

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Janet Thompson

DATE OF MEETING: 27 March 2024

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Hubs and Libraries

World Book Day



1. As part of this year's World Book Day® celebrations, Acklam and Easterside community hub and libraries were selected to host exciting events, bringing books and the enjoyment of reading to children of Middlesbrough. The Service received £750 in funding to host events to celebrate the day, and also to hold follow up events at a later date. The events are designed to provide local school children with the opportunity to discover a love of books and reading.

2. Acklam Library and Community Hub are giving away 1,200 books (in exchange for £1 tokens) for World Book Day. Tokens are available through schools, early years settings, and children's magazines.

World Book Night

3. The Library service has been successful in its application to participate in World Book Night, and has received 300 Quick Read copies of *The Last Summer* by Karen Swan.
4. Quick Reads have fewer pages than a regular novel with larger text, and are designed for emergent and less confident readers.



National Theatre Screenings



Productions for primary schools

National Theatre titles

Shakespeare for younger audiences: *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Winter's Tale*
 Literary adaptations: *Jane Eyre**, *Peter Pan* and *Treasure Island* (pictured, by Johan Persson)
 NT Let's Play Programme: *Story Seekers*
 Musicals: *Hex**, *I Want My Hat Back* and *wonder.land**

*Hex, *Jane Eyre* and *wonder.land* contain content that may be inappropriate for young ages. However, they have been used successfully by Year 6 teachers and are included here for those who wish to use it. Content warnings are provided where applicable.

Unicorn Theatre titles

Anansi the Spider Re-Spun
 Greek Myths Unplugged: *Ariadne on the Beach*, *Jessie and the Jellybeans* and *Narcissus*
 Phillip Pullman's Grimm Tales: *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Rumpelstiltskin*
 Roald Dahl's *The Magic Finger*

Productions for secondary schools: English

Shakespeare: *As You Like It*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Coriolanus* (Donmar Warehouse), *Hamlet*, *Julius Caesar* (Bridge Theatre), *King Lear* (Donmar Warehouse), *Macbeth*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Othello*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Twelfth Night*
 Literary adaptations: *The Book of Dust*, *Everyman*, *Frankenstein*, *Jack Absolute Flies Again*, *Jane Eyre*, *Phaedra*, *Small Island* (pictured, by Johan Persson), *Under Milk Wood*, *The Wife of Willesden* and *Wuthering Heights*
 20th century classics: *A View from the Bridge* (Young Vic), *All My Sons* (Old Vic), *Les Blancs* and *Translations*
 New writing: *Consent*, *Hex*, *Dixon & Daughters*, *Our Generation* and *Shut Up, I'm Dreaming* (The PappyShow)

- The Library service has successfully applied for free performance screenings from the National Theatre. Screenings can be accessed using our network of public computers and includes productions tailored for primary and secondary schools.

Hemlington Boxing Club



- It was great to be invited to see a brand-new boxing club which has recently opened in Hemlington with the potential to change lives and transform a community. The club run by local amateur boxes is already attracting interest from across the area and taster sessions are bringing in new members every day.
- Founder member John Waldon said: When we asked local kids what they most wanted to see in the area the majority said a boxing club.
- This was supported by funding from the government's Safer Streets 3

Special Commendation Certificates

- I was honoured to attend a ceremony to see PCs Tom Cannon and Dom Taylor of Cleveland Police presented with Special Commendation Certificates. The two officers were first on the scene after two-year-old Mahamad Hawser's parents called 999 as the infant had stopped breathing. Discovering the child apparently lifeless in his mother's arms, PC Cannon performed CPR until he began to breathe again while PC Taylor

reassured his parents and obtained vital information. Thankfully the youngster has made a full recovery.



Nighttime Economy – Safe Haven

10. Middlesbrough Council's Safe Haven Service was established in 2015 and continues to be supported by Middlesbrough Council and North East and Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB).



11. The Safehaven is situated in Middlesbrough Bus Station and operates within the night-time economy, every Friday 10pm – 3.30am and Saturday from 11pm – 4.30am (11 hours per weekend) and at other busy times of the year including Sundays prior to Bank Holidays and over the festive period. The service aims to help people who become vulnerable during the night-time economy period either as a result of alcohol or other substance misuse, violence against the person or for underage,

safeguarding and any other vulnerabilities in the town centre. As well as operating from a physical base, there is also a mobile patrolling team consisting of a qualified Technician and medical responder who provide support on the street. The Safe Haven staff work closely with the Police, Boro Angels, Women Street Watch and with licensed premises door staff so that they can accompany or direct those in need to receive support.

12. The service provides a wide range of benefits to the town and the public, offering care and support including minor and major clinical assessments and treatment, patient monitoring and interventions and brief advice. The Service diverts minor injuries and reduces attendances to local A&E departments, providing alternative options to 999 calls and alternative drop off points for NEAS. It also assists the Police by providing a safe place for those that require a short-term intervention and to protect them from avoidable harm.



Environmental Enforcement

13. Middlesbrough Council Environmental Enforcement Wardens are responsible for investigating all matters of environmental crime. This includes Fly Tipping, Littering, Waste Presentation at both domestic and commercial premises. The team are also responsible for responding to enforcement of untaxed and abandoned vehicles, stray dogs and matters relating to repairing or selling vehicles on a highway.
14. In the month of February the team investigated a total of 646 service requests (10.4% Increase on January Data) which were made up of 72 requests for service relating to stray dogs, 460 requests for service for fly tipping and environmental related matters and 105 requests for service for untaxed and abandoned vehicles.
15. In the month of February the team issued a total of 30 legal notices for a range of environmental offences. The team issued 11 fixed penalty notices for waste related offences which included Fly Tipping Offences (approximately £3k of fines were paid in the month of February). The team undertook several DVLA and untaxed vehicle operations which resulted in 6 vehicles being seized. We took 14 stray dogs to our kennel provider and returned six stray dogs back to the registered keeper. We have 3 cases scheduled to go to court in the coming weeks for fly tipping and commercial waste related offences.
16. A fly-tipping blackspot underwent a major clean-up after CCTV cameras were brought in. Fridges, washing machines and old furniture were dumped alongside household waste in the alleyway, behind Kensington Road, Middlesbrough. Video surveillance was put in place in October following a blitz on rubbish last April, which saw one resident slapped with a hefty fine. fly-tipping fell from around five reports a month to less than two, with none made in November or February.
17. A staggering 2,180kg of waste was also removed from a site in Linthorpe, during a clean-up operation last year. Since then, one person has been fined £400 and several others have received fixed penalty notices under the Environmental Protection Act. This clean-up was a fantastic piece of work, and I'm delighted to see we're continuing to build on the work that has already been put in. The new CCTV cameras will act as a powerful deterrent, and those still tempted to break the law can rest assured they will be caught and fined. I encourage residents to take pride in their local area and report issues to the council when they arise so that we can work together to address the issues.
18. In December 2022 the team were alerted to a large-scale Fly Tip in East Middlesbrough. We established over a period of time a total of 62 tonnes of waste had been dumped. As part of the case we applied for a forfeiture order of the males vehicle and we were successful.

19. I am pleased to share that Middlesbrough Council now own this vehicle and it is being renovated into a vehicle used in our battle against fly tipping within Middlesbrough. We are the only local authority nationally that has made effective use of powers available to us using legislation under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This is a perfect way of showing those who choose to blight our neighbourhoods with fly tipping, that there are consequences. Please see photos below of what the van will look like once work is completed.



Neighbourhood Action Partnerships (NAPs)

20. Each area has now had two NAP meetings, I would like to thank those who have attended as your contribution has been invaluable. However, I have been disappointed with the poor attendance of some Councillors. The main purpose of the NAPs is to provide a forum to allow local members, Council staff, the Police and other partner agencies to share information regarding crime and anti-social behaviour in their wards. I would urge members to make a special effort to attend their NAP.

West

21. Youths in the Trimdon Ward have been visited along with Cleveland Police and initial warnings have been issued for being verbally abusive and threatening towards a member of the public at Trimdon shops. Neighbourhood Safety Officers are working with the families to divert the youths away from causing any further ASB in the area.
22. Work is ongoing with NSOs and Neighbourhood Safety Wardens to tackle various parking problems within the West Locality. Several site visits have taken place with local councillors and members of the public who are being affected and we are developing/co-ordinating actions across different departments to address these issues.
23. During a joint visit, a Neighbourhood Safety Officer noticed a driver acting suspiciously in the Longlands area. Police were contacted and quickly attended. Stop searches were carried out, the driver was arrested, and their vehicle seized. We later established that the individual was linked to organised crime.
24. Parking enforcement patrols have been carried out on Pemberton Crescent after reports of cars parking without permits in this location. During a patrol on 15/01/24 Wardens issued three penalty charge notices.
25. After the daily Police briefing, we shared information to assist the Police find a male who was wanted for over forty offences of domestic violence against a female. Officers located the male and alerted Police who acted quickly to arrest the male.

26. Four Residents have been visited to take statements to address ASB in the Longlands area with one resident being provided with a Safer Streets target hardening pack.
27. Proactive warden patrols in Saltersgill hotspot areas have provided footage and images of three individuals riding motor vehicles on the field with the evidence shared with Police and partners to take appropriate action.
28. Numerous Nitrous oxide cannisters have been found in a small car park, the information wardens have gathered has been submitted to Police Intelligence.

Cannabis farm worth £500,000 found in Middlesbrough apartment



29. Proactive work around an address in Whinney Banks has resulted in our team quickly identifying a person with bail conditions attending a specific location in the locality. He was later arrested but continued to ignore bail conditions. This person was due in court on February 14th for sentencing.

East

30. Having identified that several fences, hedges and steel barriers had been removed or vandalised along the Black Path that runs through Thorntree and Netherfields, it was evident to the Neighbourhood Safety Team that the path was being used by off-road motorbikes to transport drugs between the wards without using main roads and as such avoiding being seen by Police, Neighbourhood Wardens or CCTV.
31. Following complaints received from residents in the Lindisfarne Road/Hexham Green area of Priestfields, regarding ASB/off-road bikes, the Neighbourhood Safety Team worked with residents to identify two separate addresses of those believed to be responsible. As a result, the area's Neighbourhood Safety Officer, Thirteen's ASB Officer's and the Neighbourhood Policing Team carried out an operation, during which they located several off-road motorbikes stored at both addresses. Four bikes were seized and formal warnings were issued to the residents. The occupants were advised that should there be further evidence found of off-road motorbike nuisance from either address, tenancy action or a Closure Order application may be taken.



32. Following several reports of youths causing ASB at Vaughan Shopping Precinct and Shelton Court in Thorntree, the Neighbourhood Safety Team worked with local schools and Police to identify the youths responsible. As a result, the following actions have been taken: 2x Final warnings issued, 1x Initial warning issued, 1x Second warning issued, 1x ABC breach warning issued.
33. Having identified the need for youth provision in the Netherfields area, the Neighbourhood Safety Team have worked with the Junction Foundation who have agreed to provide additional youth provision on Monday evenings. Officers from the Neighbourhood Safety Team attended the first youth session and attended a number of properties with Junction staff to invite 12 youths from the area to an overnight outdoor activity residential during half-term week.
34. A Civil Injunction was granted against a male persistently begging, causing harassment, alarm and distress to residents and businesses throughout East Middlesbrough. Officers from the Neighbourhood Safety Team continued to gather evidence against the male who was breaching the terms of his injunction. As a result of the evidence obtained, the male was returned to Court and sentenced to one hundred days imprisonment.
35. Enforcement action escalated against 2 young people known to cause ASB in the Pallister and Berwick Hills ward. They are also causing issues within Middlesbrough Town Centre. CCTV has been reviewed and an ABC Breach and a Final Warning issued. A civil Injunction application is now pending.
36. 4 youths have been identified causing ASB at Rothbury Road shops. Throwing bottles and stones at residential properties. Enforcement action has been taken against all youths. ABC Breach issued, 2nd Warning letter and two Initial Warning letters issued. One youth has been referred to Immediate Justice.
37. The NSO is working with Police and partners to identify youths who have been caught on CCTV cameras on Cotswold Avenue involved in motorbike nuisance. A letter drop has been carried out to residents in the area to encourage them to come forward with any information regarding nuisance behaviour.
38. A motorbike Warning Letter has been issued to tenants at an address on Ellesmere Walk. Whilst out on the estate the NSO witnessed 2 males on an off-road bike visit this address. The tenant has been spoken to and advised if there are any further issues connected to her address we will approach her landlord and request tenancy action is taken.
39. Joint patrols throughout the whole of Berwick Hills and Pallister ward with Cleveland's Fire Prevention officer have taken place. All hotspot areas were checked for any signs of fly tipping that may lead to potential fire setting. A garage on Graygarth Road which is open for access has been reported to Thirteen for boarding.

North

40. Proactive patrols in Linthorpe cemetery identified two tents both of which had drug paraphernalia on the ground and inside the tents. One male has been located by our

team and he was identified as a wanted male. During these patrols the hypodermic needles were safely disposed of, and the tents reported to the locality area care team for removal.

41. Parking enforcement patrols have been conducted on Roman Road, Windermere Road with mobile patrols checking hot spot areas from the residents' reports.
42. The NSO and Safer Streets Officer are using the Community Protection Notice (CPN) process to address begging in the Town Centre. Prolific beggars in both the daytime and nighttime economy have been identified whilst patrolling with Police and Licensing on a Friday night/Saturday morning to observe the nighttime economy.
43. Vancouver House is currently being frequented by homeless individuals who are accessing the building. Evidence of squatting, fires and drug paraphernalia has been found. The Safer Streets Officer is leading a partnership group comprising Fire Service, Police and Environmental Health, to urgently put pressure on the private landlord to secure the building. We are also working with the Rough Sleeper Navigators to address the housing needs of the individuals who are frequenting the building.
44. The Safer Streets Officer has been liaising with Hilliers Jewellers who frequently experienced rough sleepers outside of the shop. We have worked with the Rough Sleeper Navigator, who has found accommodation for the individuals involved, and the matter is now resolved. The Safer Streets Officer has accompanied the Rough Sleeper Navigator on an early morning sweep this month.
45. The Safer Streets Officer is coordinating an online newsletter to be distributed bi-monthly to town centre businesses. The newsletter will provide information on what action is being taken to tackle ASB, updates around reporting and photographs of those subject to court orders. We also plan to introduce a before/after survey to determine perceptions around crime and ASB within the town centre.
46. The NSO has Linthorpe Village on weekly monitors with the Neighbourhood Safety Wardens and visits the area himself on a regular basis. Begging has decreased in the area, although shoplifting has increased.

South

47. 5 individuals were involved in a serious disorder incident in November which resulted in an injury to a police officer, they have appeared at court and put in not guilty pleas. The trial date has been set for 20.5.24. Three of those are on remand and 2 on court bail, one with an electronic tag and conditions not to enter Hemlington. All 5 have had Criminal Behaviour Order applications submitted by the Police with supporting statements provided by MBC.
48. 2 males identified setting fire to the CCTV pole in September have now been charged following a CPS decision. Awaiting court date from police whilst both individuals have also been issued with CPWs.

49. The NSO for Hemlington is working closely with children's social care and information has been shared to identify perpetrators of ASB and warnings issued.
50. A vulnerable lady has been targeted by groups of youths over the past month, with her door being kicked repeatedly and being verbally abused. Housing, Police and Neighbourhood Safety have provided support to her and her father. 4 groups of youths have now been identified, home visits have been completed and formal warnings issued.
51. A letter drop has been completed in Stainton and Thornton Ward following complaints about an off-road motorbike.