

EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Ian Blades - Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

DATE OF MEETING: 15 October 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

- *Neighbourhoods*
- *Neighbourhood Safety*
- *Community Cohesion*

Update:

This report highlights some of the initiatives and success of the past month.

1. HIGHLIGHTS

Update:

Great Work Wardens

1.1 I want to recognise the heroism and bravery of our wardens after helping to tackle a knife-wielding man in a terrifying town centre incident last month. I join Mayor Chris Cooke in praising their courage and professionalism as they responded to events that were captured on CCTV. Their quick thinking actions helped to bring a swift end to the incident preventing anyone from being hurt until police arrived. Well done and thank you!

Central Library is open!

1.2 I am delighted to say that the much-loved Central Library has reopened after a 20-month major overhaul. The refurbishment of the Grade II-listed building on Centre Square followed a successful bid to the Government's Cultural Development Fund. The improvements are part of a £1.9m project, funded by the Arts Council, the Future High Streets Fund and Middlesbrough Council and include a full redesign of the main ground floor area to create a children's library with play areas and family facilities.

1.3 This fantastic refurbishment has given this wonderful building a whole new lease of life, while retaining the stunning features which keep people coming back throughout their lives. These improvements will stand it in good stead for the next century and beyond, helping future generations develop a life-long love of books and creativity. I'm enormously grateful to the Arts Council for helping to make this possible – countless lives will be enriched as a result, and that is simply priceless.



East Middlesbrough

Neighbourhood Caretakers

1.4 Our newly appointed caretakers have been extremely busy in their first couple of months whilst undergoing all of their required training they have been involved in the following projects over the last few weeks;

- Installed signage on every alley gate in North Ormesby to help tackle fly-tipping.
- Cleaned up and cut back lots of overgrown shubbery on Esk Street, North Ormesby
- Removal of broken glass and waste at Colmore Avenue, Thorntree.
- We identified lots of offensive graffiti on an electricity station on Ormesby Road. We took immediate action to remove this
- Cut back overgrown bushes and reduce the risk of the resident's properties suffering from fire damage in Berwick Hills
- Removing overgrown weeds in Netherfields



South Middlesbrough

Hemlington Library and Community Hub

1.5 Tai Chi sessions with the Elmstone Gardens Community Group. Keeping the community active. All participants really enjoyed the sessions and requested for them to be repeated weekly.

Community Meetings

1.6 I attended Nunthorpe Parish Council and Marton West community council, and I'd like to thank them for the warm welcome. I would also be more than happy to try to attend other community groups on request so please get in touch with me if you would like me to attend your community group and I will do my best to attend.

Neighbourhood Caretakers

1.7 South Middlesbrough Neighbourhood caretakers have already made a huge difference to the area. They have carried out projects in all wards with residents coming to speak to

them and thanking them for their efforts. Tidying Lingfield Play area Coulby Newham and Hemlington Lake.



West Middlesbrough

Great Work Wardens

1.8 Wardens responded to an unconscious male on Marton Road, where they administered first aid and got him an ambulance to ensure he was safe. The male had overdosed therefore wardens administered naloxone whilst waiting on ambulance to arrive.