

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Ian Blades – Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

DATE OF MEETING: 26 November 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

1. HIGHLIGHTS

Update:

Bonfire Night

- 1.1 As always in the lead up to Halloween and Bonfire Night, the Neighbourhood teams across Middlesbrough have been working with internal and external partners such as, colleagues across environment and community services, Thirteen Housing, Fire Service, Police and our amazing community who did lots of work in the lead up to the night's that typically cause issues and again on mornings that require clean up.
- 1.2 In total we had 59 bonfires across Middlesbrough, some large, some small. All will need clearing and the teams have been busy assessing them and planning the clear up. The Fire service advised us that the fire sites themselves are toxic and should not be touched for 2 weeks. You will have notices that the teams have been conducting litter picks and clearing any debris around the surrounding areas and they will not be starting the clear up programme until the 2 weeks are up and it is safe for staff to begin the work. Some of the larger sites will need heavy machinery and then will need to be followed up with grass seeding etc. this will all be planned in as part of the programme.
- 1.3 The newly appointed Community Development Officers have been out in the community getting to know key community members and supporting residents to develop community projects. They aim to support residents who do amazing work and help them to access what they need to do even more. They can also help people who might be thinking of getting involved in something. If you know of someone who wants to get involved in a community project, you can direct them to their local library or community hub and they will help link them up to the team.

East Middlesbrough Community Engagement

- 1.4 The amazing work our communities do is shown below when an art project brings neighbours together to transform alleyway.
- 1.5 The once-neglected alleyway in North Ormesby has been transformed into a colourful community space thanks to the creativity and hard work of local residents. Families living on Beaumont Road, Peaton Street and Edward Street had long faced problems with fly-tipping behind their homes. But over the summer, neighbours came together to clean up the space, design murals and share ideas for how the alley could be brought back to life.
- 1.6 On Halloween, neighbours gathered in the alleyway. Now complete with murals, planters and seating. To celebrate everything they had achieved together.
- 1.7 Families shared food including the Kurdish delicacy kuba, prepared by Rezhna who moved to the UK just over a year ago from the city of Ranya in Kurdistan, where she worked as an art supervisor. Rezhna became involved after meeting JoJo – their children attend school together - and said taking part in the project helped her feel settled and welcomed in North Ormesby.
- 1.8 The Neighbourhood Development Officer based at the nearby North Ormesby Hub, visited with community development officers Darren Daniels and Jessica Taylor and praised what residents had achieved. He said: “It’s fantastic to see the work that’s gone on here. This is a community coming together and taking ownership of where they live. We’ve supported residents where we can, but they deserve the credit.”



Enforcement

- 1.9 Middlesbrough Council’s East Neighbourhood team led efforts to obtain a court-backed Closure Order to shut down a property on Elkington Walk in Netherfields for three months. The property had been linked with serious wrongdoing including suspected drug dealing, fighting with weapons and off-road motorbikes.
- 1.10 This closure sends a clear message that Middlesbrough Council and our neighbourhood officers will always stand beside the vast majority of decent residents who simply want to live their lives in peace.
- 1.11 The behaviour linked to this property was unacceptable and has blighted the community for far too long and I commend our neighbourhood officers, Cleveland

Police and other partner agencies for their hard work. We just will not tolerate behaviour that undermines our neighbourhoods or makes life a misery for others.

South Middlesbrough

- 1.12 Partner organisations and local councillors came together to give the Viewley Centre a clean and tidy up, LINX youth group completed litter picks and Neighbourhood Caretakers cut back bushes and painted railings, weeding and cleaned litter bins. The community are looking forward to introducing some hanging baskets and developing a memorial garden in the Viewley Centre in the New Year.



- 1.13 The Neighbourhood team have also been working with communities to respond to issues in other areas across the locality including dealing with fly tipping in Marton East, arranging for dog fouling signs to be erected in Pheonix Park, Hemlington and the Removal of Untaxed Vehicles in Coulby Newham.



North Middlesbrough

- 1.14 The consultation for extending the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in the TS1 area concluded and the report was approved at Executive on 12th November 2025. This means that the order has been extended for a further 3 years. The team are now looking at other areas across Middlesbrough that might benefit from a PSPO and I will update you with a further report in due course.

Enforcement

- 1.15 Three people have been banned from Middlesbrough town centre by Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) due to persistent begging and related issues. The orders, prohibit them from begging, sitting on the floor outside licensed premises, or causing public nuisance, and the latest two-year ban was given to one of them who regularly used drugs in public, caused a nuisance by begging for money and had been verbally abusive to Council staff.
- 1.16 This latest order bans him from entering the shopping area of Middlesbrough town centre and from begging or sitting on the floor outside licensed premises, food outlets or cash machines. Disobeying the order is a criminal offence and can lead to a prison sentence.
- 1.17 This sort of behaviour can blight the town centre and our officers work incredibly hard, alongside Cleveland Police and other partners, to stamp it out. We will do everything we can to help those in need access the necessary support, and obtaining this type of order is always a last resort. But when the behaviour is persistent, we will waste no time in taking firm and robust action.
- 1.18 I want to commend everyone involved in securing these orders – including the efforts of those neighbourhood officers who work tirelessly to improve our town centre for all in Middlesbrough.

Neighbourhood Caretakers

- 1.19 Neighbourhood Caretakers are making a real impact in north Middlesbrough with a programme of repairs and refurbishment work being carried out at parks and open spaces. They trimmed back trees and bushes, fixed fencing and painted railings and street furniture to completely refresh the play park at Outram Street in Newport before moving onto the park on Saltwells Road.



West Middlesbrough

- 1.20 Neighbourhood Caretakers worked with, Community Payback and Community Champions who cleared a Memorial Park on Acklam Road. All grass edging and bushes were cut back due to reports of antisocial behaviour in the area. This allowed the Community Champion volunteers to plant daffodils which will be a lovely burst of colour in Spring when in bloom.



1.21 In Easterside the Neighbourhoods Caretakers have been busy clearing alley ways and grassed areas making a big difference to the local community. Residents have commented how well the areas they have attended are looking to the rear of Brettenham Ave residents reported that they could not use the alley due to overhanging bushes from private properties with dog fouling and weeds being left to grow. The pictures below show the before and after results.

