

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

**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

#### Strategic Priority:

- Neighbourhoods
- Neighbourhood Safety
- Community Cohesion

#### Directorate Priorities:

- Further develop the Neighbourhood Model
- Reduce crime and ASB through partnership working
- Build Community Resilience and Cohesion across Middlesbrough

### 2. HIGHLIGHTS

#### 2.1. Service request data

The below service request table includes data from 01/04/24 to 28/02/25, the second table relates to February 2025, which includes the variance information.

Ward	VA1 ASB Issues	VA2 Noise, Animal, Stray dogs	VA3 PSPO	VA4 Littering / Rubbish/ Waste	VA5 Vehicle Issues	VA6 Criminal Issues	VA7 Tasking / Patrols	Total
Acklam	18	8		85	22	6	88	227
Ayresome	60	9		257	44	6	75	451
Berwick Hills & Pallister	261	66		655	65	33	1268	2348
Brambles & Thorntree	85	71		315	42	29	446	988
Central	830	62	55	859	224	37	2008	4075
Coulby Newham	45	10		212	39	1	354	661
Hemlington	179	29		267	66	16	940	1497
Kader	31	11		28	27	3	53	153
Ladgate	35	30		215	47	10	76	413
Linthorpe	44	17		177	73	1	89	401
Longlands & Beechwood	253	55		408	89	13	314	1132
Marlon East	31	18		63	33	1	210	356
Marlon West	2	1		32	16	1	96	148
Newport	304	58	4	1037	159	12	572	2146
North Ormesby	93	25		328	42	11	791	1290
Nunthorpe	12	7		30	17		151	217
Park	139	24	1	623	131	5	273	1196
Park End & Beckfield	108	59		560	51	32	760	1570
Stainton & Thornton	23	8		57	11	1	217	317
Trimdon	30	7		43	24	4	163	271
<b>Total</b>	<b>2583</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>6251</b>	<b>1222</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>8944</b>	<b>1985</b>

Service Requests (NSO, Enviro & Street Wardens)										
Ward	VA1 ASB Issues	VA2 Noise, Animal, Stray dogs	VA3 PSPO	VA4 Littering / Rubbish/ Waste	VA5 Vehicle Issues	VA6 Criminal Issues	VA7 Tasking / Patrols	Total		
Acklam	3	1		3	7		14	28	-13	
Ayresome	15	1		13	5		10	44	-15	
Berwick Hills & Pallister	12	2		56	3	3	119	195	-34	
Brambles & Thorntree	3			27	6	2	37	75	-5	
Central	40	10	7	44	25	2	263	391	-21	
Coulby Newham	3	2		19	5	1	65	95	39	
Hemlington	3			30	3	1	202	239	-69	
Kader	8			3	1		3	15	6	
Ladgate	13	2		14	1	1	14	45	-4	
Linthorpe	1			7	7		12	27	-2	
Longlands & Beechwood	81	7		33	9	1	61	192	50	
Marton East	3			22	5		54	84	31	
Marton West							3	3	-22	
Newport	19	6	1	109	7		113	255	32	
North Ormesby	1			25	5	1	51	83	-47	
Nunthorpe		1		3			20	24	-15	
Park	4	1		30	15		33	83	-16	
Park End & Beckfield	6	4		31	7		35	83	-24	
Stainton & Thornton	9	3		6			23	41	28	
Trimdon	2	1		8		1	28	40	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>2042</b>	<b>-101</b>	

## 2.2. Safer Night Out Campaign for Girls And Women In Boro

A hard-hitting new campaign is driving home the message that violence towards women and girls will not be tolerated on nights out in Middlesbrough. The initiative is supported by The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Cleveland.

Campaign posters are currently displayed in bars, town centre car parks, pedestrianised areas and the Bus Station. The message is ‘Girls just wanna have a safe night out’ and points to details of how to contact or visit the Safe Haven if females feel vulnerable.

Our Public Protection team works closely with bars, pubs and clubs across the town and has delivered training to help nighttime workers spot signs of harassment and abuse. According to recent data\*, violent crime was the main type of crime committed in Middlesbrough from January 2024 – December 2024.

If anyone does feel unsafe, they can contact Safe Haven on 01642 727333 and the CIPHER Ambulance patrol car will come out to wherever they are to assist them or they can walk in to Safe Haven if they need a space to rest and recover. Safe Haven is located within Middlesbrough Bus Station and is open Friday evenings until 3.30am and Saturday evenings (and Bank Holidays) until 4.30am.

### **2.3. Ministry Of Housing, Communities And Local Government (MHCLG) Funding Update**

Members will be aware that we were awarded £1.9m last year to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. This funding has been utilised on many town wide capital projects including;

- Railings outside of Pallister Park Primary School to address illegal parking.
- 50 cardboard cut-out children & policemen provided to Primary Schools across the town to reduce traffic congestion and improve road safety.
- Installation of additional litter bins
- Portable football goals purchased to be utilised by our local Youth Providers to deter young people from crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Cameras installed in Newport and North Ormesby alleys to tackle fly-tipping
- Target hardening packs - these are currently being distributed to vulnerable, elderly, repeat victims of crime and domestic abuse. We are currently liaising with VCAS and the Shaw Trust as they are keen to assist with distribution and installation of the equipment. The packs contain video doorbells, security lights, alarms, TV simulators, timers, door restrictors, cactus strips, sash jammers, bolts and window vibration alarms.
- Kick rails/lego blocks to address off-road bikes – work is ongoing at 69 locations
- Galvanised gates will be installed at 3 locations in East Middlesbrough
- Additional CCTV to be installed in 13 hotspot areas across the town
- Lighting upgrade in Newport, North Ormesby & sub-ways ongoing
- Signage to be installed on alley gates in Newport, North Ormesby & Linthorpe to tackle fly-tipping
- Purchased mobile boxing gym
- Anti-graffiti coatings to be used in all subways & underpasses
- Upgrade of dual use communal bins in North Ormesby & Newport
- Upgrading of help points in council car parks
- Purchased 2 tail lift vehicles and 3 moss removal machines to assist with alley clean ups
- Purchased litter picking equipment & dog fouling signs
- Additional signage installed around Hemlington Lake

### **2.4. Community Newsletters**

Neighbourhood Managers have recently introduced online newsletters to spread the word about their work. Last week we sent out our second newsletter from the South Neighbourhood Team to the email addresses of 10,014 residents in the area.

Of those, 4,667 have opened and read it so far (47%) which is a greater open rate than we'd normally achieve on most of our newsletters, and considerably higher than the industry standard which is about 25%. We've also had some positive early feedback from residents.

Our first edition, which was sent out to East Middlesbrough residents, now has a 55% open rate which is a massive amount. We're also starting work on a printed newsletter which will be delivered to every single household in Middlesbrough.

## 2.5. Clear, Hold, Build (Project Orme)

The official launch of Project Orme took place earlier this month. This multi-agency initiative is aimed at tackling organised crime and improving the lives of East Middlesbrough residents.



The project is named after the Orme Viking statue in Berwick Hills, a local landmark which was designed by schoolchildren. The approach follows the Home Office's 'Clear, Hold, Build' approach which sees organised criminals and associates cleared from an area, backed up by high visibility patrols and community support.

Clear, Hold, Build Surveys have been developed to establish how safe people feel living in East Middlesbrough. An online version of the survey is currently live until the end of March and officers on the ground have been completing surveys with local residents across the wards. The results will be analysed and shared with members and will help determine what the current priorities are for local residents. We will also use the survey results to identify current perception levels and establish a baseline for the evaluation of the project.

Our East locality team have submitted over 100 intelligence forms since the start of the year to support police colleagues. This information has undoubtedly attributed to some of the following results;

- A drugs warrant carried out at an address in Netherfields with a man charged with drugs offences and crack cocaine and cash recovered.
- Another man found with 22 wraps of cocaine who was charged with drugs offences.
- Following a stop search, a man arrested in connection with shop thefts.
- A van seized and the driver, a 30-year-old man, reported for summons for failing to stop for police, driving without insurance and driving whilst disqualified.
- A 21-year-old man was summonsed to court after he was found in possession of cannabis. His electric bike was seized.
- A man and woman were arrested after being stopped in a vehicle where officers searching them found suspected crack cocaine and cash. The vehicle was seized for no insurance and the driver was also arrested on suspicion of driving without a licence.
- A 38-year-old man was charged with possession with intent to supply Class A drugs after nearly 100 deals of suspected crack cocaine were recovered on Bournemouth Avenue on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Known male was stopped in a vehicle on Premier Road and searched. Arrested for Possession with Intent to Supply and the vehicle was seized.
- A male has been sentenced to 2 years in HMP for his involvement in the riots last summer.

## 2.6. Hemlington Community Reassurance

Support is being offered to the Hemlington community following the sad death of a local resident. There is currently an ongoing police investigation, and several arrests have been made. Middlesbrough Council and partners are committed to working together and supporting all members of our communities.

We ran several drop-ins for residents who may have had concerns, questions and worries following recent events in the area. Middlesbrough Council, Cleveland Police, and partners were available to offer support, advice and guidance to any resident who needed it. Additionally, we held a Community Meeting on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March to discuss any ongoing concerns regarding these matters. I was in attendance as well as the MP, our Elected Mayor, MBC staff, Partner Organisations and ward Councillors.

## 2.7. Cleveland Knife Crime Summit

I attended an extremely informative event at the Riverside Stadium on 12<sup>th</sup> March. The Cleveland wide knife crime summit was organised by the OPCC's CURV Team and was hosted by Matt Storey, Police and Crime Commissioner.

Cleveland is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest force area in the country for knife crime with over 880 knife crime related incidents taking place last year. We heard from a range of speakers including Chief Constable Mark Webster, Policing Minister Dame Diana Johnson and Karen McCluskey, Chief Executive of Community Justice Scotland.

The most powerful and inspirational speakers included Pooja and Nikita Kanda from Wolverhampton who tragically lost their 16-year-old son/brother Ronan to knife crime in 2022. Ronan Kanda, an innocent boy was fatally stabbed by 2 fellow school pupils in a harrowing case of mistaken identity just metres from his home in broad daylight. Since losing Ronan, his mum and sister have been campaigning tirelessly for a ban on bladed articles. They are also campaigning to bring in licensing conditions for sellers.

We heard how agencies had failed to work together to share information which could have prevented Ronan's tragic death as his killer had previously tried to kill his intended target only 6 weeks earlier. The event included a workshop to enable agencies to identify areas of improvement which will help to develop a Cleveland wide action plan that will be linked to all 4 Community Safety Partnerships.



## 2.8. Community Hubs and Libraries

I carried out a site visit to see the amazing transformation taking place of our Central Library refurbishment. The new LED lights are now installed in the Reference Library and work will start on the ground floor tiered seating and lift shaft over the next few weeks.



Thorntree is the last Community Hub and Library to receive a prestigious refurbishment thanks to Libraries Improvement Funding. The entire IT Area has been redesigned into a modern, vibrant, 21<sup>st</sup> century fit-for-purpose space. A dedicated seating area is available for customers to bring their own devices into the Community Hub and Library and plug-in or charge-up using the USB connections available. Thorntree is one of four venues offering The Hublets, our easy-to-use self-service tablet solution which requires practically zero IT skills. Improvements to the WiFi throughout the Library to enable our customers to access the internet or send print jobs to the library printer via our WiFi Print Service. Thorntree CH&L is helping customers daily to print documents using both our WiFi Print Service and now Cloud Printing allowing registered customers to send print jobs to the Library Printer from home.



The investment from The Libraries Improvement Fund has given us an amazing opportunity to transform our digital offer including the fabric of the IT Areas in our Community Hubs and Libraries whilst providing both space and facilities to many of our customers want to use their equipment in our venues to connect to our free WiFi, be able to surf the internet, study and have the ability to print documents directly to our printers in the library.

## 2.9. International Women's Day 2025

I attended an International Women's Day event in Newport Hub on 5<sup>th</sup> March. Speakers from Teesside University attended to talk about their roles at the university and the period poverty campaign. Following this inspiring talk, children from Sacred Heart Primary delivered a talk about their roles as Power of Women Ambassadors in their school. This was then followed by children from Newport Primary School delivering a talk about women who inspire them.

The Livewell Centre, Middlesbrough Employment Hub and Thirteen Employability had stalls to talk to people about health issues and education/courses.



## 2.10. Commemoration of Three Years of War in Ukraine

I attended an event in the International Centre on 24<sup>th</sup> February which was organised to commemorate the three years of War in Ukraine. Over 100 people attended which was made up of Homes for Ukraine hosts and guest, professionals from various services and Organisations a wide range of other members of the community also attended the event. It was opened by a video showing before and after in Ukraine, and the welcoming people had received in the Northeast of England. This was followed by a prayer and moment of reflection, and then a musical performance by a Ukrainian opera singer.

## 2.11. Staff Awards

I would like to say a huge well done to our Newport Community Hub team and our Environmental Enforcement Team on receiving their well-deserved award on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.