

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability

DATE OF MEETING: 10 September 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 site meeting on Stainton Way with officers and ward Councillors on 15th July.
- 1.2 I attended the Pallister Park Clean Up and Refurbishment event with the Mayor and officers on 18th July.
- 1.3 I attended the Green Lane Active Travel Corridor site meeting with officers and ward Councillors on 25th July.
- 1.4 I attended the Reuse Shop Launch Event at the Haverton Hill Household Waste and Recycling Centre on 8th August.
- 1.5 I attended a Grillo (industrial lawn mower) training session at Fairy Dell Park on 12th August.

2. THE TIME AHEAD

Update:

2.1 Traffic Signals/UTMC

Traffic Signal Junction upgrades 2025/26:

- Awaiting designs for 25/26 schemes.

Pedestrian crossing upgrades 2025/26:

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

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.
- Verge works complete so far: 2 of the planned 13 schemes.
- Footway Works complete so far: 3 of the planned 22 schemes.

2.3 Bridges and Structures

2.3.1 Emergency Repairs to Ormesby Beck Culvert

Following the development of a significant defect at Ormesby Beck Culvert on Ladgate Lane, the decision was taken to close the westbound carriageway to reduce the risk of further damage. We are prioritising the repairs and have engaged with a civil engineering contractor to undertake the necessary works. A suitable repair may take several months.

2.3.2 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 but an announcement by Mayor Houchen of £30m has been secured through TCR. Preliminary design programme confirmed with regular meetings scheduled with contractor to discuss updates. Presentation held at the NEPO civils engagement to encourage early contractor involvement to help progression of the project. This is ongoing.

2.3.3 Newport Bridge

The additional bearing works to the main bridge span have started and are due to be completed at the end of the school holidays. The works are led by Stockton on Tees Borough Council in collaboration with Middlesbrough Council.

2.3.4 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 Vehicle Restraint Systems works will be co-ordinated with the bearing works on the main Newport Bridge span. Ongoing and due for completion at the end of the school holidays.

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. Consultation with Network Rail has started and is ongoing.

2.3.5 Principal and General Bridge Inspections

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

The final inspection of Works Road bridge took place, which was awaiting a rail line closure, and organisation for a confined space inspection on the A66 Station Viaduct are underway.

2.3.6 Longlands Road overbridge

The bridge inspection has taken place, and the report has been submitted - we are currently reviewing 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.

2.3.7 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. Ongoing.

2.3.8 Borough Road Flyover

Concrete testing works and report 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. No further update at this stage.

2.3.9 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. 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. Several meetings have taken place with the contractor and the contract is due for issue/signature.

2.3.10 Linby & Belle Vue Footbridges

This will involve 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 and the next stage is to undertake the works. This work will progress after year 2025/26.

2.3.11 Bridges Small Schemes

Several minor footbridge railing repairs are due to take place within the next two months at Kader Primary Footbridge (Blue Bell Beck), and the footbridges at Stainton Way/Newham Way.

2.4 Carriageways

- 2.4.1 The remainder of the 2024-25 resurfacing programme on Hall Drive and Tollesby Road has been completed. Glendale Road and Gunnergate Lane have been resurfaced, with traffic calming expected to be completed by mid-September 2025. The remainder of Glendale Road is programmed to take place as part of the 2025-26 works.
- 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. Ongoing.
- 2.4.3 The main 2025-26 resurfacing contract and micro asphalt contract is currently going through the tender and procurement stage, 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 phase on 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 is published on the Council's website and is available via the following link:
<https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/media/hh2hn2ch/highway-infrastructure-maintenance-plan-sept20.pdf>
- 2.4.5 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 A review of the Gully Cleansing Programmes has been undertaken, and we continue to work through 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 continue to review 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 in identifying potential flood risk of Culverts.

2.6 Public Rights of Way

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

2.7 Highway Licences

- 2.7.1 Work continues to make more applications available online along with payments. The migration of highway licence management to our updated Asset Management Software System is complete.
- 2.7.2 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

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

2.9 Waste Services

We are well underway for the introduction of weekly recycling and food waste collections that are due to commence in July 2026.

Key milestones to date are as follows:

- 2.9.1 Food waste vehicles have been procured and scheduled to arrive in January/February 2026.
- 2.9.2 We have procured the additional recycling vehicles and currently working through the legal process with a view of receiving these trucks in spring 2026.
- 2.9.3 We have recruited 6 additional alley cleansing operatives and have 5 of these members of staff in post. A new point of contact in Glen Pinnegar is leading on the alley cleansing programme.
- 2.9.4 We are about to launch a new campaign internally to upskill staff within the organisation to and obtain their HGV licence through an apprenticeship programme. This is to contribute towards mitigating the risk of the skills shortage for when we recruit new drivers in 2026 for the new collection rounds.
- 2.9.5 We are in the process of rolling out a complete bin replacement programme for North Ormesby where all wheeled bins will be replaced for new containers. All bins will have steel lids and will go some way to reducing some of the pest and environmental waste issues reported to us regularly. On completion of this work, we will be moving into the Newport area and Central area to undertake further replacements with the remaining stock we have.
- 2.9.6 We have procured a provider to deliver our food waste caddies and new paper cardboard recycling bins and this work will start in April 2026. A full communications plan is being developed, and this will be reported on closer to the time to notify residents of what changes are coming and when to expect delivery of their new receptacles.

2.10 Area Care

- 2.10.1 Area Care are continuing with our Summer Grass Cutting Program with the hire of the additional 4 front deck ride on rotary cutters. We are also continuing weed spraying on quad bikes and backpack sprayers.
- 2.10.2 We are addressing some of the overhanging trees across the Borough and a planned program of tree removal and pruning is continuing in Pallister Park.
- 2.10.3 Area Care were involved with clean up and branch removal during and after Storm Floris. The team were called out 31 times over a 2-day period.
- 2.10.4 The 16 Neighbourhood Caretakers have now been placed in their allocated areas across the Borough and are being put to work in a variety of tasks which include, painting of street furniture, strimming, pruning, litter picking and other duties that improve the town.

2.11 Transport Planning and Road Safety

- 2.11.1 Linthorpe Road Cycleway removal
- Pre-start arrangements continue, with anticipated commencement for removal on August 26th.
- 2.11.2 Newport Road sustainable transport corridor
- Detailed design nearing conclusion.
 - Early contractor engagement.
- 2.11.3 Travel planning
- We are working with James Cook University Hospital to identify solutions to parking issues. These include promoting alternate existing modes, identifying demand for shuttle/supported public transport services and other key information dissemination.
- 2.11.4 Road Safety
- On-going liaison with Cleveland Casualty Reduction Group.
 - Focus on College/University events to engage target audiences at freshers' week/re-start term.
- 2.11.5 School Crossing Patrols
- Several casual employees have been recruited who will be able to cover sickness at short notice, reducing the number of crossings un-patrolled for the coming school year.
 - Refresher training for all colleagues scheduled September in advance of schools returning.