

Dennis McCabe

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
Wednesday 25th November 2020**

DECISIONS

Green Strategy

1. The Executive gave approval to commence consultation on the adoption of the emerging Green Strategy. We are due to go out on consultation week commencing 9 November until 15 January. Following the consultation period, we will be going back to Exec in February with findings and proposals.
2. 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.
3. The Green Strategy – ‘A Greener Future for Middlesbrough’ has 3 main aims:
 - To make Middlesbrough Council net carbon neutral by 2029
 - To ensure Middlesbrough as a town is net carbon neutral by 2039.
 - To make Middlesbrough a lead authority on environmental issues.

LOBNR

4. A Proposal has been submitted to the council by the Tees Valley Nature Partnership for a new nature reserve to the Junction of North Ormesby/Shepherdson Way and the A66. This is being considered by the council and a report will be submitted to Executive.

STRATEGIC

Pot Hole Initiative

5. The responsive maintenance team have now completed 16 Wards of a planned 20 Ward programme. They have identified and repaired 20165 defects, laid 1105 tonnes of tarmac over an area of 11471 square metres and have programmed a further 13204 square metres of resurfacing works to be carried out by a main contractors to repair those areas too large to patch.

Street Lighting

6. We are now underway with Christmas lights and decorations installations and will resume with the LED replacement programme as soon as the Christmas decorations are complete.
7. We are now scheduled to complete the LED installations by mid January 2021. 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.

Street Works

8. Discussions are ongoing with City Fibre to manage the planned 38 month project to install a fibre to home network across Middlesbrough as part of a works programme to create a third national fibre network. The national scope of the project is to connect 8m premises, which is 30% of UK households with investment planned at £4bn. Middlesbrough is included in the 3rd wave of the project with major works planned to start in March 2021 with the plan to provide fibre connectivity to 83,000 homes.

Traffic Signals/UTMC

9. 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.)

Highways Projects

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

Waste Collection

11. WebAspx is now in full use with the majority are working fine. However there are a few teething problems which we are working closely with IT to iron out.
12. The Webaspx system will reduce paperwork for the Crews and also provide an economically enhanced daily route for each round.
13. The benefits of the system are:
 - 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

14. Collections are still going well and will continue until the end November. This popular service has run very smoothly this year and tonnages are still looking comparable to previous years despite the late start due to Covid pandemic.

UCTF Tree planting

15. Whilst progress with the planned tree planting works have been delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions the Area Care team are underway with the 2020/21 works programme and are working towards having all of the trees planted by end of March 2021. The first of the trees are due to be collected next week as they were not ready to be lifted this week, with the intention of commencing the planting in Thorntree Park & Netherfields playing field next week.

MBC Whip Planting

16. 7,500 whip planting programme commenced this week and is expected to be completed by the end of December 2020.

Wildflower

17. Although we missed the spring sowing window in March of this year due to Covid-19 restrictions we are now looking to programme the sowing down of 30,000m² by spring 2021. The wild flower preparation has commenced and all areas will be sprayed off week commencing 9 November. The cultivation of land and subsequent sowing of Wildflower seed will commence in February 2021 and will be completed by March 2021.

INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION

MBC/MEC community tree planting initiative

18. This was planned to take place week commencing 16 November. However due to very recent decision on national lockdown due to Covid-19 we will be working with MEC and looking at alternate ways to promote and get the whips to residents/communities.