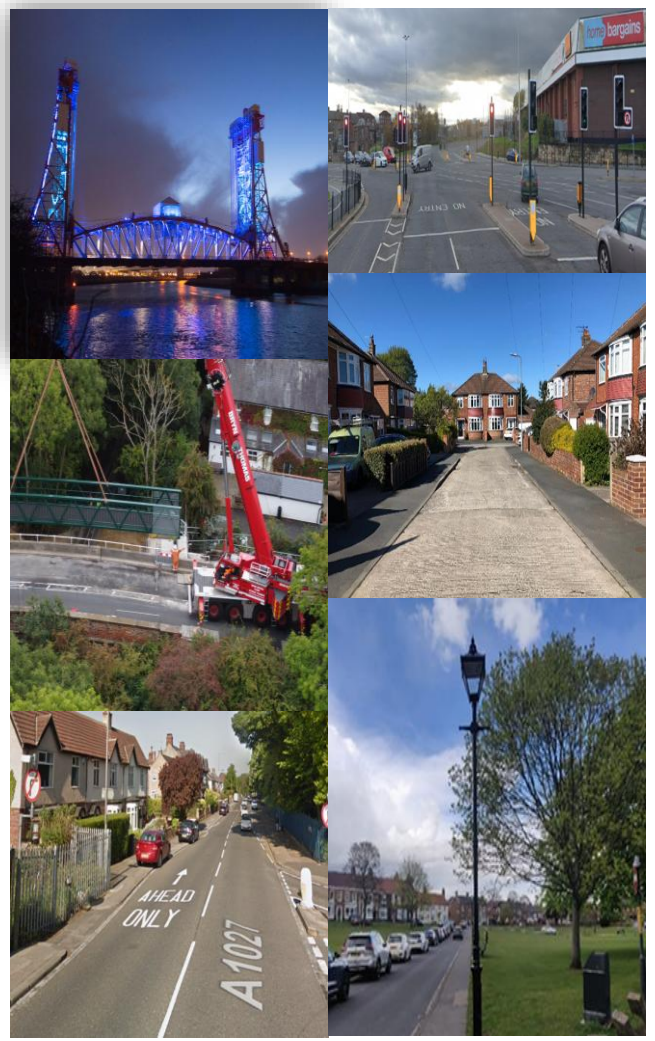
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Place Select Committee – 9th November 2026

Community Services & Transport Overview Report 2025-2026

Kellie Hopkins – Director of Neighbourhood Services





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Key Achievements

- Weekly recycling and food waste collections introduced on **31 March 2026**
- Recycling participation reached approximately **90% of households** during the first week
- Participation remains at around **75% after six months with 6 month data showing a reduction of 33% in** Residual waste tonnage
- Waste Engagement Team won the **LARAC Best Communications Campaign of the Year Award**
- New **Waterfront Park** successfully opened, creating a strategic link between the High Street and riverside



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Key Achievements

- National recognition received for innovative design and placemaking for the new park
- New Household Waste Recycling Centre site secured at Belasis Avenue
- Eaglescliffe Station western car park completed
- Consistently high levels of service delivered across all operational areas with customer satisfaction levels in excess of 85% for waste collection, grounds maintenance and street cleansing



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Challenges

Financial Pressures

- Continued inflation across fleet, materials, energy and contractor costs
- Fleet maintenance component costs increased by approximately **50% in four years**
- Operational budgets increasingly unable to absorb inflationary pressures and natural growth in demand, expectation and property numbers

Highway Asset Pressures

- Highway network replacement value estimated at **£2.27 billion**
- Static maintenance funding reducing purchasing power year-on-year
- Significant resources diverted into bridge maintenance and investigations





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Challenges

Service Capacity Challenges

- Sustaining enhanced recycling collection demands – extra 15% of recycling participation above the most optimistic of modelling has resulted in operational and financial pressures.
- Maintaining service standards while delivering MTFP savings
- Balancing frontline delivery against growing operational costs

Cemetery Provision

- Reducing burial capacity at Durham Road Cemetery to serve central / west Stockton
- Significant lead-in time required for land acquisition, approvals and construction











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Emerging Issues

Highways and Transport

- Increasing numbers of potholes resulting from asset deterioration and weather impacts
- Growing Department for Transport reporting and transparency requirements
- Greater emphasis on evidence-based asset management

Mayoral Transport Fund

- Major opportunity to secure investment for:
  - Highway maintenance
  - Active travel
  - Public transport
  - EV infrastructure
- Increased programme management and governance requirements



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Emerging Issues

Climate Change Adaptation

- Extended growing seasons impacting grounds maintenance
- Increased costs associated with longer grass cutting programmes
- More frequent flooding incidents
- Greater storm damage affecting arboriculture resources

Fleet Management

- Addition of 22 new recycling vehicles as well as a further 5 rounds to deal with extra recycling participation
- Review of Operator Licence arrangements required with the Traffic Commissioner



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What has been delivered?

✓ Major refuse and recycling transformation implemented
✓ Weekly food waste service introduced borough-wide
✓ Recycling participation significantly exceeded forecasts
✓ New HWRC site acquired
✓ Highway Maintenance Programme substantially completed
✓ All planned street lighting works completed
✓ All planned footway programmes completed
✓ Transitioned the use of the Grounds Maintenance Depot to the new Waste Transfer station and secured a new home for Grounds in Teesside Industrial Estate



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What has been delivered?

✓ 100% bridge inspections completed
✓ DfT transparency requirements met securing full funding allocation
✓ Thornaby Town Centre Cycleway under construction
✓ Durham Lane Cycleway progressing
✓ Thornaby to Stockton Cycleway contract awarded
✓ Cowpen Bewley to Wolviston scheme progressing
✓ Waterfront Park opened
✓ Apprenticeship and workforce development programmes expanded



