

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Barrie Cooper**

**DATE OF MEETING: 18 January 2023**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

Firstly I would like to remind everyone what my Portfolio Responsibilities are. I have responsibility for ensuring a safer environment for Middlesbrough ensuring Middlesbrough is cleaner and more resilient to a changing climate. This includes:-

- Environment Sustainability
- Refuse, Waste Reduction and Recycling
- Roads and Highways
- Parks, Open Spaces and Cemeteries.

I'm sure Full Council is well aware of the difficulties we have all faced over the past 24 months and the difficulties we face in 2023 so as this is my First Report to Full Council for 2023 I would like to offer my Heartfelt Thanks to All the Staff for their devotion to duty and hard work.

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

**Strategic Priority:** Too many to list at every Council Meeting so I intend to select 3 for each meeting.

Today I will report on:-

**Flood Management-** the use of our gully smart software and continuing proactive working with NWL (Northumbria Water Ltd) and the EA (Environment Agency) has reduced the number of reported flooding incidents throughout Middlesbrough compared to previous years and enabled us to resolve some long standing flood problems including issues at High Rifts and Hartington Interchange. This is a work in progress and I have highlighted Flooding at Acklam Road junction with Cambridge Road, I invite all Councillors to update me with issues in their Wards.

**Area Care -** Have completed round 3 of the UTCF part funded scheme. This entailed planting the remaining 555 standard sized trees in 8 locations across the borough. Urban Meadow Cutting will be completed this month. The areas will then be prepared for re-sowing in spring 2023. An additional 10,000m<sup>2</sup> are to be added to next year's programme which will include extensions of some current areas and also some new areas throughout the town.

Winter shrub & hedge pruning will continue throughout the month. Due its age/condition we are currently looking to replace the side arm flail mower, in readiness for the 2023 season. The team have recently installed a Christmas tree at Linthorpe rest gardens, following request by the ward councillor.

**Green Strategy** - The new community garden at Grove Hill is complete and we have now commenced the next one at Trinity Church North Ormesby (see below picture). The consortium bid for hydrogen vehicles and fuelling stations across Tees Valley has now been submitted by the consultants.

A number of tree planting events have been held with Tees Valley Wildlife Trust as part of National Tree Week including sites at Bluebell beck, Middlemarsh and Marton West beck.



## HIGHLIGHTS

**Bus Station** - After an audit in early December 2022 with the Police and Ryan Davey from Safer Bus Station and Car Parks. We achieved the levels to be awarded the Safer Bus Station Award.

There is a lot of work that goes into making the Bus Station a safe place. This includes the security the street wardens and the cleaning staff who on a daily basis deal with all types of incidents and requests from the public.

The management within the Bus Station pull all these services together to deliver a safe environment for the stakeholders and users of this facility.

**Crematorium** - Maria Brancati was nominated and crowned the 2022 Grave Digger of the Year award at the national Good Funeral Guide Awards.

Maria was nominated and won as she was recognised by Funeral/Bereavement experts given her integrity and passion to ensure dignity and respect for a deceased. Maria has helped break down barriers and concepts and is the first female winner of the award.

**Built Asset/Property Services** - Built Asset were involved in the Installation of new heating boilers that supply Municipal Buildings and Middlesbrough Bus station to provide assistance to Design services where required. Both properties had boilers installed which were at the end of life and required urgent replacement and this was carried out between November and December to improve the ability to provide comfortable temperatures to

the buildings for staff and visitors. This was completed in time and with no impact to the service users. Property Services also installed a new electrical heating system to the main Fleet workshops at Resolution house which involved a new electrical supply and a mixture of wall mounted heaters and also heaters suspended from workshop roof beams to provide infra-red heating to strategic working areas for mechanics. This project was completed in the programmed 6 weeks from ordering materials to completion of electrical certification.

### **Winter maintenance-**

I continue to receive daily updates on our roads and how they are affected by the Winter Weather.

We have a good supply of Road Treatment Salt in preparation for the forecasted February 2023 weather.

Our Drivers are ready for any challenging conditions but mostly the reports summarise as

- **No Hazards for Rain resulting in Ice, Snowfall, Black Ice, Hoar Frost**

Occasionally I receive the following:-

Planned action for Day / Date / Time. Road Type: Roads Route Type: Primary

Decision: Treatment Only

Treatment type: Curative

Coverage: Full Routes

Ploughs: No

Chemical: Chemical: Dry salt (NaCl), Amount: 20

Comments:

RST's below forecast temperatures and update showing ice hazards on high routes.

We keep our roads safe but I invite all drivers to alter their driving standards to be appropriate to the driving conditions.

<b>THE TIME AHEAD</b>
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I have meetings scheduled for 2023 with the North East Regional Coast and Flood Committee, Climate Action Group and Environment City.

I also intend to continue Ward Walkabouts with any Ward or Parish Councillor that feels they have Environmental issues to discuss in their area of responsibility.

NAME: Councillor Barrie Cooper

DATE: 09/01/2023