

Councillor Dennis McCabe

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
Wednesday 24th March 2021**

STRATEGIC

The Tree City Status (Tree Cities of the World Recognition)

1. World Tree City status recognises Middlesbrough as one of only 120 cities in the world and 11 in the UK, to hold the accolade, and as such it is a recognition of a commitment to ensuring urban woods and trees are properly maintained and sustainably managed. Tree Cities of the world is a programme of the United Nations Food and Agriculture division and the Arbour day foundation.



2. It celebrates the Council and communities passion about trees and demonstrates that we are committing to creating a healthier environment for the residents of Middlesbrough to generate and instil a level of pride and to be able to feel good about their own local space and become involved in tree care and planting schemes.
3. By the end of March the Council and its communities will have planted over 15,000 new trees in the last 18 months.

Middlesbrough Food Partnership

4. The Middlesbrough Food Partnership is developing a comprehensive healthy, sustainable and affordable food system and is recognised nationally for their achievements. Middlesbrough became the first location to progress from the Sustainable Food Places Bronze award to the highly prestigious Silver Award and is now bidding to become a Gold Award holder. Key areas of focus for Middlesbrough's 2022 Gold plan include tackling food poverty and food insecurity and embedding sustainable food in policies and strategies.
5. The work of the Food Partnership delivered through the Food Action Plan 2020-22 is central to Middlesbrough being at the forefront of tackling the climate emergency through food and the Partnership is leading on the Sustainable Food theme of Middlesbrough's Green Strategy.
6. The Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration brings together an international coalition of organisations to speak with a united voice about their commitment to develop sustainable food policies, and Mayor Andy Preston and Middlesbrough became one of the first cities in the world to sign this declaration. This provides the springboard to make important changes that will benefit Middlesbrough now and in the future.

7. The Middlesbrough Food Power Alliance (a sub-group of the Food Partnership) has developed a comprehensive response to the food challenges caused by COVID. Key to this are Eco Shops – an asset based resilient model of pop-up social supermarkets providing access to affordable food (10 items of good quality surplus food for £2). Middlesbrough has 16 Eco Shops redistributing over 1.5 tonnes of surplus food a week. To bridge the gap by the temporary closure of Eco Shops, MEC developed the Virtual Eco Shop that delivers 10 items to the doorstep, all for £2. The Food Partnership are working in with FareShare NE to establish a surplus food redistribution hub in Middlesbrough and have secured funding to do this. This will open by May 2021, increasing greater access to affordable food for the people of the Tees Valley.

Street Lighting

8. The LED installations are scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2021. Following completion of the LED installations, the planned column replacement works will resume and include 300 street lighting columns to be replaced by the end of March 2022.

Streetworks

9. Discussions are ongoing with City Fibre to manage the planned 38 month project to install a fibre to home network across Middlesbrough as part of a works programme to create a third national fibre network. The national scope of the project is to connect 8 million premises, which is 30% of UK households, with investment planned at £4bn. Middlesbrough is included in the 3rd wave of the project with major works planned to start in May 2021, and the plan is to provide fibre connectivity to 83,000 homes.

Traffic Signals/UTMC

10. The new Urban Traffic Management Control and Urban Traffic Control system development is progressing well with Siemens carrying out the works to have the new system in place. TCF funding is available to expand our UTMC assets across the Tees Valley, with the UTMC manager currently working with 'Fore Consulting' to develop an asset plan for hardware type and location (Variable Message Signs, CCTV, Automatic Number Plate Recognition, Air Quality, Traffic Counting, Weather monitoring etc.)

Highways Projects

11. Although the progress with the planned capital verge and footway scheme works has been significantly delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Planned Highways team are currently working to having the 2020/21 works programme of scheme works completed prior to April 2021.

Location	Scheme
Albert Road	Tree Pits
Guisborough Road.	Renew Footpath
Hesleden Avenue (Phase 3)	Renew Footpath
Deighton Road.	Renew Footpath and Kerbs
Branksome Avenue.	Renew Footpath and Carriageway
Fulbeck Road	Verge Works
Bridge street west	Renew Footpath, road widening and Traffic Signals
Trimdon Avenue	Renew Footpath
Runswick Avenue	Renew Footpath
Welland close	Renew Footpath
Somerby Terrace	Renew Footpath
Malvern Drive	Renew Footpath
Hartington Interchange.	Traffic Signals
Kings road/West Terrace/Cromwell	Pedestrian Crossing
Woodlands Road	Renew Footpath
Ayresome Green Lane	Renew Footpath
Birkhall Road	Verge Works
Roman Road/Cambridge Road.	Renew Footpath
Acklam Road/Burlam Road.	Renew Footpath
Mulgrave Road.	Renew Footpath
Faverdale Avenue.	Renew Footpath
Meadfoot Drive	Renew Footpath
Low Lane.	Cycleway and Toucan Crossing
Ladgate Lane.	Cycleway
Riverside.	New Footpath/cycleway
Sotherby road	Renew Footpath
Meath street	Renew Footpath and pedestrian crossings
Rainsford Crecent	Verge Works
Crossfell Road	Verge Works
Overdale Road	Verge Works

INVOLEMENT AND PROMOTION

Green Waste

12. Starting fortnightly collections from Tuesday 6th April until Friday 1st October 2021, and then a monthly collection for October and November. New collection calendars which will include green waste collection dates will be available online by the end of March for residents to download or request a copy from the Contact Centre.
13. In order to increase recycling levels across Middlesbrough the council will start an enhanced education process in respect of recycling. To enable Middlesbrough Council to improve recycling we need to change resident's behaviours/attitudes towards recycling.

Key milestones are to be incorporated into the plan are:

- Develop a communications and marketing plan – By June 2021
- Develop an education plan to raise awareness of recycling across Middlesbrough – By June 2021
- Develop a plan to work with education establishments – Commencing July 2021
- Begin working with schools on Waste Minimisation and Recycling – Commencing September 2021
- To have an active schools environmental sustainability programme with all schools by July 2023

The service will embark on a substantial Education and Awareness programme where we would look to work with, the following partners, but not be limited to. We will work with these external stakeholders to assist them in forming relevant/practical solutions to improving their recycling rates

- a. Middlesbrough Schools & Colleges
- b. Teesside University
- c. Social Housing organisations
- d. Middlesbrough Environment City
- e. Local Businesses
- f. Thirteen Housing Group
- g. Community Hubs

To go alongside the education programme we would undertake a comprehensive communications and marketing plan which would include:

- Vehicle side advertising
- Assisting external stakeholders in developing recycling policies/procedures
- Recycling Roadshows (maximising recycling opportunities)
- Good practices on recycling and reducing waste
- Bin tags / stickers
- Social Media Updates
- Website updates
- Press Release / Editorial
- Love Middlesbrough Adverts / Editorial
- Staff Intranet Updates
- Staff Facebook
- Members Briefing