

Dennis McCabe

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
13 January 2021**

STRATEGIC

Pot Hole Initiative

1. The responsive maintenance team have now substantially completed the planned 20 week programme and have just a few over banding works to complete. In total the team have completed 5350 defects, which equates to over 26,000 potholes, have laid 1425 tonnes of tarmac, carried out 13,898m² of patching works with a further 17,663m² of carriageway surfacing completed by our main contractor.

Street Lighting

2. We have now resumed with the LED replacement programme. 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.

Streetworks

3. 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

4. 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

5. 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.

Transporter Bridge

6. The Executive report in respect of the Transporter Bridge has been approved. Essential works will now be undertaken. Consultation as to the future level of usage of the Transporter Bridge will now commence.

Green Waste Collections

7. The last Green Waste Collections were completed on Friday 27th November 2020. Officers are currently finalising the tonnages and I will confirm this in a future executive report. I would like to confirm that the 2021 Green Waste Collections is planned to revert back to fortnightly collections.

Future Waste Project

8. The Future Waste Project has selected the final three bidders from the nine received responses to the Selection Questionnaire (SQ). The three bidders are now in competitive dialogue with the Future Waste Project Board prior to the final selection. The final selection is planned for December 2021.

Trees Planted

9. Planting is going well and we are on target of achieving full completion by the end of January 2021. So far in 2020 we have planted 465 trees and 8,665 Whips. It's fair to say that the community Whips are going slow, so ive asked the comms team to refresh the comms that have gone out & refocus their efforts.

Breakdown of the above totals

10. Trees Planted so far in 2020: UTCF – 370 (out of the total 715) + 95 fruit trees (80 of which was a collaboration with thirteen group) + Whips: 7,500 planted by Area Care + 1165 (out of the 5,000) collected by the residents/community Groups

INVOLEMENT AND PROMOTION

Christmas Tree Collections

11. Please be reminded that Middlesbrough Council are supporting the Teesside Hospice in their Christmas Tree Collections this year. Collections can be arranged through the Teesside Hospice Website.

Green Strategy

12. Middlesbrough's draft Green Strategy is now open to public consultation until 15th January, we are asking the public, groups and businesses to participate and have their say in shaping how Middlesbrough's approach to climate change and a carbon reduction programme which will deliver targets of being net carbon neutral by 2029 for the council and 2039 for the town as a whole.

Green Shoots project to Help Nature Recovery in Middlesbrough

13. A partnership of locally based organisations, led by Middlesbrough Environment City, has been successful in receiving support through the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The grant of £167,700 will fund a fourteen-month project engaging local people in practical action to improve our green environment, through volunteering and training opportunities.
14. The partnership includes Actes, The Linx Project and The Other Perspective, and will work particularly with young people, BAME communities and refugees and asylum seekers. Focussing on Middlesbrough's local wildlife sites and beck valleys, the volunteering and training opportunities will help improve and manage habitats, making them even better for wildlife. Through involvement, participants will also develop practical nature conservation skills and employability skills, as well as having a positive impact on their local area.
15. The project builds on previous projects including One Planet Pioneers, part of the National Lottery Community Fund Our Bright Future project, which has been helping young people into further training and jobs for over five years. It will contribute to Middlesbrough's Green Strategy through bringing about improvements to our green spaces, both for wildlife and our communities.

