

Councillor Dennis McCabe

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
14 October 2020**

Decision:

The Executive gave approval to commence consultation on the adoption of the emerging Green Strategy. The strategy sets a programme to meet Government targets for Recycling uptake and Greenhouse gas emissions and make the council more climate resilient to make sure we are prepared and can adapt to changes in climate and to minimise the environmental impact of council services in future. This also supports the One Planet Living framework and the 10 principles already adopted by the council. The Green Strategy – ‘A Greener Future for Middlesbrough’ has 3 main aims:

1. To make Middlesbrough Council net carbon neutral by 2029
2. To ensure Middlesbrough as a town is net carbon neutral by 2039.
3. To make Middlesbrough a lead authority on environmental issues.

Strategic:

Waste Collection: In Cab System. Recycling & Waste Services have recently purchased a Digital In Cab System for all the Recycling & Waste Services Vehicles. The system will reduce paperwork for the Crews and also provide an economically enhanced daily route for each round. The benefits of the system is:

MBC Carbon Footprint due to a reduction in miles travelled by a 26t HGV Refuse Compaction Vehicle (RCV)

Measure the performance of the individual Crew to highlight any spare time within the rounds.

Automatic Digital Job Tickets which will improve the Customer Experience as the job can be updated in real time recording the time it was complete.

Significantly reduce the amount of paper used

Offer a ‘real time’ picture of round progress so that any issues can be addressed in a timely manner.

Improve information to the Contact Centre Staff who will have information available to give to residents rather than have to call the Depot.

Improved information gathering on an individual property basis so that we are able to provide a more detailed response to issues.

Confirmation of Assisted Collections to reduce the amount of missed collections which will improve the Customer Experience

Improved Service Performance Reports

Green Waste Service will continue the Monthly Collections until the end November. This popular service has run very smoothly this year and tonnages are comparable to previous years despite the late start due to Covid pandemic.

The Future Waste Project has received nine responses to the Selection Questionnaire (SQ). Compliance checks are currently taking place and which will result in confirmation of compliant and eligible SQ responses by 11 Sept. Nine responses is seen as an excellent result for this initial stage of the competition and shows the level of interest in the project from some of the largest waste companies in Europe. Following the compliance checks a fair and transparent evaluation of the responses through the eight submitted case studies per candidate will be carried out by various members of the project LA's.

Performance:

We have agreed to go ahead with the installation of five new electric vehicle charging stations at the Cargo Fleet Lane depot for council use. This is an agreement with DEKRA, EON and Nissan and is linked to the purchase of new electric e-NV200 vans. These should be installed in the next few months.

Wildflowers

In autumn 2020 Environment Services will be planting 15,000M2 on already identified sites. Additionally, in collaboration with Thirteen Housing Group a further 15,000M2 will be planted across the authority

Bee Hives

Environment Services are aiming to make Middlesbrough a more bee-friendly town through better habitat management and siting of bee hives in key locations. We have already one located at Natures World and have identified a number of other suitable locations for Bee Hives to be positioned in 2021. The Wildflower Planting in Autumn 2020 will help us achieve a sustainable bee population across the town.

Hedge Cutting

Area Care have commenced with the hedge cutting season following the end of the bird nesting season.

Tree Planting

UTCF tree planting of 710 trees making a total of 1,200 trees planted during 2019-2021 will commence in October and continue throughout the Autumn/winter period.

Whip Planting

A Community Whip planting will commence in October with 5000 mixed species whips to be planted. A further 7,500 Whips are to be planted through Middlesbrough during Autumn/Winter.

Pest Control

The team continue to work on treating alley across the town, this work involves baiting alleys and fitting mesh to the bottom of bins to prevent rodents entering the bins. We

would like to remind residents to ensure all waste is bagged and placed in the bins provided and not out on the floor as this attracts rodents or stored in rear yards.

Pot Hole Initiative

The responsive maintenance team have now completed 10 Wards of a planned 20 Ward programme. They have identified and repaired 8845 defects, laid 752 tonnes of tarmac over an area of 8083 square metres and have programmed a further 9862 square metres of resurfacing works to be carried out by a main contractors to repair those areas too large to patch.

Bridges and Structures

We are in the process of confirming capital funding and implementing a 3 year works programme to carry out principal inspections on our bridge and structure stock and rectify any defects identified.

Street Lighting

We have 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.

Permit Scheme

Following Executive approval the Permit to Work on the Highway scheme was implemented on 1st 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.

Fleet

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.

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 UTMC 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 in place at the new A66 throughabout and adjacent roundabout at Cargo Fleet Lane/South Bank Road junction and are working well. These two junctions will work collaboratively so that coordination and congestion can be controlled and monitored via UTMIC

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.

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.

The scheme will cost £4.8m and will provide £59m of economic benefit to Middlesbrough over the next 50 years, construction started in June 2020.

Involvement and Promotion:

Climate Action Middlesbrough

A partnership of local voluntary sector organisations, led by Middlesbrough Environment City, has been successful in securing a grant of £1.6m from the National Lottery Community Fund through the first round of the Climate Action Programme. Climate Action Middlesbrough will run over five years with the aim of raising greater awareness of sustainable living and helping to reduce the town's carbon footprint. The project will focus on empowering communities, especially young people, to address climate change locally, through involvement in decision-making, education and climate action projects in their own communities. Activities will include setting up Climate Action Forums with young people and the wider community, providing training in understanding climate change and practical community environmental projects across the themes of sustainable food, transport, domestic energy use, waste reduction and natural environment. The other funded partners include Actes, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, Hemlington Linx and The Other Perspective. The wider partnership includes Thirteen Housing and Middlesbrough Council. The initiative will support the development and implementation of the Council's new Green Strategy. The project is one of only 14 across the UK to receive funding in the first round from over 600 initial Expressions of Interest.

HWRC

The site continues to be popular and the booking system is working well with a number of compliments from residents about how this has helped the process, again we would like to remind residents that when a booking is being made residents must enter their vehicle registration and post code, if they are not included the booking will be rejected.

