

<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Environment and Community Services: Geoff Field Executive Member for Environment: Cllr Dennis McCabe Executive Member for Communities and Education: Cllr Mieka Smiles
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Executive – 23 February 2021
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<b>Subject:</b>	Improving Alleyways by Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
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**Summary**

<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
<p>That Executive agrees to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Additional capital funding of £400,000 cost of CCTV required.</li> <li>b. Note the new approach to dealing with fly tipping in Middlesbrough.</li> </ul>

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent? <sup>1</sup>
Decision	Yes, impacts two or more wards	No	No

Contribution to delivery of the 2018-22 Strategic Plan		
Business	Place	People
The proposal will provide an opportunity to improve service delivery by strengthening a collaborative approach and removing duplication across services. The approach will have a focus on meeting legal and governance requirements.	The Proposal impacts directly on the Councils Physical Regeneration strategic objectives. By investigating and removing Fly Tips as one operation.	The proposal has a significant contribution to make to Locality Working and our social regeneration strategy. The new model will also provide a focus on a 'neighbourhood' working with local communities and key partners.

<b>Ward(s) affected</b>
The proposal impacts across all wards

<sup>1</sup> Remove for non-Executive reports

## What is the purpose of this report?

2. The purpose of this report is to:
  - a) Request that Executive approve additional funding of £400,000 to the wider development of CCTV in alleys and hot spot areas throughout Middlesbrough to reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and environmental crime.
  - b) For Executive to note the change the approach to collection of fly tips and enforcement of offences across Middlesbrough via the introduction of an 'Environmental Enforcement Flying Squad'. This will mean fly tips will be investigated and removed in one pass by a dedicated team.

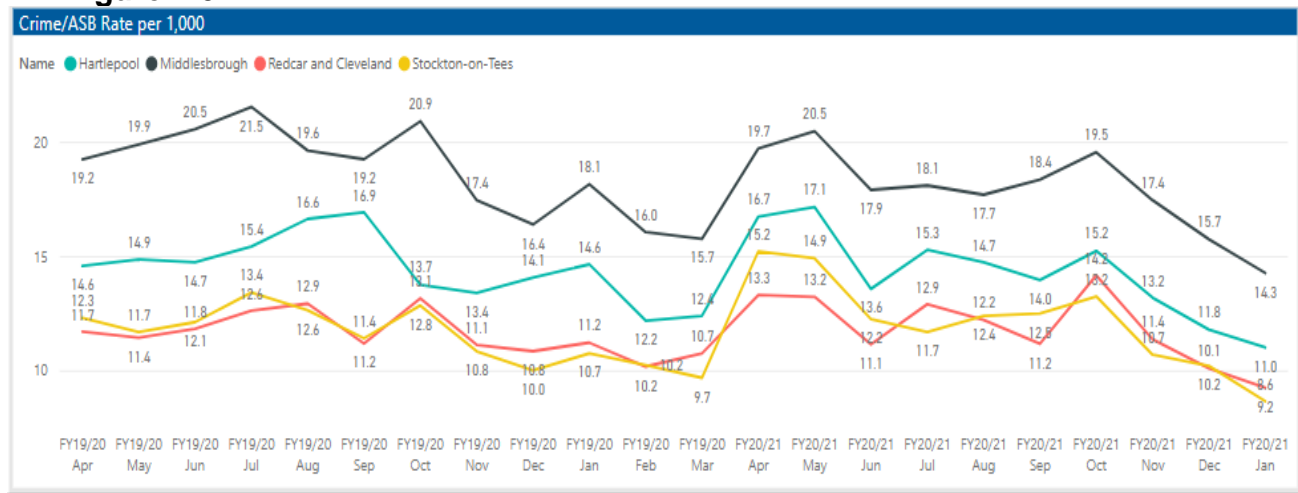
## Why does this report require a Member decision?

3. The proposal affects more than two wards and therefore is considered a key decision requiring approval by the Executive.

## Report Background

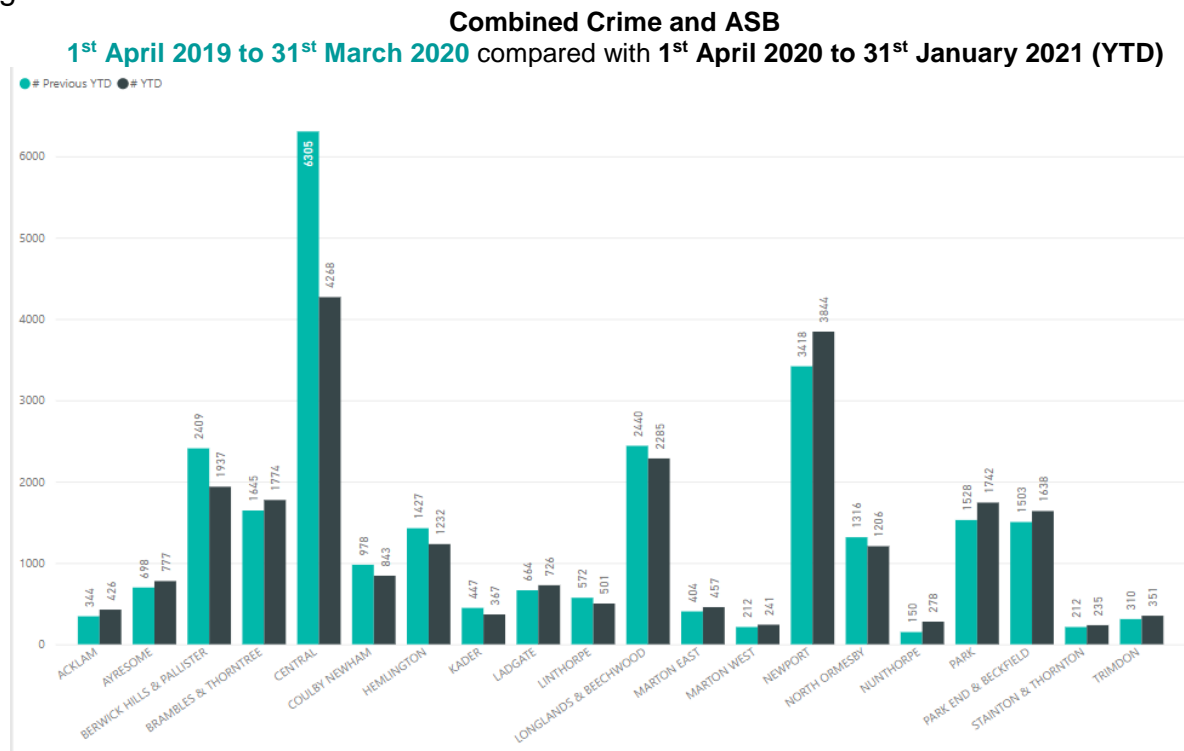
4. Crime and antisocial behaviour in Middlesbrough continues to be the highest in the whole of the Cleveland Police Force area. When looking at the actual number of incidents for the financial year 2019/20 and the year to date information for 2020/21 Middlesbrough is 11% higher than Stockton which is 2<sup>nd</sup> highest. The graph below Figure 1.0 shows the number of crime and ASB incidents per 1,000 population to give you a visual indication of the current situation.

**Figure 1.0**



When looking at ward level data you can see from figure 1.1 that TS1 has the highest number of recorded incidents.

Figure 1.1

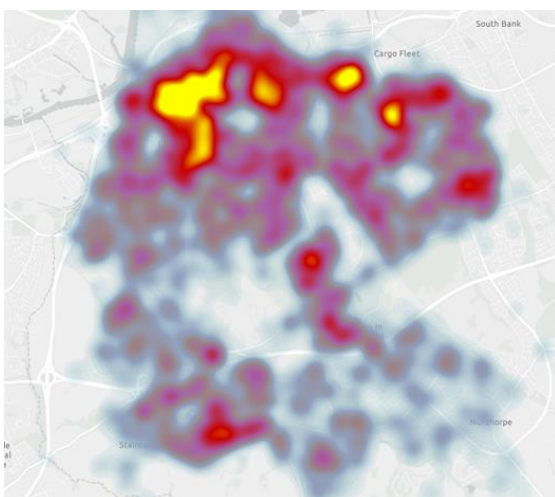
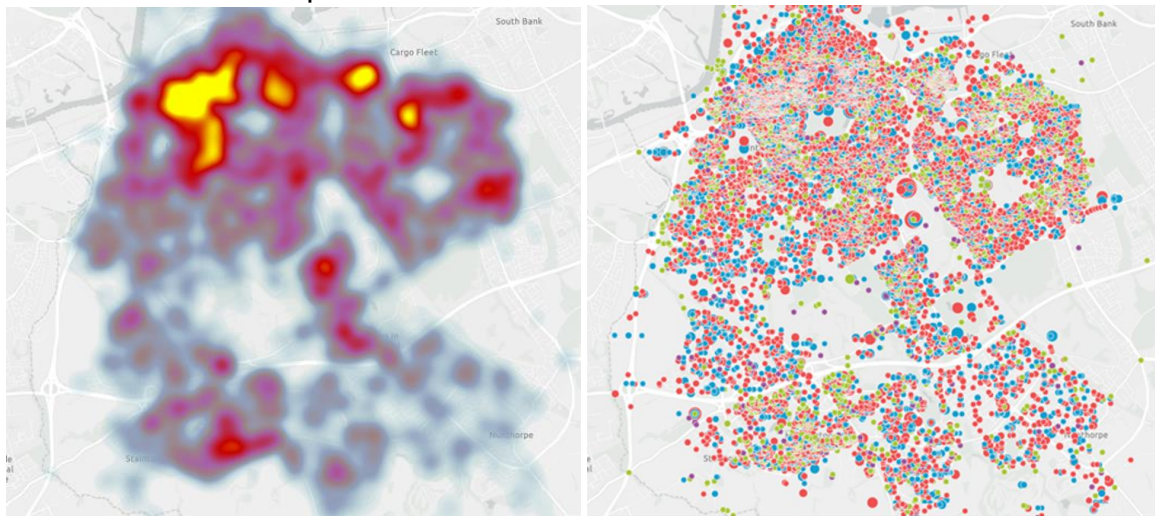


- The Council received 4,168 complaints of fly tipping between 1st April to 31st March 2018/19 this fell slightly to 3,746 in 2019/20 however when looking at the data for the incomplete year (1st April 2020 to 31st December 2020) there has been an increase with 4,411 complaints received during this period. COVID-19 lockdown measures has had an impact on the 2020 figures.
- The below table shows number of incidents from Jan 2020 to Jan 2021, broken down by type:

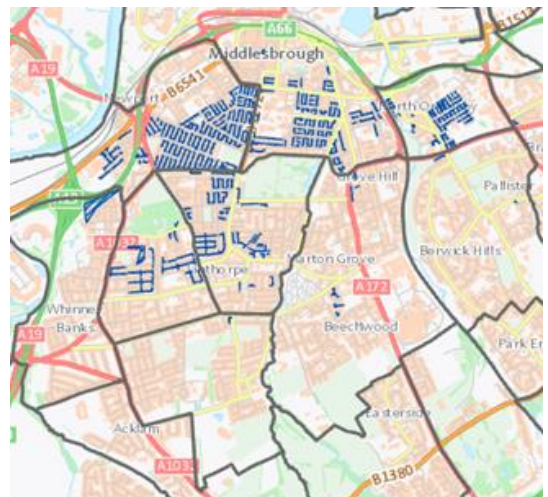
INCIDENT TYPE	NUMBER REPORTED
Public/staff reported Anti-Social Behaviour	573
Police recorded Anti-Social Behaviour	10,490
Fly-Tipping (with Evidence)	1,128
Fly Tipping (without evidence of identity)	4,458
Graffiti	107
Needles and syringes	150
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF ALL REPORTS</b>	<b>16,906</b>

- We have a small team of 4 Neighbourhood Safety Wardens (Environmental) who respond to environmental crimes and take action to deal with people who fly tip. This includes educating people about how to appropriately dispose of waste, giving information on where and how they can do so legally and advising people of the consequence's committing environmental crime. They also issue fixed penalty notices and where appropriate they produce a prosecution pack, take people to court and prosecute them for their actions. This team is supported by the wider Neighbourhood Safety Wardens who respond to low level crime working closely with Police colleagues and antisocial behaviour across Middlesbrough.

8. The Police and Neighbourhood Safety Wardens respond to crime and antisocial behaviour every day and this is often informed by CCTV reports filled with historical activity from the incidents recorded the previous day. In addition to this they also benefit from direct contact with CCTV operatives who communicate live information from the scene so that officers can respond in real time.
9. Placing CCTV in strategic position to cover the alleys and other hot spot areas with the highest proportion of incidents relating to crime, ASB and environmental crime would provide the Council and partners with an opportunity to gather vital evidence that will enable the teams to tackle crime and ASB head on by taking more action against those who commit offences. The team will be able to take appropriate action and bring people to justice and the presence of the CCTV will act as a deterrent for some.
10. A significant level of fly tipping takes place in areas with back alleys and the Council's area care team remove the waste once the Wardens have examined the area or evidence. If we are going to impact on this increasing trend we need to find a way of gathering more evidence that will allow us to take action and deter people from committing these offences and remove the waste at the same time.
11. A partially completed mapping exercise has determined that we have in excess of 300 alleys across Middlesbrough (likely to be nearer to 500) and these are being mapped using GIS.
12. A detailed analysis of the data is set out below to indicate where the majority of incidents have taken place



The image on the right is a new and as yet incomplete view of the alleyways in Middlesbrough. Transposing the hotspot locations shows that they generally sit in areas where alleyways have been mapped.



13. The £400,000 would enable the team to install 100 cameras in key areas identified using an intelligence led approach based on recorded Police and LA data.
14. In conjunction with the use of CCTV cameras the council may explore with areas covered by back alleys giving residents individual bins and removing communal bins. This will allow residents to take more control of their waste. A pilot scheme is at present underway in parts of North Ormesby. Following an examination of the results of this a more wider approach may be implemented.
15. The proposed 'Environmental Enforcement Flying Squad' would enable the Council to improve the aesthetics of Middlesbrough and in turn improve quality of life for residents who are blighted by such activity. This will mean fly tips will be investigated and removed in one pass by a dedicated team consisting of 8 personnel, 4x Neighbourhood Safety Wardens (Enforcement) trained on current legislation and able to bring prosecution, 4x Area Care Operatives to work alongside officers to assist clearing the fly-tip/rubbish and 4x bespoke caged vehicles.
16. The proposal will improve public confidence, deter people from committing crime and antisocial behaviour via the presence of more CCTV and ensure that fly tips are collected in a timely manner and in turn reducing the amount of time debris is left in the alleys, streets, walkways etc. for the public to see and therefore should go a long way to raising the profile of Middlesbrough over time.

#### **What decision(s) are being asked for?**

- a. Request that Executive approve additional funding of £400,000 to the wider development of CCTV in alleys and hot spot areas throughout Middlesbrough to reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and environmental crime.
- b. To note the change the approach to collection of fly tips and enforcement of offences across Middlesbrough. This will mean fly tips will be investigated and removed in one pass by a dedicated team.
- c. That the Executive note the pilot of replacing communal bins with individual bins in parts of North Ormesby and note its potential for further use, if it is deemed successful in other areas of the town.

#### **Why is this being recommended?**

17. To enable the team to meet strategic and Mayoral priorities to tackle crime and ASB head on
18. CCTV would enable the team to gather intelligence on the worst affected areas, increasing the opportunity of a successful prosecution of perpetrators.
19. The proposed approach would join up environmental and enforcement teams and align to the locality working model.

#### **Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended**

20. Continuing to do what we have always done will result in getting what we have always got and the data suggests that the current approach is not achieving the best possible results.

## ***Legal***

21. Privacy Impact assessment would need to be carried out in line with the Information Commissioners Office Guidance.

22. There are no legal implications regarding use of CCTV in proposed/identified locations due to the fact that an intelligence led approach has been used to justify the proposals.

## ***Financial***

23. There will be no additional cost for the 8 staff required as this will come from current resource throughout ECS

24. The cost of 100 CCTV installations will cost ~ £400,000

## ***Policy Framework***

25. The report sets out a proposal in accordance with the Council's approach to the delivery of efficient services.

## ***Equality and Diversity***

26. An Impact Assessment has been carried out.

## ***Risk***

27. The risk is that if the proposal is not accepted then we will continue to see crime, ASB and environment crime increase throughout Middlesbrough.

## ***Environmental***

28. If the proposal is agreed there will be a number of environmental benefits:

- There would be visibly reduced Fly tipping across the town,
- a reduction in pest related incidents as the rubbish would be removed in a timely manner,
- a better quality of life for residents living in areas blighted by such crime,
- reduced number of incidents of deliberate fires,
- reduced risk of land contamination

## **Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)**

29. A service review will be undertaken to re-address the balances of required resources. As part of the review, teams will be allocated specific areas of operation and work-streams.

30. Once the team is established, a Communication, Marketing & Education campaign will be undertaken informing residents of the changes and how they can report incidents and assist the initiative

## **Appendices**

31. Equality impact assessment.

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