

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL**

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** 14 January 2026

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 With the Mayor, I attended the Christmas Open Event at Newham Grange Farm on 5<sup>th</sup> December.
- 1.2 On 18<sup>th</sup> December, I visited St. Josephs Catholic Primary School on Marton Road on the occasion of the retirement of two of our School Patrol Officers, Thelma Ingham and Vanessa Hoare, who have served the local community wonderfully in all weathers for many years. I am happy to pay tribute to them and to all who fulfil this vital role.
- 1.3 I attended a site visit on Bracken Grange with a council officer and ward councillors, Dorothy Davison and Jason McConnell on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

## **2. THE TIME AHEAD**

#### **Update:**

### ***Transport Planning and Road Safety***

#### ***2.1 Traffic Signals/UTMC***

Traffic Signal Junction upgrades 2025/26:

- All complete, however Albert Rd / Corporation Rd due in shortly via Yunex Traffic to complete this year

Pedestrian crossing upgrades 2025/26:

- CFL / Leamington Grove - Complete and switched on 5/11/25
- Ormesby Rd / TAD Centre – Complete and switched on 27/11/25
- Ormesby Rd / Kelvin Grove – Complete and switched on 18/11/25
- Southfield Rd / Abingdon Rd Due this financial year – ON GOING, awaiting NPG transfer
- Stokesley Rd / Laurel Rd - Due this financial year
- CFL / B1380 - Due this year
- Ormesby Rd / Crossfell Rd - Due this year
- CFL/Ruth Avenue – Due this year

## **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 are **8** of the planned 13 schemes.

Footway Works complete so far are **12** 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 engaged early with a civil engineering contractor to undertake the necessary works. A suitable repair may take several months. A contract is now in place, and we are looking at the design options/design work stage for the structure.

### **2.3.2 Transporter Bridge**

Preliminary design of the repair and strengthening works is progressing. The council is currently tendering for a contractor to provide ECI (early contractor involvement) services to support this process and provide a refined cost estimate for the works. It is expected that they will be appointed in January, with completion of preliminary design works in Q2 of 2026. Clarification of funding streams available for the detailed design phase is required to prevent project delay.

### **2.3.3 Newport Approach Road Bridge & Structures**

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.

### ***2.3.4 Principal and General Bridge Inspections***

We are awaiting the final reports on the A66 Station Viaduct and are carrying out checks on all of the submitted reports.

### ***2.3.5 Longlands Road overbridge***

We are awaiting the structural assessment report which is imminent. The outcome of the report will inform on the current 7.5 tonne weight restriction. Major works are likely to be programmed for 2026/27 subject to the necessary funding being in place.

### ***2.3.6 A66 Structures***

A tender was published on 11th December for a works programme to the A66 bridges at Cannon Park Interchange (Newport Roundabout), Hartington Interchange, and All Saints Viaduct. The award of contract is due in the 2nd week of March, with works on the abnormal loads assessments and options reports beginning once the contract is agreed. The programme will take place over three years. Year 1 2026-27 will see abnormal loads assessments and options reports for the works. Year 2 2027-28 will be the design phase, and Year 3 2028-29 will be the construction phase.

### ***2.3.7 A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge (A172 Stokesley Rd, Marton)***

The A174 Marton Interchange's forthcoming works include replacing the bridge deck joints, re-waterproofing and resurfacing; concrete repairs to the abutments; and alterations to the footways and installation of suicide prevention parapets.

Work has been delayed due to contractual reasons; however, a new draft programme has been released. Esh Construction Ltd are currently undertaking background preparation with work due to start on site on 2nd March 2026. The works are expected to be completed by the beginning of September 2026. A 1st press release will be published in mid-January, with follow-up press releases and local letter drops to nearby affected residents approaching the start day.

The bridge deck works make it necessary to close sections of the road. A contraflow system with single two-way lanes will be in operation over the bridge for the duration of the scheme to ensure the continuation of north south traffic flows and avoiding lengthy diversions for residents and customers using Stokesley Rd. Turning restrictions onto and exiting the A174's slip roads will be necessary with affected traffic being diverted through local diversion routes. Left turning exiting from the A174 will be maintained.

### ***2.3.8 Linby & Belle Vue Footbridges***

Painting; installation of suicide prevention parapets/cages; structural repairs to piers and decks; new bearings; concrete repairs; other repairs; and install lighting. Ground investigation works are currently underway with a report due in January, this will feed into the final design stage, which is coming to a close. The next stage is to undertake the works. This work will progress after year 2025/26.

### **2.3.9 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 – no further update.

### **2.4 Carriageways**

2.4.1 The main resurfacing of the classified and unclassified roads started on 1st of December 2025. The first two weeks schemes have been published on the weekly road works report and are well underway. We have a programme in place for the full set of schemes due to complete at the end of March.

2.4.2 Completed schemes to date include: Marton East – Beeches Rise, Bramley Grove, Chestnut Drive, Cloverwood Close, Hawthorn Crescent, and Tasmania Square; Hemlington – Earls Court Road; Coulby Newham – Fernwood red cul-de-sacs; Trimdon – Hesleden Ave and Wigton Sands.

2.4.3 Schemes due to start for completion before the Christmas Break are: Nunthorpe – Towthorpe; Marton East – The Grove, and Marton Avenue; Newport – Tennyson St; Central – Granville Rd, and Laura St.

2.4.4 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.

2.4.5 A 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.

2.4.6 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.

2.4.7 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> 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**

Following the implementation of the Gully Cleansing Programmes 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 working through historical information to update our records to enable the assessment of the potential impact of surface water and risk of flooding.

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 2026.

## ***2.7 Highway Licences***

Work continues to make more applications available online along with payments. Following the migration of highway licence management to our updated Asset Management Software System we are looking to expand its use and recording of historic information.

## ***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 Environmental Enforcement***

***All information within this report relates to activity between 1/11/2025 – 30/11/2025***

2.9.1 Middlesbrough Council Environmental Enforcement Officers are responsible for investigating all matters of environmental crime. This includes Fly Tipping, Littering, Waste Presentation at both domestic and commercial premises. The team are also responsible for responding to enforcement of untaxed and abandoned vehicles, stray dogs and matters relating to repairing or selling vehicles on a highway. The team when at full capacity has 8 x Environmental Enforcement Officers 1 x Senior officer 5 x Area Care Operatives that form the flying squad. We have 4 x Pest Control Technicians and a Central administrative team that assists with allocation of service requests, invoicing, release of untaxed and abandoned vehicles and taking calls from the public relating to our service area.

2.9.2 In the month of October, the team investigated a total of **774 service requests**. These requests were made up of **595 waste related, 97 vehicles related, 56 Dog related (32 stray reports) and 26 Pest control related**.

In comparison to the same period for 2024 it has seen an overall increase of **134 reports** to the service.

Actions:

- 7 stray dogs recovered and returned to owners and 4 dogs taken to the kennels from the 32 reports.
- 16 vehicles seized for being either untaxed or abandoned.

- 5 Fixed penalty notice issued for commercial, household duty of care and fly tipping offences.
- 2 Commercial duty of care inspections undertaken, and notices served for businesses to provide waste transfer notes.
- 2 case files prepared and passed to legal for review.

2.9.3 On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025 the on duty stray dog warden received a call from a local veterinary practice that 6 puppies had been abandoned in a “bag for life” in an alley way, central Middlesbrough area. The puppies where only approximately 3 days old and needed 24 hour care from the vets in hope to keep them alive, in the meantime the Environmental Enforcement Team undertook an intense investigation and located the owners of the puppies, this matter was referred to an inspector at the RSPCA and we located a charity based in Lincolnshire who were keen to care of the pups, the following day a charity from Lincolnshire met the team that had transported the pups to Leeds for hand over. Although given the awful circumstance around the report, the team dealt with this professionally and swiftly to ensure the safety of the pups. The team get regular updates from the charity and have confirmed that they are all doing well. (Photos below).



2.9.4 On 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025 the Environmental Enforcement Team worked in Partnership with Trading Standards and Cleveland Police in regard to an untaxed vehicle on Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, linked to storing illicit tabaco and vapes. The vehicle was successfully recovered for no tax and subsequently a fair quantity of illegal tabaco was recovered from the vehicle.



## **2.10 Waste Services**

The introduction of food waste collections and weekly recycling are due to commence in July 2026. Leading up to this we have a busy delivery operation delivering food caddies, liners and paper and card recycling bins commencing in March 2026.

All the rounds are built and have been uploaded to our collections system ready for testing in the new year. As we get closer to going live with collections residents will be able to see their new collections on the resident calendar on our website.

Member briefings will start to take place in January around simpler recycling legislation and the impact this is going to have on residents within Middlesbrough.

We are about to conclude further collections of the old garden waste bins following on from the work undertaken in 2024. As of Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, all logs for collection of the old garden diamond waste bin will be complete.

## **2.11 Area Care**

Area Care Tree staff were on standby during the last storm and were called out during the night to attend to a tree that had come down across the road.

We are continuing on with our Winter Maintenance Program for shrubs and trees across the borough

We also have a tree contractor pruning the trees along Marton Burn Road to prevent damage to the properties and to minimise damage to vehicles.

## **2.12 Transport Planning and Road Safety**

### **2.12.1 Linthorpe Road Cycleway removal**

- Good progress made, awaiting decision to implement further design to retain safety features

### **2.12.2 Newport Road sustainable transport corridor**

- Aiming to commence delivery in early 2026

### **2.12.3 Green Lane Sustainable transport corridor**

- Design on-going

### **2.12.4 Marton Road Sustainable transport corridor**

- Design on-going
- To consult in early 2026

### **2.12.5 Capital Programme**

- **Ellis Gardens footway connections** – Completed; awaiting topsoil.
- **Stainton Way cycleway**– Works ongoing until **24 Dec 2025**; lights will be removed and reinstated on **05 Jan 2026**. Proposed completion: **28 Feb 2026**.
- **Ormesby Beck Cycleway** – Design complete; consultation starts **week commencing 22 Dec 2025**.
- **Valley Rd Traffic Calming** – Works scheduled to commence **Jan 2026**.
- **Hollyhurst / Holmwood Ave** – Bus shelter ordered; works to begin upon delivery

### **2.13 Road Safety**

- Campaigns delivered in schools/wider public surrounding Winter driving, darker nights, seatbelt awareness and Drink and drug driving, plus legalities of electric bikes/e-scooters on the run up to Christmas
- Brake Road Safety Week in November delivered 'Safer vehicles save lives' – delivered in all Middlesbrough schools. They attended the Christmas light switch on with a pop up stall - 'Be bright be seen' was the message with giveaways and support from the road safety mascot - 'Safety Squirrel'.
- Supported partners with their events, eg Sustrans 'Xmas Bike Build' day with messaging around riding safely and highlighting importance of visibility.
- Supported schools 'Junior Road Safety Officers' - currently working with Linthorpe Primary to launch a campaign in February around wearing seatbelts.

#### **2.13.1 School Crossing Patrols:**

- Recruitment ongoing.
- Business as usual - enforcement car continues to patrol areas at school times (can automatically issue tickets to drivers parked on zig zag lines)