

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR PETER GAVIGAN

DATE OF MEETING: 11 September 2024

1. 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

2. 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

3. I have held regular weekly meetings with the Environment Director throughout the summer period to discuss matters of significance to members and the public, including changes to waste collections and bins. I will continue to hold such meetings.
4. On 26th July, I was pleased to represent Middlesbrough Council at a meeting of the Crustacean Deaths Working Group hosted by Redcar and Cleveland Council.
5. On 4th August, Middlesbrough was shaken by violent disorder from a minority who do not represent the values of the majority of Middlesbrough in their behaviour. I would like to thank all the council staff and members of the public for their significant contribution to the clean-up operation on 5th August.
6. On 8th August, I visited Coulby Newham with Cllr David Branson to assess the potential for rewilding in the ward.
7. On 12th August, I attended a meeting with the Member of Parliament for Middlesbrough and Thornaby East, Andy McDonald MP, where we discussed Middlesbrough's alleys strategy and associated environmental issues in light of increased levels of fly tipping, notably in Central ward.

WORKS UPDATE

Transport Planning and Road Safety

- Work on road safety education has continued with a focus on visibility, considerate parking, and possible alternative transport options for the new term being among the messages to promote through schools and businesses.
- Support continues for promotion of Junior Road Safety with further recruitment in this area planned for the new term.

- Bikeability and Pedestrian training (Bikeability Contract currently under final stages of review) continues.
- Travel Plan (TP) for Fountain Court completed using Modeshift Platform (live updates to assist with continued development) and other LA owned buildings explored for future TP creation.
- Sites visits with local Councillors and residents to address concerns relating to inconsiderate parking/road use continue.
- Partnership working with Cleveland Road Safety Partnership group to highlight areas of work that can be concentrated on to improve road safety for all.
- New Zebra crossing installed on Eastbourne Road to enable safer travel for pedestrians.
- On-going Mobility corridor design to facilitate multi-modal transport improvements.
- Consultation on the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement through the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA).
- Facilitated Traffic Management for events including MFC Concerts.
- Developed the Integrated Transport Strategy update to create a refreshed strategy for transport in Middlesbrough reflecting changes in transport user behaviour.

Highways and Infrastructure

Traffic Signal Junction upgrades 2024/25:

- Junction upgrade at Hartington Rd / Brentnall Street
- Junction upgrade to Marton Rd JCUH
- Junction upgrade to Newport Rd / Marsh Street

Pedestrian crossing upgrades 2024/25:

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

Verge replacement and footway improvement work schemes

- 6 of the planned 15 verge works schemes for this financial year have been completed.
- 8 of the planned 27 footway works schemes for this financial year have been completed.

Bridges and Structures

Transporter Bridge

8. A contract for the digital monitoring equipment that allows constant collection of data regarding movement of the structure contract has been awarded and the instruments are due to be installed w/c 9th September. The monitoring data will feed into the design and repairs going forward. Preparations are underway for the main preliminary design and permanent design works.

A66 Column 20B – Station Viaduct

9. The column has been poured and early concrete testing results are positive It is likely de-jacking will occur w/c 2nd September and Volkors will complete works and de-mobilise the works and leave site shortly thereafter. The site will then be taken over by the Stack Development team for a 3 month build to enable Stack to open in time for Christmas.

A66

10. 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.

Borough Road Flyover

11. Resurfacing and re-waterproofing of the bridge deck have been completed on Borough Road Flyover. Further works to replace the bridge joints, bearings, and carry out localised hydro-demolition and concrete repairs will be commencing in 2025. Concrete testing works and report are due to start.

A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge

12. Works on the A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge including replacing the bridge deck waterproofing, resurfacing, concrete repairs to the abutments, and the installation of suicide prevention parapets were tendered via NEPO. However, with no take up by contractors, a further tender process via NEPO is underway with the design phase set to start in August 2024. Following the design and parapet manufacturing phase, physical works are due to take place in the 2025 summer holidays.

Linby & Belle Vue Footbridges

13. Linby and Belle Vue footbridges are due for re-painting, installation of suicide prevention parapets/cages, structural repairs to piers and decks including new bearings, concrete repairs and installation of lighting.
14. The design phase is ending and due for sign-off by Network Rail in the next few weeks. Initial estimated prices provided via Network Rail's main contractor for suicide prevention parapets to Linby and Belle Vue footbridges received with a further tender process to follow to ensure best value.

A66 Hartington East and West Overbridges

15. Works to repair the waterproofing/ resurfacing and install new bridge joints were completed in 2023-24. The final six-month inspections for any snagging issues of the works are taking place as part of the principal inspection due for completion within the next month.

Newport Bridge Approach Structures

16. Work has started on repairs to the West Approach Retaining Wall, Cannon Street / Ayresome Road Bridge, and Newport Approach Bridge mainly consisting of 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

17. Major work is due to be completed and the bridge reopened as scheduled with lane restrictions by Monday 2nd September. Remedial works are still required to the VRS on Middlesbrough side and bearing works on the Stockton side of the bridge, but the bridge will be open to traffic.

Bridges Small Schemes

18. A scope is being drawn up for a tender for several smaller schemes involving minor parapets works, masonry, and concrete repairs.

Principal and General Bridge Inspections

19. The principal and general bridge inspections contracts have been awarded via NEPO. There are 18 principal and 169 general inspections taking place with the inspection programme completing all due inspections. The inspections are ongoing.
20. 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 2025/26. Structural inspection and assessment contracts are ongoing.

Carriageways

21. The programme for 2023-24 classified and unclassified roads resurfacing programme has been completed with all schemes completed baring one small scheme on Earls Court Road which has been delayed due to Northern Gas Works. A total of 99,360m² of resurfacing was achieved throughout the period.
22. 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

23. Work is continuing 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 three-yearly commenced in April.
24. Middlesbrough Council continues to work proactively on flood risk management through joint working with the Environmental Agency and other relevant stakeholders to increase our knowledge of the network and improving the long-term planning for reducing flood risk.

Street Lighting

25. We have started the 2024/25 column replacement programme. Work has started on Acklam Road, Borough Road and Ladgate Lane. We have received funding from the

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to upgrade the street lighting in TS1 and TS3.

REFUGE AND RECYLING

Green Waste Service

26. The Green Waste Service has continued to prove popular with 24,471 Subscribers (as of w/e 29/08/2024). This is more than double of the forecast take up. We have now reviewed the rounds and launched the fortnightly collection service. In addition to this, we have delivered approaching 15000 Black refuse 240L bins and nearly 1000 additional 140L bins.

Alternate Weekly Collections (Domestic Refuse)

27. The service has now gone fortnightly, and collections commenced on the 6th of August.

28. We have taken delivery of 150 new communal bins that are currently being rolled out into alleyways across the town. We are specifically targeting areas where bins are damaged and where capacity needs to be increased including for houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs).

29. We would like to thank residents and Members for their continued support as we implement changes to the Recycling & Waste Services.

AREA CARE

Grass Cutting

30. Amenity grass cutting (grass verges and estates) is still ongoing in all areas.

Weed Killing

31. Weed killing of obstacles and 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 and safety risk.

NAME: Cllr Peter Gavigan

DATE: 11 September 2024