

EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Ian Blades - Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

DATE OF MEETING: 09 September 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. I have focused the updates on the 4 Neighbourhood areas North, East, South and West and this report highlights some of the initiatives and success of the past month.

COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

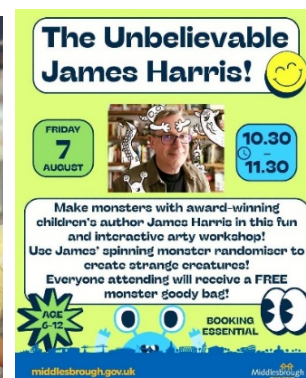
- *Neighbourhoods*
- *Neighbourhood Safety*
- *Community Cohesion*

1. HIGHLIGHTS

Update:

1.1 Summer Activities for children and families across Libraries and Community Hubs over the Summer

- 1.1.1 A diverse programme of activity took place across all libraries and hubs. Events have been fully booked and extremely well attended.
- 1.1.2 Many events are linked to the Summer Reading Challenge, to encourage children to continue reading during the summer break, following the 'Read to the Beat' theme of this year's challenge.
- 1.1.3 Events included music workshops with Musinc, storytelling through music, children aged 4+ got a chance to play musical instruments and a build to the beat Lego session at Acklam.
- 1.1.4 A fun slime workshop took place at Hemlington Library & Hub.



- 1.1.5 At the Central Library on the 7th August, popular author James Harris will run an interactive workshop for children.
- 1.1.6 Acklam Library are also hosting a bedtime story competition – the winners will be invited to a pyjama party at the library.
- 1.1.7 Marton Library hosted a bee morning, to give people a chance to see bees in an observation hive, and a chance to taste their honey, and enjoy bee related crafts.



1.2 Adult activities

- 1.2.1 Marton Library are also hosting a men's group to alleviate loneliness and isolation.
- 1.2.2 The Rekindle Research Group had a packed audience at the "Middlesbrough Revealed" session at Acklam Community Hub and Library on the 31st of July, showcasing photographs of Middlesbrough never seen before.



- 1.2.3 In the month of July 2026 over 6,000 people visited Central Library with over 1,200 adult books, over 2,000 children's books and over 170 teenage books being issued in that month too. Out E-Books are also proving popular with almost 500 being issued in July, almost 400 e-audio books, over 460 e-magazines and almost 550 e-newspapers.
- 1.2.4 When compared to July 25, issue figures for E-materials, show an overall 35.4% increase in July 26. Let's get the message out there... however you like to read, we've got the format for you! Let's get Middlesbrough reading more.

1.3 North Middlesbrough

- 1.3.1 Crime and Antisocial Behaviour:
- 14 Criminal Behaviour Order Obtained
 - 14 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC) issued to young people in partnership with Police
 - Criminal Behaviour Order bundles being prepared for 2 prolific beggars

- 23 Community Protection Notice Warnings (CPW) and 6 Community Protection Notice's issued
- Business engagement in Town Centre and Linthorpe Ward
- Ongoing ABCs, warnings and CPWs in relation to ASB
- 4 Civil Injunction breach/leading on to custodial sentence

1.4 The Potteries – Linthorpe

- 1.4.1 The neighbourhood team have been engaging with residents at The Potteries to help improve the situation at the development of flats. A resident meeting had highlighted concerns and the team worked with the property management company, PCSO's and residents to find a solution to the issues and then worked with the management company to ensure that the solutions were implemented.
- 1.4.2 Door locks needed changing (as some were broken and there had been issues with youths gaining access and causing problems), the bin stores were full of fly tipping and the main gates were broken – the site was unsecure and being used by shoppers and parents during school drop off times.
- 1.4.3 In early August the bin stores have been fixed and all outer door locks changed. Residents have been given new keys. The gates on the bin stores have locks on them with a code (shared with residents and waste teams).



1.5 Middlesbrough Mela 15th/16th August 2026

- 1.5.1 The Neighbourhood Team joined with several of our volunteers to showcase the work of the Middlesbrough North Team, hubs and library provision at Middlesbrough Mela.
- 1.5.2 The stall was supported by The National Literacy Trust who provided books for us to give out to people who came to talk to the team. The weekend was busy, seeing almost 500 people engage with the team.
- 1.5.3 Our volunteers were excellent at completing surveys with those residents from Middlesbrough North and valuable information was gathered. The atmosphere was extremely positive, and we look forward to attending again next year.



1.6 East Middlesbrough

- 1.6.1 Crime and Antisocial Behaviour:

- The Neighbourhood team worked hard to respond to the illegal encampment on Penrith Rd on a playing field which was dealt with swiftly
- Problem property on Kings Road – worked with landlord and the property has been vacated and secured
- During the past month, we have seen a significant reduction in reports of ASB at the Overdale Rd/Sandringham play park area. Encouragingly, there have been no reports of fires or other ASB-related incidents
- Proactive Warden patrols at Norfolk Shops and Morrisons have continued to deliver positive results, with only 3 reports of begging received over the past 6 weeks. Reports of youth-related ASB have also reduced significantly, with several local businesses providing positive feedback about the improvements they have seen in the area
- Involved in Op Artemis with Police – 2 off road bikes and a quad bike seized. VR Knife Crime presentation was delivered to Outwood Ormesby & Lift Academy

1.7 Community Development East

- 1.7.1 As part of the Thorntree Community Action Day, partners came together to deliver a range of activities aimed at improving the local environment and engaging with residents. Children from Thorntree Primary School and Outwood Academy Ormesby took part in a litter-picking event in Thorntree Park, supported by dedicated caretakers who helped inspire the next generation of Junior Caretakers.



- 1.7.2 Community engagement included door knocking on Barrington Crescent, business visits to Beresford Shops, and a multi-agency cohesion pop-up event involving Street Wardens, PCSOs and Youth Focus North East. Thirteen Group carried out garden inspections across the estate, while a community skip, generously provided by Cleveland Fire Brigade, was made available behind Thorntree Cemetery to help residents dispose of unwanted waste. In addition, work was undertaken to clear vegetation along the Black Path at Spencerbeck, helping to improve the appearance and accessibility of the area.



- 1.7.3 Thorntree Primary School Festival - Our Community Cohesion Officers attended the Thorntree Primary School Festival, engaging with pupils and families throughout the event. As part of the activities, officers carried out Pride in Place surveys, encouraging young people to share their views, ideas and aspirations for their local area. The feedback gathered will help inform future community projects and contribute to plans for upcoming investment in Thorntree, ensuring that residents and young people have a voice in shaping improvements within their neighbourhood.



1.8 South Middlesbrough

1.8.1 Crime and Antisocial Behaviour:

- Partnership work is helping to tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental issues across South Middlesbrough
- Extra patrols have taken place around the Parkway Centre following reports of anti-social behaviour and enforcement action has been taken against a number of young people
- One youth has been served an Acceptable Behaviour Contract, which sets out expectations for their future conduct which if broken, can result in further legal action
- Work is progressing to issue civil injunctions - powerful, court-backed orders to deal with those causing antisocial behaviour - to three other youths
- Targeted patrols at Hemlington Lake involving our neighbourhood team, police colleagues and the Environment Agency has also resulted in action being taken against illegal fishing, anti-social behaviour and other offences
- Two £300 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for unlicensed fishing and four warning notices were issued
- And a new Environmental Safety Officer has joined the South Neighbourhood Team to strengthen its response to environmental crime such as fly-tipping and littering. Several cases are now progressing through the courts

1.8.2 Youth Services Expand in Marton:

- Young people in Marton are benefiting from a pledge to bring youth services to every corner of the town
- Dedicated activities for children and young people will be set up in each of the borough's 20 wards as part of the Middlesbrough Childhood Guarantee

- The MFC Foundation's Youth Bus has now launched in Marton to provide regular outreach sessions
- The mobile youth club will visit Marton Community Centre, Stewart Park, the Stokesley Road shopping area and key routes used by young people travelling home from school
- The sessions, which will run through the summer holidays, provide a short-term solution in two areas with little or no youth provision
- Organisations are now being identified to deliver longer-term services in both wards and in other areas of need across Middlesbrough
- The Youth Bus provides young people with a safe place to meet, take part in activities and build positive relationships with experienced youth workers
- Foundation staff engage and gain an understanding of what young people would like to do in their area. The bus can accommodate video game competitions and other activities, depending on the location and attendance level

1.9 Neighbourhood Caretakers South

1.9.1 Working across the area, they contributed to clearing vegetation, removing litter and carrying out maintenance work on the newly reopened 5k and 8k walking and cycling route through Coulby Newham, a project led by Middlesbrough Erimus Rotary Club.

1.9.2 The route links a number of local landmarks including Hemlington Lake, Fairy Dell and Coulby Newham, following a mixture of traffic-free paths and quieter roads.



1.10 West Middlesbrough

1.10.1 Crime and Antisocial Behaviour:

- Three off-road bike warning letters were issued to residents in response to reports and concerns relating to the use of off-road bikes within local neighbourhoods. This included one letter issued in Saltersgill and two letters issued within the Grove Hill/Longlands area. The incidents were reported and shared with Thirteen to ensure they were aware of the concerns and any appropriate tenancy-related actions is also being considered
- A young person identified as being involved in anti-social behaviour within the Grove Hill area has been issued with an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) to address concerns raised and to encourage positive behaviour moving forward. This intervention forms part of ongoing partnership work to tackle anti-social behaviour, support local communities, and improve the quality of life for residents
- In Clairville Common, multiple intelligence forms have been submitted to Cleveland Police regarding individuals riding off-road bikes in and around the area. The information provided has helped to build a clearer picture of the ongoing issues and support enforcement activity
- In response, Cleveland Police have utilised drone technology to assist with monitoring and identifying those involved in the illegal use of off-road bikes. In

addition, the Proactive Team has been carrying out targeted operations and patrols within the area to address the concerns raised by residents. This ongoing partnership approach aims to reduce anti-social behaviour, improve community safety, and provide reassurance to local residents affected by off-road bike activity

1.11 Grove hill community fun day – 10/08/26

1.11.1 The event provided accessible activities for local families while creating valuable opportunities for residents to engage with support services and community organisations in an informal and welcoming environment. It demonstrated strong partnership working and significantly increased the visibility and awareness of local services within the community. Approximately 350 local residents attended, coming together to enjoy a range of free and low-cost activities that promoted community cohesion, wellbeing, and social inclusion.

