



GREEN STRATEGY

A GREENER FUTURE FOR MIDDLESBROUGH

Making Middlesbrough a greener and healthier place to live and work

Middlesbrough – A Green Town

Introduction - Middlesbrough Mayor, Andy Preston:

Everything I do as Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough is about the future of our great town. I'm massively proud of Middlesbrough's past, but right now I'm more interested in what happens next. The opportunities and standard of living we can provide for everyone in the town are what drive me. Nothing could be more crucial than the environment we live our lives in.

We absolutely can innovate and show others how it's done when it comes to being eco-friendly and protecting the planet. The Council declared a climate emergency in 2019.

We have ambitious targets to be carbon neutral by 2029 as an organisation.

Our goal is for the whole town to be carbon neutral ten years later, well ahead of the government's 2050 target. Middlesbrough will of course always be a red and white town.

But I'm determined we will be proud to be a green town too.

We owe it to the children and young people who will build happy lives here and write the next chapter of our history.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views as part of the consultation.

Andy Preston



A greener future for Middlesbrough

The council is setting out an ambitious 10 year vision to develop a Green agenda to rise to the challenge of climate change and support and improve biodiversity within Middlesbrough.

It sets a programme to meet government targets for greenhouse gas emissions and make the town more climate resilient to make sure we are prepared and can adapt to changes in climate and to minimise the environmental impact of council services in future.

There are three broad aims to make Middlesbrough a more sustainable town and meet our obligations:

- 1 To make Middlesbrough Council net **carbon neutral** by 2029.
- 2 To ensure Middlesbrough as a town is net **carbon neutral** by 2039.
- 3 Middlesbrough to be a **lead authority on environmental issues**.



Photo courtesy of Martin Allen

We will base the strategy on the ten One Planet Living principles:

health and happiness; equity and local economy; culture and communities; land and nature; sustainable water; local and sustainable food; travel and transport; materials and products; zero waste; zero carbon energy



| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| | Health and happiness | Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing | |
| | Equity and local economy | Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade | |
| | Culture and community | Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities and promoting a culture of sustainable living | |
| | Land and nature | Protecting and restoring land for the benefit of people and wildlife | |
| | Sustainable water | Using water efficiently, protecting local water resources and reducing flooding and drought | |
| | Local and sustainable food | Promoting sustainable humane farming and healthy diets high in local, seasonal organic food and vegetable protein | |
| | Travel and transport | Reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport | |
| | Materials and products | Using materials from sustainable sources and promoting products which help people reduce consumption. | |
| | Zero waste | Reducing consumption, re-using and recycling to achieve zero waste and zero pollution | |
| | Zero carbon energy | Making buildings and manufacturing energy efficient and supplying all energy with renewables | |

Green energy

The council will develop an energy strategy that aspires to all council buildings energy supply being carbon net neutral by 2029.

One Planet Living principles - zero carbon

How we will do this:

- **Ascertain** current carbon footprint
- **Develop** and **publish** an Energy Strategy 2021
- **Purchase** energy from green or renewable fuel sources to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- Effectively **monitor** and **report** on existing carbon footprint 2020
- Provide **guidance** to manage buildings more efficiently 2020
- Explore options for **offsetting** our carbon emissions
- **Evaluate** technology that will **introduce** energy efficiencies

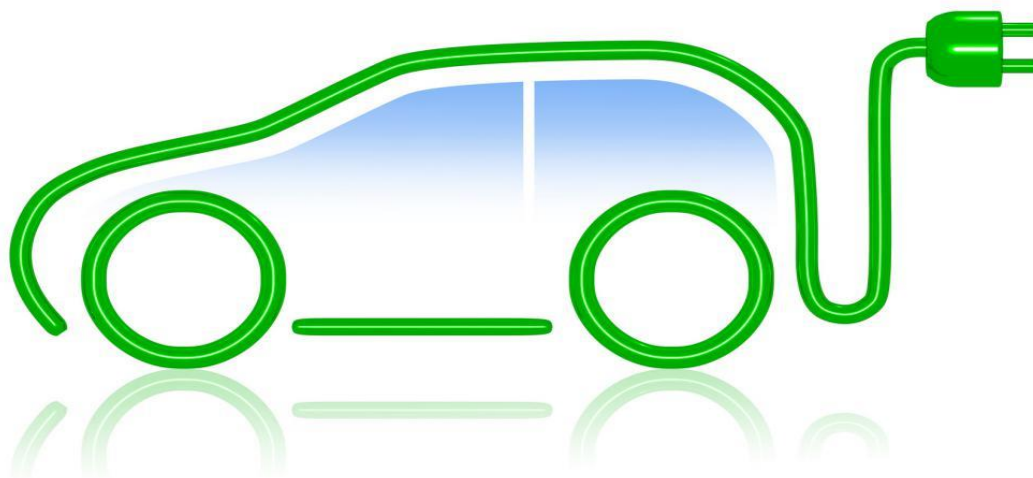


Move towards greener transport

One Planet Living principle - travel and transport

How we will do this:

- Phase in the purchase of green fleet vehicles by 2029
- Develop the installation of an infrastructure to provide electric charging points for public taxis and private vehicles across the town
- Work with public transport providers to enable their move to sustainable fuel use
- Encourage the use and uptake of cycling and walking across Middlesbrough



Sustainably manage and develop green spaces

To increase and improve **biodiversity** within Middlesbrough by **creating rich and diverse habitats**. Promote usage of parks and open spaces.

One Planet Living principle - land use and nature; sustainable water

How we will do this:

- Work with partners, volunteers and Middlesbrough's Greenspaces Forum to improve the quality and increase the amount of green space delivering associated health benefits.
- Increase the tree cover of the town from the current level of 11.8% to aim to reach the national average of 16% by 2025. (This is equivalent of adding 320 football pitches of new planting in size.) We aim to Plant 15,000 more trees by 2021.
- Plant trees adjacent to main road corridors to increase pollution absorption.



- Providing greater levels of carbon capture through increased tree cover.
- Increase the amount of land given over to wildflowers by creating new annual meadows and managing existing meadows and verges better.
- Become a more bee-friendly town through better awareness and habitat management to aid pollinating species. Seek to install bee hives in central Middlesbrough locations and parks.

Embrace green purchasing

All procurement decisions will, except where clearly not possible, support the **One Planet Living** agenda ensuring that relevant social, economic and environmental issues are considered and where appropriate integrated within the procurement solution.

One Planet Living principle - sustainable materials

How we will do this:

- Consider the carbon impact of any purchasing decisions, ensuring products can be recoverable or recyclable at the end of their life cycle wherever possible.
- Influence the supply chain to improve the sustainability in the supply of goods and services.

One Planet Living principle - local economy

How we will do this:

Ensuring products can be recoverable or recyclable at the end of their life cycle wherever possible

The council will support businesses and VCS organisations local to Middlesbrough through a range of initiatives including:

- Making it simpler to do business with the council.
- Reduce the bidding burden on suppliers.
- Have regard to the impact on small/local firms of the way in which a procurement is structured.
- Providing clear information about selling to the council on our website.
- Providing information where it can about potential sub-contract opportunities arising from major council procurements.

Sustainable waste management

Increase recycling levels of municipal waste across Middlesbrough. Alongside this ensure that our waste disposal strategy promotes high environmental standards.

One Planet Living principle - zero waste

How we will do this:

- Rollout public recycling bins in the town centre by 2020.
- Increase recycling rates for domestic recycling from the current level of 33%.
- Promotion of waste reduction and recycling via social media and educational campaigns to raise awareness.
- Ascertain the levels of waste produced by the council across all services to reduce waste and ensure more waste is recycled.
- Introduce fortnightly household waste collection and for food waste.
- Reduce and ultimately eliminate all single use plastics in all council facilities and activities including public events.



Liam Khan demonstrating the principles of recycling will Cllr McCabe

Community engagement

Develop:

- Community engagement activities and initiatives.
- Educational programmes to promote environmental sustainability town-wide.

One Planet Living principle - culture and community

How we will do this:

- Work with community groups and volunteers to help make Middlesbrough a greener and better place to live
- Work with schools and groups to promote greater environmental awareness and involvement.



Middlesbrough Community Champions litter pick

Sustainable food

Middlesbrough Food Policy's aim is to work with the **Middlesbrough Food Partnership** to develop and maintain a sustainable and fair food system in Middlesbrough that promotes and offers healthy affordable food for all based on the following principles:

- Support local businesses and settings to procure and provide healthy and sustainable food to boost local prosperity, encourage healthy eating and protect the environment.
- Inspire and enable the local food culture so that all residents have access to buy, grow, produce and cook affordable, healthy and sustainable food.
- Help residents and businesses to minimise and recycle food and food related waste either individually or collectively to increase the sustainability of local food and reduce its impact on the environment.

One Planet Living Principle – sustainable food

How we will do this:

- Middlesbrough aims to become a Gold Sustainable Food Place by promoting exceptional achievement in two areas:
 - Food poverty and food insecurity and food access
 - Sustainable food policy environment.
- Aim to establish a surplus food redistribution hub.
- Middlesbrough will continue to be a Fair Trade Town which ensures producers in developing countries receive a fair price for their goods.



Health and the environment

Cleaner air and access to green space and sustainable travel and food have significant physical and mental wellbeing benefits. Long term exposure to man-made air pollution in the UK can worsen existing conditions such as asthmas and increase the risk of stroke, cancer and respiratory diseases in the longer term. These health harms do not fall equally across the populations with the burden falling hardest in our most deprived communities. Making changes to improve environmental outcomes in the town has the potential both to improve overall health outcomes whilst also addressing the inequalities in these outcomes for those who stand to benefit most.










One Planet Living principle - health and happiness

How we will do this:

- Implement a South Tees Clean Air Strategy to make our air as clean as possible including:
 - continuing to monitor air quality proactively to ensure that potential hotspots of poor air quality are detected early and that measures are put in place to make improvements
 - engaging with the public on air quality matters, provide information and awareness raising to empower them to change their behaviour and consider its impact on cleaner air
 - engaging with businesses to raise awareness of how they impact on clean air and how they and their employee's behaviour can maximise their contribution to cleaner air
 - continuing to lobby for national measures to improve air quality and access to funding at a local level to develop and implement initiative and projects which will contribute to cleaner air
 - continuing to work towards a smokefree South Tees
- Support the design of healthy environments working with colleagues across the council on housing and town centre developments incorporating health impact and inequality impact assessments to ensure actions across the strategy focus proportionately on those groups with most to gain.
- Maximise the potential of the Sport England Local Delivery Pilot to create best practice and bring about changes through increasing physical activity for environment benefit.
- Create environmental opportunities for mental health and wellbeing through the expansion of green social prescribing opportunities.
- Building on existing practice and local initiatives explore the development action zones around schools focusing on areas of environmental benefit e.g. car free.
- Supporting work across the strategy to support employers to adopt environmental strategies including via the North East Better Health at Work Award, giving specific consideration to active travel, waste management and energy efficiency.

How we aim to deliver these sustainable objectives

Develop a town-wide Green Strategy Action Plan led by individual action plan groups based around the ten One Planet Living principles:

| Action Plan Groups | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| Group 1 | Group 2 | Group 3 | Group 4 | Group 5 | Group 6 | Group 7 | Group 8 | Group 9 |
| HOS Environmental Services | HOS Public Health | HOS Economic Growth | HOS Planning | HOS Culture | HOS Procurement | HOS Economic Growth | HOS Property Services | Director MEC |
|  Zero waste |  Health and happiness |  Equity and local economy |  Land use and wildlife  Sustainable water |  Culture and community |  Sustainable materials |  Sustainable transport |  Zero carbon |  Local and sustainable food |

Each action plan group is led by a Head of Service and will produce their own action plan. Performance reporting and monitoring of actions and targets will be overseen by the Strategic Group who in turn will report directly to Leadership Management Team.

Who we will work with to deliver our goals



As well a range of other partners, business and organisations across Middlesbrough

**Climate change is happening now!
We simply do not have a choice to do nothing!**

