (e.g. public sale of plants) at the Council's nursery for the benefit of Middlesbrough residents.</p>	<p>We are in the process of working on the transfer of assets at Stewart Park to Askham Bryant College. Part of the discussions with the college is to expand and provide business opportunities for selling plants/shrubs and other horticultural supplies to the public.</p>	<p>Keith Garland</p>	<p>NIL</p>	<p>June 2015</p>
<p>g) That a targeted enforcement campaign be undertaken at the recycling bring sites to send a clear message to perpetrators that fly tipping is not acceptable.</p>	<p>New signage was installed in October 2014 warning users of the consequences of dumping rubbish and confirming that CCTV would be deployed to monitor sites. This has resulted in formal cautions against four individuals who fly tipped materials in November and details of over 100 offender vehicles were recorded over the Christmas & New Year period. These details are currently being processed with a view to taking action.</p>	<p>Ken Sherwood</p>	<p>NIL</p>	<p>December 2015</p>

<p>h) That the creation of apprenticeship opportunities be included in the business planning process for the ADM for EPCS, in an effort to increase the number of employment / apprenticeship opportunities for young people in Middlesbrough in this area of work in the future.</p>	<p>The assistant director of EPCS will ensure that a requirement to increase the number of apprenticeships within these services, and provide opportunities for people in Middlesbrough to access employment in these areas is included in the detailed specification for the future delivery of these services.</p>	<p>Tom Punton</p>	<p>NIL</p>	<p>May 2015</p>
<p>i) That when new roundabouts are installed careful consideration is given to future management requirements and that an 'invest to save' approach is adopted in respect of prominent roundabouts in Middlesbrough with a view to reducing ongoing revenue costs.</p>	<p>New roundabouts within the borough are usually as a result of new developments eg housing. During the design stage, future maintenance requirements are considered and where possible minimised.</p>	<p>Derek Gittins</p>	<p>NIL</p>	<p>February 2015</p>
<p>j) That discussions be held with Erimus Housing in respect of the future arrangements for the maintenance of open spaces across the town. The feasibility of the responsibility for the maintenance of all open space land across the town to be managed by the Council in the future should be explored. The joint visits previously undertaken by Erimus and Council officers should also be reinstated.</p>	<p>The assistant director EPCS will engage with senior colleagues in the Thirteen organisation to reopen discussions around future maintenance and potential land swaps. The Streetscene Services Manager will arrange for Area Care Managers to be invited to participate in area based walkabouts with staff from Thirteen Group</p>	<p>Tom Punton Andy Mace</p>	<p>NIL at this stage NIL</p>	<p>April 2015 March 2015</p>