

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 24th July 2019

Decisions

1. Bulky Waste Collection

Middlesbrough Mayor, Andy Preston, has announced a three month trial of free bulky waste collections for residents, which began in June.

Offering free collection of bulky waste will remove any barriers stopping residents getting rid of large or heavy waste items responsibly, and help to reduce fly tipping and dumped rubbish across the town.

Strategic

2. Waste Strategy

DEFRA has recently published a new Resources & Waste Strategy with the objective for the UK to become a world leader in using resources efficiently and reducing the amount of waste we create as a society. Developing a circular economy to extract the maximum value from resources by the recovery and regeneration of products and materials whenever possible.

The Resource and Waste Strategy is guided by two overarching objectives:

- To maximise the value of resource use; and
- To minimise waste and its impact on the environment.

In delivering the policies, actions and commitments, they will adhere to at least one of five strategic principles:

- To provide the incentives, through regulatory or economic instruments if necessary and appropriate, and ensure the infrastructure, information and skills are in place, for people to do the right thing;
- To prevent waste from occurring in the first place, and manage it better when it does;
- To ensure that those who place on the market products which become waste to take greater responsibility for the costs of disposal – the ‘polluter pays’ principle;
- To lead by example, both domestically and internationally; and
- To not allow our ambition to be undermined by criminality.

The department is exploring ways in which this will affect its own waste strategy moving forward.

Performance

3. LAMS (Land Audit Management System)

The Quality Audit was launched and rolled out by Area Care at the beginning of June & replaces the HSEQ Audits. The LAMS process is an app style audit to capture borough wide horticultural/street cleansing standards. It enables Middlesbrough Council to benchmark not only our own performance but also that of other local authorities across the UK

4. Winter Service

We are in the process of having a route optimisation exercise carried out to review the current five primary gritting routes. Following this, we will be instructing our bureau service provider to carry out a thermal mapping exercise which will inform our winter service decision making and enable us to target specific cold areas during winter treatment season.

5. Enforcement Team

Community Protection Notices training has recently been completed by our Enforcement Team, this means the team will be able solve issues that they are currently unable to. For example, the ability to serve notice on waste companies to instruct them to remove their abandoned trade waste bins following the closure of a business as at the present time, bins are left in-situ in the hope that the next person trading from the premises will take on the waste contract therefore leaving the bins open to abuse by other business or anti-social activity.

6. Waste & Recycling Teams Communication Plan

As part of the plan, a competition was held in the Primary Times to design a character for recycling. This is the start of developing a family of recycling characters to help engage with the young people across Middlesbrough and encourage them to recycle as much as possible.

Involvement and Promotion

7. Tidy Middlesbrough

The department is working with a range of individuals and community groups to support the big town clean-up campaign over the summer. Activities are occurring across the town throughout July and August. As part of this we are undertaking tow trials of replacing communal alley bins with individual bins in some back alleys in North Ormesby and Newport.

This initiative expands on the work that supports residents in Middlesbrough to keep their town tidy.

8. Knife Angel Sculpture

We are working with Cleveland Police to help bring the Knife Angel to Middlesbrough. We are installing the foundation for the statue at Middlesbrough Centre Square.

9. Marton Country Club Incident

Teams have worked to support the effects of the Marton Country Club fire. Teams supported alongside emergency services whilst the fire occurred and supported the subsequent clean up.

10. Stewart Park

Big Weekend - the park hosted the BBC Big Weekend during May which saw over 70,000 music lovers descend on to the park to see headline acts including Miley Cyrus, Little Mix, Stormzy, The 1975, plus many, many more. The event was hailed a massive success with the Council event organisers getting huge praise from the BBC. During and after the event the council's Waste Services and Area Care teams removed over 52 tons of waste over the weekend with over 33% going to recycling.

Works to return the park back to its original state are progressing, such as replacing sections of old irreparable sections of fencing which were removed prior to the event with recycled fencing from Albert Park.

The Park held two large scale events over 12th, 13th, and 14th July - Party in the Park, this is a large scale family funfair with arena acts to keep everyone entertained. Saturday 27th July will see the return of the ever popular Cleveland Show, this agriculture and horticulture show has been held in Stewart Park for over 60 years now and is an enjoyable day out for people of all ages.

Once again Middlesbrough has retained its seven Green Flag sites. These being Stewart Park, Albert Park, Thorntree Park, Pallister Park, Linthorpe Cemetery, Fairy Dell and Hemlington Lake. The award is given to Parks and Green Spaces that demonstrate good management, good grounds maintenance, and good community involvement. Some of the sites require some work and Park and Area Care Management will be working on these in the very near future.

11. Albert Park

The Bowling Greens are now open to the public and the croquet season has begun with matches being played regularly.

Tennis For Free has re-launched, with coach led sessions every Saturday morning and free play for all, a number of courts are in need of attention, this is being dealt with.

The sundial which sits at the entrance to the park had unfortunately been broken however work will soon be completed to reinstate the dial. The fountain which has also been inoperative is now in the final stage of repair and we hope to have it up and running in the very near future.

The Park is working with MFC foundation on a pilot scheme to get young adult males more active via social and casual football sessions, sessions are currently on a Tuesday evening 4pm – 6pm.