

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL**

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

**DATE OF MEETING: 17 July 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**

1. 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 and open spaces are well-designed, clean and safe for all.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

2. I held a meeting with local councillors to discuss Stewart Park and made several site visits regarding local traffic issues. I have attended meetings at Middlesbrough Environment City and the Northern Powergrid Workshop at the Riverside Stadium. I also attended a meeting of the Crustacean Deaths Working Group.
3. I undertook a site visit ahead of the Single Member Decision regarding the Brackenhoe Connection Scheme. I also attend a Community Environment Workshop at the St. Mary's Centre on Corporation Road.

#### **WORKS UPDATE**

##### **Transport and Infrastructure**

##### **EV Charging**

4. Electric vehicle charging points continue to be created in the local authority area through the ORCS funding allocation, and work continues with TVCA to coordinate policy, strategy, and ultimately further delivery of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Middlesbrough is also developing on-street electric vehicle charge points via the grant award to Middlesbrough from ORCS.

##### **Nunthorpe Parkway Railway Station Proposals**

5. Work continues with RCBC and appointed consultants regarding the Strategic Outline Business Case for the Nunthorpe Parkway Railway Station proposals. These proposals, if successful, are expected to encourage more visitors from outside of Middlesbrough to travel by railway into Middlesbrough centre, therefore

reducing road traffic which will help to decrease pollution (from combustion engine vehicles) and help to alleviate road traffic congestion.

### **Collapsible Bollards**

6. Working with Night-time Economy, we are investigating whether remotely operated collapsible bollards should be installed to restrict vehicle access at appropriate locations to enhance road safety. This follows a traffic incident on Albert Road.

### **Road Safety**

7. We continue to work with schools and businesses to promote road safety messages such as increasing visibility and considerate parking.
8. Junior Road Safety Officers from Linthorpe school supported the RST on Brake's national campaign day on 24 April 2024 by accompanying them into local day nurseries and teaching the children a song they had written to promote road safety.
9. We have continued the delivery of Bikeability and Pedestrian training. The Bikeability Contract is currently under review.

### **Travel Plans**

10. The development of a Travel Plan for Fountain Court using Modeshift Platform continues. Travel Plans for other local authority sites are to be developed.

### **Inconsiderate Parking**

11. On-going site visits with local councillors and residents to address concerns regarding inconsiderate parking/road use. This was subject to news reporting published online by TeessideLive on 10 June 2024, which helped to amplify the Council's message of the need to park considerately. You can read it [here](#).

### **Highways**

#### **Traffic Signals/UTMC: Traffic Signal Junction upgrades 2024/25:**

- Junction upgrade at Hartington Road / Brentnall Street.
- Junction upgrade at Marton Road JCUH.
- Junction upgrade at Newport Road / Marsh St.

#### **Pedestrian crossing upgrades 2024/25:**

- Puffin crossing upgrade at Acklam Road / Coniston Road
- Toucan crossing upgrade at Acklam Road / The Avenue of Trees
- Toucan crossing upgrade at Acklam Road / Urray Grove
- Puffin Crossing upgrade CFL / Crestwood
- Puffin crossing upgrade at Grange Road / Linthorpe Road
- Puffin upgrade to Marton Road / Wellesley Road

## **Verge Replacement and Footway Improvement**

12. Verge replacement and footway improvement works programmes are underway with implementation of the programme for 2024/25 ongoing.
13. To date, four of the planned fifteen verge replacement work schemes have been completed and 6 of the planned twenty-seven footway improvement work schemes have been completed.

## **Bridges and Structures**

### **Tees Transporter Bridge**

14. A contract has been awarded for the digital monitoring equipment to continuously record movement of the Tees Transporter Bridge. The monitoring data generated from the equipment will feed into the design and repair plan. The equipment is expected to be installed following the Peregrine Falcon fledgling leaving its nest on the site. Following consultation with the RSPB, works are to take place to discourage further nesting. Furthermore, broader preparations are underway for the main preliminary design and permanent design works of the landmark.

### **A66 Column 20B – Station Viaduct**

15. The issues with the quality of the concrete pour to the Row20 Beams B-C following routine testing have been resolved and work continues on the column-head at row 20B. Some additional minor-work has been identified on beams A-B with a revised completion date expected in August.

### **A66**

16. Concrete testing report at Hartington Interchange bridges has been completed. The work plan is being formulated with concrete repairs to be carried out in 2024-25.

### **Borough Road Flyover**

17. Resurfacing and re-waterproofing of the bridge deck on Borough Road Flyover have been completed. Further works, to replace the bridge joints, bearings, and carry out localised hydro-demolition and concrete repairs, will be commencing in 2024. Prerequisite concrete testing works and subsequent report are expected soon.

### **A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge**

18. A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge works include replacing the bridge deck, waterproofing and resurfacing, concrete repairs to the abutments and the installation of suicide prevention parapets. Works were tendered via NEPO with no take up by contractors, therefore a further tender process via NEPO is underway with the design phase to commence in August 2024. Physical works are expected to begin during the school summer holiday period in 2025.

### **Linby & Belle Vue Footbridges**

19. Works including painting, installation of suicide prevention parapets/cages, structural repairs to piers and decks, new bearings, concrete repairs, and installation of new lighting have been proposed for the Linby and Belle Vue footbridges. The design phase is coming to end and will be presented to Network Rail for agreement in the coming weeks. Initial estimated costs have been received for suicide prevention parapets at Linby and Belle Vue footbridges from Network Rail's main contractor with a further tender process to follow to ensure best value is met.

### **A66 Hartington East and West Overbridges**

20. Works including waterproofing, resurfacing and installation of new bridge joints was completed in 2023-24. The final six-month inspection for any further issues arising from the works is taking place ahead of part of the principal inspection within the next month.

### **Newport Bridge Approach Structures**

21. Work has commenced on repairs to the West Approach Retaining Wall, Cannon Street / Ayresome Road Bridge, and Newport Approach Bridge. The repairs include concrete repairs, anti-bird mesh, renewed lighting, deck-joint replacement, re-waterproofing, and resurfacing works. The works are being co-ordinated with works to Newport Bridge. Road closures from Newport Roundabout with local diversions will be in place.

### **Newport Bridge**

22. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council are expected to begin Newport Bridge repairs works on 8<sup>th</sup> July which are expected to last until the beginning of September 2024. The nature of the works includes replacement of the bearings and drainage channels. Newport Bridge will be closed to all traffic during the full period of works with diversions in place.

### **Bridges Small Schemes**

23. The scope of a tender for several smaller schemes involving minor parapets works, masonry, and concrete repairs is currently being drafted.

### **Principal and General Bridge Inspections**

24. Principal and general bridge inspections contracts have been awarded via NEPO. There are 18 principal and 169 general inspections taking place. The inspections are ongoing.
25. Longlands Road overbridge will be the subject of a full structural and principal inspection. It is anticipated extensive repair works, or even full replacement, could be required. A design phase will follow the assessments with major works planned for 2025/26. Structural inspection and assessment contracts are ongoing.

### **Carriageways**

26. The programme for 2023-24 classified and unclassified roads resurfacing programme has been completed with all schemes completed, barring one small scheme on Earls Court Road which has been delayed due to gas works undertaken by Northern Gas Networks. A total of 99,360m<sup>2</sup> of resurfacing was achieved throughout the period.

### **2024-25 Resurfacing Programme**

27. The 2024-25 resurfacing programme has been finalised and two contracts have been awarded for resurfacing on the unclassified and classified roads, with works due to start in July. A further two contracts are due to be tendered for thin-surfacing and surface-dressing. There are a total of 53 resurfacing schemes to take place in 2024-25.

### **Flood Management**

#### **Gullies**

28. Work is continuing to clear gullies identified as being 75% - 100% full of silt following a survey of the network. A risk-based approach to cleansing of gullies has been adopted as of April 2024 with gullies to be cleaned either at 6-monthly, annual, biannual or three yearly intervals based on assessed risk following aforementioned survey. 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**

#### **Column Replacement Programme**

29. Work has started on the 2024/25 column replacement programme with Acklam Road, Borough Road and Ladgate Lane works currently underway.

#### **TS1 and TS3 Street Lighting**

30. Funding has been received from DLUHC to upgrade the street lighting in TS1 and TS3.

### **Refuse and Recycling**

#### **Green Waste Service**

31. The Green Waste Service has continued to prove popular with 22,944 Subscribers (as of w/e 28 June 2024). This is more than double of the expected take up. We will shortly be reviewing the rounds to rebalance them accordingly. While we will try to keep as many residents to the same day as possible, it should be noted that some may have a change of day. This will be the final review for this year and residents will have been made aware that this may happen in their sign-up literature. Any changes will be communicated to affected residents.

#### **Alternate Weekly Collections (Domestic Refuse)**

32. Officers continue to plan for the start of the forthcoming introduction of the new alternate collections. The service will start on 6 August 2024. The roll out of bins is continuing and officers are working to ensure that all bins are delivered before the start of fortnightly collections. Please be patient with officers and collections staff on introduction as changes are being implemented. We would like to thank residents and local councillors for their continued support as we implement changes to Recycling and Waste Services.

### **Area Care**

#### **Grass Cutting**

33. Amenity grass cutting (verges and estates) is still ongoing in all areas; however, some large open spaces are still to be cut because of unexpected wet weather. We will address these outstanding areas in coming weeks.

#### **Weed Spraying**

34. Weed killing of obstacles and wall/fence lines has commenced in all areas. Weed killing is used in these circumstances rather than strimming to alleviate the need of the labour-intensive workload, 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 these 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 and safety risk.

#### **Summer Bedding Planting**

35. As summer has eventually arrived, we have been able to complete the summer bedding planting on the Cenotaph, the Canal (Centre Square) and the war memorial sites in Marton and Albert Park. A very well done and a thank you to all staff involved in the rapid preparation works and completion of the planting at short notice and in a very small timescale.