

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL**

### **EXECUTIVE MEMBER: ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR PETER GAVIGAN**

**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.

#### **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

**I continue to work on policy proposals for the short, medium and long term. We will continue to work closely with local communities to protect our green spaces and make sure that our roads, streets and open spaces are well-designed, clean and safe.**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

**Since my last Executive Report, I have attended Local Plan Consultation Plan events in Acklam, Ayresome and Longlands and Beechwood wards. I made site visits in Acklam and Berwick Hills and Pallister.**

**I also had the pleasure of meeting Elaine Dunn, a long-serving crossing patrol officer (also known as a “lollipop lady”) in Marton East during her final week of valuable service to communities across the town.**

**I enjoyed a visit to Middlesbrough Bus Station to celebrate their achievement in winning a national award for keeping passengers safe. It was granted the Safer Bus station award having received the accolade several times in previous years. It was very well deserved; I would like to congratulate all concerned and thank everyone I met for their hospitality and ongoing commitment.**

**I have a trip to Middlebeck Nature Reserve before the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March but after my report must be submitted.**

**I also visited Acklam Cemetery and Teesside Crematorium with Councillor Philippa Storey. It was a fascinating experience, and I was struck by the professionalism and commitment of all the staff we met, a number of whom have many years of experience. I fully understand that this is not for everybody, but I am happy to organise another visit. Please contact me and I can liaise with staff there to ensure a mutually convenient date and time.**

## WORKS UPDATE

### Highways and Infrastructure

#### Transport Planning and Road Safety

- Ongoing work to develop the City Region Sustainable Settlement (CRSTS) programme that will create bus/walking and cycling infrastructure on strategic corridors is progressing, with a view to public consultation via TVCA post May elections.
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- Electric vehicle Charging Points continue to be developed through the ORCS funding allocation, and work with TVCA to identify Policy, strategy and further delivery.
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- Safety Advisory group representation to address traffic issues associated with planned concerts at MFC.
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- Discussions held with stakeholders regarding the Marton Road traffic issues have been held, including with Community Council and James Cook University Hospital.
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- Education and promotion at schools and businesses to identify Road Safety messages such as school safety, considerate parking, and Drink driving. This includes Expansion of the Junior Road Safety Officer programme within schools.
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- School traffic assessments are being undertaken at Easterside, St Thomas More, Thorntree, Corpus Christie, Green Lane, Breckon Hill and Captain Cook to identify potential solutions to improve Road Safety.
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- Continued delivery of Bikeability and Pedestrian training at Schools, town wide.

#### Major Scheme - Stainton Way / Hemlington Hall Road signalisation and new footways/cycleways

Consultations are set to start shortly on a new traffic signalised junction at Stainton Way / Hemlington Hall Road, along with improved footway and cycleway links in the area.

The footways / cycleways will provide new linkages to Stainton Village, Hemlington and along Low Lane towards the new Jack Simon Way development, as well as providing a safe route across the Stainton Way / Low Lane roundabout.

The proposed traffic signals at Stainton Way / Hemlington Hall Road will tie into these footways / cycleways and offer safe crossing points at the junction.

Works are provisionally programmed to start in early June 24 and be completed by September, taking advantage of reduced traffic flows during the summer months.

## Car Parking

The new parking charges that were approved on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, were implemented across all Council operated car parks and on-street pay & display parking bays from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

The tariff signs were changed and the changes to the ticket machines have gone live. The enforcement team have been asked to give a week grace period to allow time to make sure motorists are aware of the changes before usual enforcement resumes.

Charging for Residents Parking Schemes were approved at Council, with the charging to commence from September 2024.

## Capital Programme

- T&I recently successfully completed a new signalised junction at Cypress Road & Stainton Way to improve road safety. In the past five years, there have been four accidents resulting in injury at the junction (including three pedestrians using the existing zebra crossing), one of which was a serious injury. There have been three further accidents at the nearby Cypress Road / Gypsy Lane junction, including an 80-year-old man who was injured trying to cross the road. T&I designed a scheme which involved the slip lane coming off the eastbound carriageway of Stainton Way onto Cypress Road to be removed to help to reduce vehicle speeds, with new crossings put in place at all three points of the junction – two on Stainton Way either side of Cypress Road and one on Cypress Road itself.
- As we near the end of quarter 4, we are ensuring that all current network improvement schemes are completed and costs associated are accounted for in line with our budget management process. Schemes have been approved and allocated and are currently going through the preliminary design stage which will then be distributed to PM's in April.

## Traffic Signals/UTMC

### Traffic Signal Junction upgrades 2023/24:

The upgrades on Marton Rd / Aldi Junction, Borough / Abingdon Rd and Marton Rd / Corporation Rd have all been completed in March 24.

### Pedestrian crossing upgrades 2023/24:

Ormesby Rd / Balmoral Rd (Programmed to start onsite w/c 18/03/24)

Low Lane Shetland Close (Programmed for completion in March 2024 currently ongoing)  
Boro / Emerald St has been completed.

Locations for 24/25 are under review.

## Highways

Verge works: 11 of the planned 13 schemes are complete.

Footway Works: 20 of the planned 23 schemes are complete.

Schemes for 24/25 are currently being identified and confirmed.

## Transporter Bridge

Transporter Bridge Structural Assessment completed. Updated estimated cost report by Driver Group completed. Digital monitoring equipment that allows constant collection of data regarding movement of the structure to be permanently installed – currently at procurement stage. The data will feed into the design/ repairs going forward.

## A66 Column 20B

Issues with the quality of the concrete pour to the beams following routine testing have delayed progress. The issues have been resolved and works continue on the repairs to the beams and column at row 20 of the A66 Station Viaduct, with a revised completion date expected in late June/ early July.

## A66

Concrete testing report at Hartington Interchange bridges has been completed. Scope of works being drawn up for concrete repairs to be carried out in 2024-25.

## Bridges and Structures

Resurfacing and re-waterproofing of the bridge deck have been completed on Borough Road Flyover. Further works, to replace the bridge joints and carry out localised hydro demolition and concrete repairs, will be commencing in 2024.

We are in the process of completing the tender documents for repairs to: -

A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge which include replacing the bridge deck waterproofing and resurfacing, concrete repairs to the abutments and the installation of suicide prevention parapets. Contracts are with our legal dept and is still ongoing.

Principal and general bridge inspections are ongoing following the tender award via NEPO. There are 18 principal and 169 general inspections taking place with the inspection programme completing all due inspections.

Longlands Road overbridge will be the subject of a full structural and principal inspection. It is expected that extensive repairs, or even full replacement, will be required. A design phase will follow the assessments with major works planned for 2024/25 – Structural inspection and assessment contracts are ongoing.

Initial estimated prices provided via Network Rail's main contractor for suicide prevention parapets to Linby and Belle Vue footbridges have been received with a further tender process to follow to ensure best value.

## **Highways and Infrastructure**

### **Transport Planning and Road Safety**

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- Electric vehicle Charging Points continue to be developed through the ORCS funding allocation, and work with TVCA to identify Policy, strategy and further delivery.
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- As we near the end of qtr 4, Ensuring all current network improvement schemes are completed and costs associated are accounted for in line with our budget management process. Complete reports and overlooking costs for LTP budget and compiling all supporting documentation for our Capital Programme ready for the upcoming financial year. Schemes have been approved and allocated and are currently going through the preliminary design stage which will then be distributed to PM's in April.**

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## **Carriageways**

The first 2 stages of the 2023-24 classified and unclassified roads resurfacing programme have been completed with 80% of the planned carriageway resurfacing programme now carried out. Acklam Road/Marton Road to be completed by March 2024. The classified road resurfacing programme is nearly complete with only Acklam Road remaining. These works are ongoing and due to be completed by 20<sup>th</sup> March. The unclassified roads have one remaining scheme which is awaiting completion of Northern Gas works prior to being undertaken.

## **Flood Management**

Work is continuing on the clearance of those Gullies identified as being 75% - 100% full of silt following the survey of the network. The risk based approach being adopted to prioritise the cleansing of the Gullies, which will see individual gullies being cleaned 6-monthly, Annually, Biennially or 3-Yearly is expected to start in April. We continue to work proactively on flood risk management through joint working with EA and



**NWL and increasing our knowledge of the network and improving the long-term planning for reducing flood risk.**

**Street Lighting**

**We have completed the column replacement programme for 23/24 – 257 columns were programmed to be replaced this financial year, following conclusion of the structural and electrical testing that was carried out in 22/23.**

**Plans for the 24/25 replacement programme are currently being reviewed.**

**Refuse and Recycling**

**Household Waste recycling Centre**

- **From April, the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) moves to its Summer Opening Hours**
- **Summer Opening Hours (1 April to 31 October) 8:00am to 7:00pm**

**Kerbside Recycling Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)**

- **The appointment of a joint Middlesbrough Council & Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council Monitoring Officer to examine kerbside recycling deliveries from April to Cumbrian Waste Management Facility.**

**Chargeable Garden Waste Collection Service**

- **The new chargeable collection service has gone live taking subscriptions for the service - so far, the new opt-in subscription service is going well.**
- **Delivery of the new Garden Waste bins to commence 2<sup>nd</sup> April.**
- **Proposed Garden Waste rounds to commence 16<sup>th</sup> April.**
- **In the first year, the service will run from 16<sup>th</sup> April to 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024.**
- **Residents not wishing to subscribe to the new service can take their garden waste to the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Haverton Hill. Residents will need to book a slot via the Council's Website.**



### **Fortnightly Collections/Larger Bin Request**

- **Fortnightly collections planning to start week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.**
- **Request for a Larger Bin (subject to terms and conditions) has now gone now live - all applications are available through the contact centre or the Middlesbrough Council website.**

### **Additional Refuse Vehicles**

- **We are excited to announce that we have 2 new refuse collection vehicles and a new box van to add to our current collection- this is great news.**

### **The Van**

- **The van has arrived and looks great, designs are being drawn up for the van to be wrapped. Once this is complete, Sam Garside will be out and about doing lots of recycling roadshows around the town, in as many locations as possible including Hubs, Parks, shopping centres and the Leisure Farm. The roadshows will inform residents about the changes to fortnightly collections for refuse, garden waste subscriptions and recycling.**



**Environment**

- I can confirm that we have now launched Complete Clean with the alleyways within Middlesbrough. This will see all alleyways within Middlesbrough get a full cleanse which consist of all waste that is in the alleyways being removed and where practically possible a mechanical brush will go through. This is early days and with the pending changes to collections we are working through getting this process staffed to the levels needed to make this approach work effectively.

**Area Care**

- Area Care started grass cutting – Amenity Grass cutting (Grass verges and estates) has commenced in all areas.

- Area Care Weed spraying to commence – Weed killing of Obstacles & Walls/fence lines has commenced in all areas. We weed kill these areas rather than strim them to alleviate the need of the labour-intensive workload of strimming, which may need doing three-four times per year, rather than one-two. Weed spraying instead of strimming also reduces the amount of fuel that is introduced into the environment. To encourage wildlife areas in the areas we no longer apply weedkiller or strim underneath hedges and some shrub bed areas unless they encroach onto the footpath and become a possible health & safety risk. The hard standing (footpath) weed spraying is programmed to commence the first week in April in all areas.

**MIDDLESBROUGH ENVIRONMENT CITY**

Middlesbrough Environment City has recently rolled out the Communities Growing Together project. The project, co-ordinated by long-time MEC employee David Scriven, works intimately with various community groups to co-ordinate a variety of activities, such as workshops and Community Action Days. The local organisations that Communities Growing Together has worked with include All Year Round The Flower Patch, the Staying Put Agency and Regeneration of Communities, amongst others. The project has already received good reviews from the general public, and we look forward to seeing it grow throughout the years.

**Climate Action Middlesbrough continues to go from strength to strength. The project recently received favourable coverage from the National Lottery Community Fund. Julie Coxon, Funding Officer, stated: "It's difficult to put into words just how important Middlesbrough Environment City is to environmental action in the North East. Building on the well-established grassroots movement across the town to reduce Middlesbrough's carbon footprint, it was fantastic to hear how the Climate Action Middlesbrough project - made possible thanks to more than £1.5million of National Lottery funding - is working to reduce the town's carbon footprint and encouraging residents to lead more sustainable lifestyles." The project also continues to head into 2024 with the continuation of its publicly-commended On 'Yer Bike Initiative, as well as Climate Change Awareness Training and a variety of community days delivered by ourselves and partners, as well as the continued provision of Climate Action Clubs in primary schools across the area!**

**MEC's Affordable Warmth team have also been active in the local community, hosting a number of Drop-In events at Community Hubs across the South Tees area during February, with many more currently planned as the year progresses. The team has also been bolstered by over £500,000 worth of funding, secured by Jonathan Wright, as part of the Vulnerability and Carbon Monoxide Allowance from Northern Gas Networks to deliver the Warm Homes: Better Health project. The project will target 15 GP practices across the Tees Valley which are in deprived areas with a significant number of COPD sufferers, supporting them with access to required heating equipment and providing vouchers to contribute towards heating their home during the winter period.**

**Middlesbrough Environment City also saw some key changes at Board level, with the departure of Julia Rostron as Chair, with Sam Grainger stepping forward as Chair in her stead.**