

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability

DATE OF MEETING: 09 July 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.

COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

A healthy place - Protect and improve our environment

Safe and resilient communities - Improved transport and digital connectivity

Update:

- *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.*

1. HIGHLIGHTS

Update:

- 1.1 I attended a Newham Hall Masterclass meeting on 25th April.
- 1.2 I attended a Boro Alleyways Project Meeting in Resolution House on 21st May.
- 1.3 I attended the “Beyond Gold: Shaping Middlesbrough’s Food Future” event, run by Middlesbrough Environment City on 5th June.
- 1.4 I attended the “Boro Cereal” event at Kirkleatham Walled Garden. This featured innovative and inspiring ideas from four Middlesbrough primary schools to improve the physical environment and mental wellbeing.
- 1.5 I visited Coulby Newham for a site visit with councillor Branson on 26th June.

2. THE TIME AHEAD

Update:

2.1 Traffic Signals/UTMC

Pedestrian crossing upgrades 2025/26:

- Ormesby Road/Southland Centre – Puffin Crossing planned installation start date 27.07.25

2.2 Highways

- Verge replacement and footway improvement work programmes have been developed and we are underway with implementation of the programme for 2025/26.

- There are 13 planned verge works schemes and 22 planned footway schemes.

2.3 Bridges and Structures

2.3.1 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 clarified.
- A preliminary design programme has been confirmed with regular meetings scheduled with contractor to discuss updates.

2.3.2 Newport Bridge

- The additional bearing works to the main bridge span are due to start in summer 2025 – dates to be confirmed.
- The works are led by Stockton on Tees Borough Council in collaboration with Middlesbrough Council.

2.3.3 Newport Approach Road Bridge & Structures

- All the 2024-25 planned works to the Newport Approach Road and Bridges were completed.
- In 2025-26, we will be installing a semi-permanent vehicle restraint safety (VRS) barrier to both sides of the approach road and main bridges along with a new lane layout – once this work is undertaken and the 2025-26 bearing works are complete the current cone traffic management will be removed. The VRS works will be co-ordinated with the bearing works on the main Newport Bridge span.
- Future programme: 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

2.3.4 Principal and General Bridge Inspections

- We are liaising with the contractor to complete two reports for the 2024-25 inspection work.

2.3.5 Longlands Road overbridge

- The bridge inspections took place, and we are awaiting the report. A design, principal designer, AIP, 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.

2.3.6 A66 Structures

- We are currently putting together a specification for a works programme to the bridges at Cannon Park Interchange (Newport Roundabout), Hartington Interchange, and All Saints Viaduct.

2.3.7 Borough Road Flyover

- Concrete testing works and a report are due to be undertaken.
- 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.

2.3.8 A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge

- The A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge project includes replacing the bridge deck waterproofing and resurfacing, concrete repairs to the abutments and the installation of suicide prevention parapets.
- Work has been delayed due to contractual reasons, a new draft programme is being reviewed, with works due to start imminently once agreed, and the contracts are signed.

2.3.9 Linby & Belle Vue Footbridges

- This project will include: 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 coming to a close; the next stage will be to undertake the works. This work will progress after year 2025/26.

2.3.10 Bridges Small Schemes

- These works are being postponed due to funding constraints/review.

2.4 Carriageways

2.4.1 The remainder of the 2024-25 resurfacing work on Hall Drive, Tollesby Road and Glendale Road is expected to be undertaken in July-August 2025. This was delayed slightly due to new traffic calming measures and utility connections to the housing development off Hall Drive.

2.4.2 A surface dressing contract for Stokesley Road, Coulby Newham, and Brass Castle Lane has been tendered and we are currently undertaking the necessary procurement processes and legal contract stage. Works are expected to start at the beginning of September 2025.

2.4.3 The main 2025-26 resurfacing contract and micro asphalt contract are due to be tendered at the end of June, with works to start late-September/ early-October 2025, and continuing until the end of the financial year. Stand out classified road schemes involve three eastbound sections of the A66, a further phase on Marton Road, and a large part of Longlands Road. The unclassified roads programme will see eighty-two thousand m2 of asphalt laid, covering 12.6km (7.8 miles) of the road network.

2.4.4 A full list of resurfacing schemes will be published on the Councils website and was made available at the end of June 2025. The weekly road works report will regularly update start and duration dates of all the works, and this can also be viewed on the Council's website.

2.5 Flood Management

- 2.5.1 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 EA and NWL and increasing our knowledge of the network and improving the long-term planning for reducing flood risk.
- 2.5.2 The new surface water flood maps have been published and we are currently reviewing them to identify any new areas affected by flooding and if a flood protection scheme is required. Work also continues reviewing and updating the Flood Risk Asset Register and also in identifying potential flood risk of Culverts.

2.6 Public Rights of Way

- A full survey of the currently recorded Public Rights of Way network continues to be undertaken. A small number of furniture improvements and drainage works are due during 2025.

2.7 Highway Licences

- Work continues to make more applications available online. The migration of highway licence management to our updated Asset Management Software System is complete.
- The Highway Improvement works licenced on Keith Road, The Vale, Marton Burn Road, Ashfield Avenue as part of the development continue as advertised.

2.8 Street Lighting

- The 2025/26 column replacement programme is underway in various wards throughout the town.
- Works are ongoing to upgrade the street lighting and subway lighting in TS1 & TS3 with funding from DLUHC.
- We are also installing new street lighting on behalf of Esh Construction/Thirteen in Grove Hill and Union Street.

2.9 Waste Services

- 2.9.1 Middlesbrough Council are now making good progress with the introduction of Food Waste Collections commencing in 2026. We have procured our fleet of vehicles, designed our collection rounds and are currently working with our procurement colleagues to procure a company to deliver approximately 50k caddies to domestic properties across the town. Further to this we are awaiting approval to go weekly with our recycling collections to ensure we conform with the 2026 recycling regulations introduced by Defra.
- 2.9.2 Garden waste we have 20,129 subscribers with a total bin count of 22,692 bins at residential properties. To date the garden waste service has generated approximately £856,420.
- 2.9.3 Our Alley Cleansing Programme is continuing to make much needed improvements in our alleyways. We are recruiting for a further 6 members of staff week commencing 23/06/2025 to join our alley cleansing team.

2.10 Area Care

- 2.10.1 Area Care are continuing with our Spring/Summer Grass Cutting Program with the hire of the additional 4 front deck ride on rotary cutters.
- 2.10.2 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 as emergency only such as low hanging branches, overhanging branches, Street Light Column obstruction requests and CCTV coverage obstruction requests.
- 2.10.3 We are also now carrying out strimming and 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.
- 2.10.4 Area Care teams have also been busy preparing the various summer bedding sites around the town ready for the planting which commenced in the week commencing 16th June 2025.