

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability

DATE OF MEETING: 15 January 2025

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

1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

I continue work on policy proposals for the short, medium, and long-term in partnership with local communities to protect our green spaces and ensure roads and open spaces are well-designed, clean, and safe.

Since the last full council meeting on 27 November 2024, in addition to my regular meetings with the Director of ECS I have:

- Attended a meeting with Councillor Morrish to ensure that issues concerning motorcyclists are considered in highways policy.
- Attended a meeting with Deputy Mayor Councillor Storey and Boro Doughnut CIC to discuss the Council's waste management policy.
- Conducted a site visit to Nunthorpe ward with Councillor McClintock to hear representations on current traffic and parking issues in Nunthorpe and consider potential ways to address them.
- Attended a meeting to discuss local allotment policies.

2. WORKS UPDATE

2.1. Traffic signal, junction and crossing upgrades

- Junction upgrade at Hartington Road / Brentnall Street – Due February 2025
- Junction upgrade to Marton Road JCUH – Due January 2025
- Junction upgrade to Newport Road / Marsh Street – To be replaced by Linthorpe Road / Park Road South
- Puffin crossing upgrade at Grange Road / Linthorpe Road – Due February 2025.

2.2 Highways

Verge replacement and footway improvement works programmes have been developed and we are underway with implementation of the programme for 2024/25.

To date, 10 of the planned 15 verge works have been completed and 16 of the planned 27 footway projects have been completed.

2.3 Transporter Bridge

Digital monitoring of the movement of the bridge continues and will feed into the design and repairs going forward. Discussions around options for the future operating model of the structure are ongoing and funding streams need to be resolved to progress the project further.

2.4 Newport Bridge

Further works are required to the bearings which will be programmed for Summer 2025.

Stockton Borough Council led on the major works to Newport Bridge. The bridge was reopened at the beginning of September, with some additional alterations regarding the locking pins continuing under lane closures. These are due to be completed by mid-November. Further works are required to the bearings which will be programmed for Summer 2025.

2.5 Newport Approach Road Bridge & Structures

The main works are now completed. The vehicle restraint system will require a temporary barrier installing on both sides of the road, with alterations to the road layout to 3 running lanes. Design work for the barrier continues with traffic flow checks and a road safety audit being undertaken before installation takes place. Lane closures using traffic cones will continue to be in place until the temporary barriers are installed.

Street lighting and anti-graffiti coating to the underside of Ayresome Road / Cannon Street will be undertaken in January / February 2025. Emergency works to the parapet railings on the footway / cycle ramp were scheduled to be completed in the week ending 20th December 2024 and a landing plate on the cast iron steps has been finished.

Going forward, works to replace / rebuild the footways on the main part of the approach structures will be programmed over the next 2-3 years, subject to funding. This work will involve a full assessment of the footway structures, design works, listed building consent, and stakeholder consultation and agreement. An inspection of the underside of the footways over the rail lines took place overnight on 17 November 2024 where loose concrete was removed from the underneath of the footways; netting will be installed in April 2025 (rail closure date to be confirmed) as an additional precautionary measure until such time that the footways can be repaired.

2.6 Principal and General Bridge Inspections

The general inspections of 169 structures are near completion with the last block of inspections being carried out. Many of the reports were received in November last year, and officers are currently undertaking a checking procedure on these. Some of the principal inspections on structures over rail lines are awaiting the agreed access from Network Rail. Evidence from the reports is being used to update the backlog of works and delivery programme.

2.7 Longlands Road overbridge

The bridge is the subject of a full structural and principal inspection which was due to take place on 8th December 2024, with the report due in early 2025, The inspection has been delayed due to Network Rail withdrawing their availability – a further inspection is being booked in for January 2025. It is expected that extensive repairs, or even full replacement, will be required. A design, principal designer, Approval in Principle and technical approval phase will follow in 2025-26. The major works are likely to be programmed for 2026/27 subject to the necessary funding being in place.

2.8 A66

Assessment of the scope of works for repairs to the Hartington Interchange concrete piers is ongoing. The ground investigation has shown a slight void within the carriageway, which will need additional investigation prior to the design works taking place. Design works, Principal Designer, the Approval in Principle, the temporary Works design, and technical approval will start in financial year 2025/26, with the jacking of the bridges and start of the concrete repairs due to start later in the 2025/26 season. Works are planned to be completed in year 2026-27.

2.9 Borough Road Flyover

Concrete testing works and a report are due to be undertaken on the Borough Road Flyover. Works on the design, Approval in Principle, Principal Designer, and technical approval for replacement of the bridge joints, bearings, and carrying out localised hydro demolition and concrete repairs, will likely take place in year 2026-27 based on current budget projections.

2.10 A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge

Work on the A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge will include replacing the bridge deck waterproofing and resurfacing, concrete repairs to the abutments and the installation of suicide prevention parapets. The contract has now been signed and a start-up meeting with the contractors is booked to take place in early January 2025. Following the design and parapet manufacturing phase, physical works are due to take place in the summer holidays 2025.

2.11 Linby & Belle Vue Footbridges

The following are all planned: painting; installation of suicide prevention parapets/cages; structural repairs to piers and decks; new bearings; concrete repairs; other repairs; and lighting installation. The design phase is due to end soon. The next stage is to undertake the works. This work will progress after year 2025/26.

2.12 A66 Hartington East and West Overbridges:

Works to repair the waterproofing/ resurfacing and install new bridge joints was completed in 2023-24. The final six-month inspection for any snagging issues of the works is taking place and we await the principal inspection report.

2.13 Bridges, Small Schemes

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

2.14 Carriageways

The 2024-25 resurfacing programme is ongoing.

The contractors have progressed on the smaller unclassified roads while the Christmas Embargo ensured minimum disruption to the travelling public during the festive season.

To date, 53% of the unclassified and 50% of the classified resurfacing schemes have been completed.

A full dated programme has been agreed with the contractor with the resurfacing works are due to be completed before the end of the financial year. The weekly road works report regularly being updated and can be viewed on the Council's website.

The schemes involving surface dressing and micro asphalt thin surfacing will be tendered shortly to be undertaken in May / June due to the materials requiring dry good weather conditions to be laid to standards and ensure a good longevity of the surface.

2.15 Street Lighting

The 2024/25 column replacement programme is still ongoing in various roads throughout the town; there has been a pause in the programme due to column supply issues. The programme is expected to resume at the end of January 2025.

Works are ongoing to upgrade the street lighting in TS1 and TS3 with funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

3. ADVERSE WEATHER RESPONSE

Staff are continuing with our Winter Maintenance programme which includes cutting by hand and use of our own tractor side arm and one that has been hired. This will help us to cover any break downs, weather problems and staffing holidays.

During Storm Darragh, staff were on call for any potential tree problems in which they were called out a total of 18 times over the weekend of 7/12/24 and 8/12/24. Storm-related call outs included a tree that had fallen onto a car on the A172 Nunthorpe bypass, as well as one that had fallen onto a care home on Marton Road. The staff from the Home were relieved to see Council staff provide assistance.