

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability

**DATE OF MEETING:** 26 March 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 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.

Since my last report dated 15th January 2025, in addition to my regular meetings with the Director of ECS I have:

- Given a presentation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSB)
- Attended two meetings of the Northumbria Regional Flood & Coastal Committee
- Undertaken site visits in Acklam and Marton West to assess proposed traffic calming measures to be considered as Single Member Executive decisions.

### **2. WORKS UPDATE**

#### **2.1. Traffic signal, junction and crossing upgrades:**

- Junction upgrade at Hartington Road / Brentnall Street – currently ongoing
- Junction upgrade at Marton Road junction – currently ongoing
- Junction upgrade to Newport Road / Marsh Street to be replaced by Linthorpe Road / Park Road South – expected to be completed in March 2025
- Puffin crossing upgrade at Grange Road / Linthorpe Road – ongoing; civils works completed

#### **2.2. Highways**

To date, 12 of the 15 planned verge works schemes and 18 of the planned 27 footway works schemes have been successfully completed.

#### **2.3. Transporter Bridge**

Digital monitoring of the movement of the bridge continues and will feed into the design/repairs going forward. Discussion around options for the future operating model of the

structure are ongoing and funding streams need to be resolved to progress the project further. Preliminary design programme confirmed with regular meetings scheduled with contractor to discuss updates.

## **2.4. Newport Bridge**

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

## **2.5. Newport Approach Road Bridge and Structures**

Main works are completed. The vehicle restraint system will require a temporary barrier installing on both sides of the road, with alterations to the road layout to two 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 and signs will lead up to the barriers.

Street lighting to the underside of Ayresome Road / Cannon Street was to be undertaken in February 2025. The emergency works to the parapet railings on the footway/ cycle ramp are completed.

The steps have been temporarily propped until these works can be programmed and funded. The anti-graffiti coating to the underside of Ayresome Road/ Cannon Street Bridge will now take place as part of a borough wide anti-graffiti coating scheme of subways.

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.

Temporary netting is required to the underneath of the footways to ensure the safety of the rail infrastructure – these works will be undertaken in collaboration with Network Rail, and we are negotiating rail possession with a works start date to be confirmed.

## **2.6. Principal and General Bridge Inspections**

The general inspections of 169 structures have been completed. Checking of the reports is ongoing.

Several of the principal inspections on structures over rail lines are awaiting the agreed access with Network Rail. The details from the reports are being used to update the backlog of works and delivery programme.

## **2.7. Longlands Road Overbridge**

The bridge principal inspection was due to take place in mid-February. It is expected that extensive repairs, or even full replacement, will be required. A

design, principal designer, AIP, and technical approval phase will follow in 2025-26. The major works are likely to be scheduled for 2026/27 subject to the necessary funding being in place.

## **2.8. A66**

Scope of works for repairs to the concrete piers are ongoing at Hartington Interchange. The ground investigation has shown a slight void within the carriageway, which continues to be investigated. The scope of works and work requirements, along with start date, will be reviewed once the outcome of the investigation is complete.

Specification for concrete repairs to Newport Interchange is ongoing.

## **2.9. 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**

A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge includes replacing the bridge deck waterproofing and resurfacing, concrete repairs to the abutments and the installation of suicide prevention parapets. The design work has begun, and site access and the start of works are projected to start in mid-April 2025.

## **2.11. Linby & Belle Vue Footbridges**

Work at the Linby and Belle Vue footbridges include painting, installation of suicide prevention parapets/cages, structural repairs to piers and decks, new bearings, concrete repairs, and installation of lighting. The design phase is coming to a close. The next stage is to undertake the works. This work will progress after year 2025/26.

## **2.12. Carriageways**

The 2024-25 resurfacing programme is ongoing.

The contractors have continued works on classified and unclassified programme with 6 left to complete on the unclassified and 1 classified. These will 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.

To date 75% of the unclassified and 75% of the classified resurfacing schemes have been completed.

A full dated programme has been agreed with the contractor with the resurfacing works due to be completed before the end of the financial year. The weekly road works report is updated regularly 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 early May/June 2025 due to the materials requiring dry good weather conditions to be laid to standards and to ensure a good longevity of the surface.

### **2.13. Street Lighting**

The 2024/25 column replacement programme has resumed in various roads throughout the town. Works are ongoing to upgrade the street lighting in TS1 & TS3 with funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

## **3. FLOOD MANAGEMENT**

Work continues on the clearance of the gullies in line with the adopted risk-based approach in prioritising gully cleansing. We continue to work proactively on flood risk management through joint working with the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water.

Work continues reviewing and updating the Flood Risk Asset Register and in identifying potential the flood risk of culverts.

## **4. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

A full survey of the currently recorded Public Rights of Way network is being undertaken. A small number of furniture improvements and drainage works are due to be undertaken in February and March 2025.

## **5. HIGHWAYS LICENSES**

Work continues to make more applications available online along with payments. Work is also underway to migrate the management of highway licences to our update Asset Management Software System.

Several Development Highway Improvement schemes are planned to start for early 2025 which will require lengthy Road Opening licences and will affect:

- Longlands Road / Cargo Fleet Lane
- Keith Road, The Vale, Marton Burn Road, Ashfield Avenue.

## **6. AREA CARE**

The Area Care Tree Team were heavily involved with several large trees that came down during Storm Eowyn.

The Tree Team were on call for the high winds that came arrived Friday 24th January. They dealt with around 30 calls from the call centre which were for a wide range of tree issues ranging from, fallen branches to a tree that had narrowly missed a bus stop and cars travelling along Orchard Road in Linthorpe.

The staff came back out over the weekend to clear up another further 5 trees that were blocking paths and to clear up the debris

Area Care teams have now completed their scheduled winter pruning of shrub beds and hedges prior to the bird nesting season. We are currently completing a small number of heavy pruning requests while we are still in the pruning window.

We are also now preparing for the growing season, carrying out weed spraying around street furniture, fence and wall lines along with the pruning of low tree branches to allow safe access for the grass cutting teams. We are currently carrying out repairs and maintenance to the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCF) trees that have been planted throughout Middlesbrough over recent years.

Area Care were heavily involved in preparations for the recent royal visit. Tasks such as street cleansing, the replanting of street planters and shrub beds along with bark mulching around the bottle of notes were carried out so the area around Centre Square was as tidy as possible prior to the visit.

I would like to thank all the staff in ECS for their fantastic efforts in keeping Middlesbrough clean and tidy.