

EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Ian Blades - Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

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

- Neighbourhoods
- Neighbourhood Safety
- Community Cohesion

1. HIGHLIGHTS

Update:

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

North Middlesbrough

Enforcement

1.1 We received a favourable court outcome during November 2025. On the 11th and 25th of November 2025 we successfully prosecuted for the offences of breaching the Public Space Protection Order specifically section 1.1 for urinating in a public place and 1.3 for refusing to surrender/drinking alcohol from an open container. These offences took place in Park Road North and Union Street.

Community Engagement

Bishop's Boro Big Breakfast

1.2 Neighbourhood Development Manager recently attended the Bishop of Whitby's Boro Big Breakfast. She was invited to be part of the interview panel accompanying the Mayor of Middlesbrough, where over 80 community leaders from across Middlesbrough came together for support and encouragement, with space to share ideas that serve our town and think about further development of partnerships.

1.3 Attendees included people from politics and civic life, charities, healthcare, education, emergency services, businesses and faith leaders and the panel discussed issues relating to deprivation and poverty.



1.4 Give a Coat a Home – on November 6th the neighbourhood team held a warm clothing event in the hub. This was for people to come along who were struggling to afford warm clothing this winter. Around 100 people attended to collect clothing. We were very thankful for the amount of clothing donations we received. Many came in from residents, local schools, colleges and it included donations from elected members from all sides. Thank you! Around $\frac{3}{4}$ of the clothing was collected by those in need. 30 bags were then taken over to North Ormesby Hub for a similar event in December.



East Middlesbrough

One year on – Project Orme

1.5 The first anniversary of a multi-agency initiative to tackle organised crime and improve the lives of residents in East Middlesbrough has shown drops in crime across the area.

1.6 Figures show that over twelve months (November 2024 to November 2025), there has been an 11% drop in total crime in the area, which equates to 556 less victims of crime.

1.7 Project Orme has also seen a 15.5% drop in reports of violence offences in the area. Officers carried out 242 stop searches of people in the area in the twelve months from November 2024 to November 2025. They also arrested 58 people and charged 20 of those. 2,000 individual deals of drugs including cocaine, heroin and cannabis were recovered, as well as 14 weapons and £22,175 in cash.

Enforcement

1.8 The Neighbourhood team have issued 4 CPW'S (Community Protection Warnings) for begging and antisocial behaviour in and around Morrisons/Neptune area in December.

They have also made 22 referrals to our new Neighbourhood Navigators to support a couple of people in the community who have reached out for support so that we can help them to make positive changes.

House closures

1.9A second property has been shut down on Elkington Walk in Netherfields after persistent crime and anti-social behaviour tormented those living nearby. The flat was closed after officers from the Council's Neighbourhood team applied for a court order, working with Cleveland Police and Thirteen housing.



1.10 The flat had become a hotspot linked to suspected drug dealing, serious violence and off-road motorbikes. Much of the nuisance was captured on council CCTV cameras. Looking ahead, the team are working with legal on a house closure application for another address in Berwick Hills after a drugs warrant was executed by Police at the address and two people were arrested for drug offences. I will keep you updated.

South Middlesbrough

Neighbourhood Caretakers

1.11 Our Neighbourhood Caretakers have been spending their time clearing and generally tidying all areas. Clevegate and Nunthorpe area was saturated with leaves causing a walking hazard for residents in the wet weather so the Neighbourhood Caretakers have been working hard to clear the area.



Spreading Christmas Cheer

- 1.12 The Neighbourhood team in the south joined forces with the Linx Youth Project at Hemlington Community Living Room to create beautiful Christmas hampers. Together, they rolled up their sleeves to put the hampers together for local families who had been nominated to receive a little extra joy this season.
- 1.13 The team also helped wrap gifts for children who attend Linx youth groups. Thanks to everyone involved for showing the true spirit of community and kindness over the festive season



- 1.14 The Neighbourhood team also continue to work alongside Tees Valley Together to deliver Warm Wednesdays at the community living room at Hemlington, creating a welcoming environment where residents can access a safe, warm space throughout the year. Something evermore important in the winter months.



Community Safety Event

- 1.15 Marton Community Centre hosted a Community Safety Event on 7th November where residents could access a range of free personal safety and crime prevention products and get advice and guidance on reporting crime, anti-social behaviour and how to become a member of Neighbourhood Watch schemes.



West Middlesbrough

Community Development

- 1.16 Christmas Workshop at Easterside Community Hub and Library which the attendees loved. They created a Christmas tree and a reindeer from willow branches and had a great time.
- 1.17 Bring it on Boro activities took place throughout December providing activities for young people 4 hours per day along with a free hot meal.



- 1.18 Acklam Library and Community Hub held a very popular blood pressure check service with ten people stopping to get their BP checked and discuss lifestyle changes. Of course, they picked up a book too!
- 1.19 The Community Development Workers supported outreach events at Easterside Hub, Acklam Library and the Acklam Green Centre where residents received advice on how to keep their properties and neighbourhoods safe, as well as offering them the opportunity to request home protection equipment such as video doorbells and cameras.
- 1.20 The Neighbourhood team's Community Development workers have been busy working with a new group, helping them to become a constituted group, and they are now known as "Easterside Wellbeing Community Group". As part of their wellbeing, they have set up a weekly brisk walk around Stewarts Park taking place every Wednesday morning followed by a warm drink back at the Hub. To add to this, they will also be doing a keep fit dance session. Supporting the setup of the constitution gives the group the opportunity to apply for funding they would otherwise not have qualified for and enables them to take control of their own activities and outcomes.

Community Caretakers

- 1.21 Community Caretakers completed the refresh of Broughton Ave shops. The area was looking very tired. They completed a full paint of the area. Residents have commented on how tidy it now looks.

