

EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Peter Gavigan - Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability

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

- *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:

I had the pleasure of attending the Tees Valley Nature Partnership, Nature Conference 2025 at Ormesby Hall on 26th September.

2. THE TIME AHEAD

Update:

Preparations for the introduction of Simpler Recycling and Weekly Food Waste collection continue to progress.

2.1 Traffic Signals/UTMC

Traffic Signal Junction upgrades 2025/26:

- Awaiting designs for 25/26 schemes.
- Work started in September at Acklam Road/Levick Crescent to upgrade puffin crossing point.

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: 4 of the planned 13 schemes.
- Footway Works complete so far: 7 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 now been completed and the temporary vehicle restraint system is now in place. The works were 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.

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 have put together a specification for a works programme to the bridges at Cannon Park Interchange (Newport Roundabout), Hartington Interchange, and All Saints Viaduct. Once approved we can begin to engage and procure contractors for design plans and works.

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.

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. The start date for the works to commence is now January 2026.

2.3.10 Linby & Belle Vue Footbridges

Work includes: 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 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

Surface dressing schemes at Stokesley Road, Coulby Newham, and Brass Castle Lane are now complete. The lining will be installed when the new carriageway surface allows.

The micro asphalt contract has been awarded, and we are currently undertaking the necessary procurement processes and legal contract stage with works to start as soon as practicably possible.

The main 2025-26 resurfacing contract is in the tender process with the remainder of Glendale Road and the associated traffic calming is programmed to take place as part of the 2025-26 works. 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.

A full list of resurfacing schemes is published on the Councils website and is available via the following link: <https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/media/hh2hn2ch/highway-infrastructure-maintenance-plan-sept20.pdf>

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

The Gully Cleansing Programmes has been implemented, and we continue to work through the Gullies in line with this programme's schedules. 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. We are currently looking at the potential impact of surface water in the Marton East Ward.

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

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 along with payments. 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.

We have commenced the annual test/inspect/repair on our Christmas motifs and garlands in preparation for installation in October.

2.9 Waste Services

We are well underway with our plans for weekly food collections and getting ready to go live for July 2026.

We have procured the following services:

- Paper Cardboard Bins
- Food Caddies
- All food waste caddies are here, and the distribution centre is established at a new unit in Cannon Park.
- First meeting with the distribution company has commenced and we are underway with planning the delivery routes that will be shared with members and the public as soon as possible.
- All the container style bins in North Ormesby have now been replaced with full steel lidded bins.
- The new rounds for collections of food waste and recycling paper cardboard have been developed. Again, this will be shared with the public and members as soon as possible.
- Food waste vehicles and recycling vehicles fully procured.

2.10 Area Care

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.

A66 Sunday closure maintenance works have now commenced across the town.

Area Care have also commenced with some winter schedule works regarding hedge cutting across the town and will continue until completed.

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

- Removal work has commenced and making good progress.

2.11.2 Newport Road sustainable transport corridor

- Detailed design nearing conclusion
- Early contractor engagement

2.11.3 Longlands Road cycleway

- Scheme on hold, to re-commence upon discussions with TVCA
- On-going design works

2.11.4 Capital Programme

- Commencing with consultations for schemes
- New Civils team are supporting where practicable

2.11.5 Travel planning

Working with James Cook University Hospital to identify solutions to their parking issues. These include promoting alternate existing modes, identifying demand for shuttle/supported public transport services and other key information dissemination

2.11.6 Road Safety

- On-going liaison with Cleveland Casualty Reduction Group
- Attended promotion events at Middlesbrough College and Teesside University freshers fayre

2.11.7 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 delivered for all colleagues in September