

# One Planet Living

Annual Review 2015



ONE PLANET  
MIDDLESBROUGH

## Welcome

During 2013 - 14 Middlesbrough Council, Middlesbrough Environment City and Erimus housing have worked together to deliver the ambitions of the One Planet Middlesbrough Action Plan. In doing so Bikeability and pedestrian training has been delivered to almost 3000 residents, over 50 residents have been provided with the skills to grow their own food, James Cook Gardens has opened, World War One commemoration activities have been delivered across the town and work has taken place with partners to develop the Youth Employment Strategy.



Councillor Tracy Harvey



Councillor Julia Rostron

One Planet Living is the approach used in Middlesbrough to address sustainability and climate change. The One Planet Living framework, created by international charity Bioregional, provides us with a clear and practical framework to examine the town's sustainability challenges and deliver appropriate solutions; ultimately improving the quality of life for local residents.

One Planet Living is based on the fact that if everyone lived as the average Middlesbrough or UK resident currently does, we would need three planets to sustain our lifestyles. To deliver sustainable environmental, economic and social improvements to the town, Middlesbrough is using the ten principles of One Planet Living. This broad framework enables individuals, communities and organisations to live greener, healthier and more affordable lifestyles, within their fair share of the Earth's resources.

This report highlights just some of the achievements that have been made during 2013 - 14; actions that have progressed Middlesbrough towards its One Planet ambitions and brought numerous benefits to the local community.



## Zero Carbon Middlesbrough Sports Village Photovoltaics

2014 saw construction work begin on Middlesbrough's Sports Village. The £18 million state-of-the-art development at Prissick will include top class facilities for a wide range of sporting disciplines. Visitors to the Sports Village will be able to access a velodrome, athletics field, stadium, gym, sports hall and artificial pitches.

£200,000 of photovoltaics have been installed on the roof of the Sports Hall to ensure this major asset emits low amounts of carbon dioxide. The investment in solar photovoltaics panels will help

to reduce the carbon footprint of the Sports Village whilst also generating electricity for the national grid.

This investment is expected to repay for itself in 12 years. Each year it is estimated that this renewable technology will save 27, 868 kg of carbon whilst generating 64, 808kWh. Over a 25 year period this technology will have generated over £181k from Feed-in-Tariffs and saved Middlesbrough Council £319,000 on the energy budget. It will also reduce the Council's Climate Change Levy payment by £12,000.





## Zero Carbon Warmer Homes Project

The Warmer Homes project is delivered by Middlesbrough Environment City and is funded by Middlesbrough Council's Public Health team. The project works with partner agencies to identify the most vulnerable householders who are presently in, or at risk of entering, fuel poverty.

Vulnerable residents are offered a range of support and helpful advice on how to reduce household utility bills and make their properties more energy efficient. Grant funded measures are offered such as cavity wall and loft insulation, draught proofing, and tank and pipe lagging. A replacement central heating boiler scheme has also been made available to privately owned or privately rented properties where residents are in receipt of qualifying government benefits and where their boilers are deemed to be old or inefficient. Where vulnerable householders cannot access the replacement boiler scheme and have central heating problems assistance is offered, including possible repair or the replacement of a faulty part to enable the systems to be restored to working order.

During the year, Middlesbrough Environment City secured £5,000 of funding to deliver a Big Energy Saving Network project, running from October 2014 until March 2015. The Big Energy Saving Network is a Department of Energy and Climate Change funded initiative, designed to support eligible organisations and community groups to deliver energy advice sessions to householders and front line workers. This enables residents to



reduce their energy costs through changing power company tariffs, switching and accessing fully funded energy efficiency measures. 388 consumers were engaged with one to one interviews and over 50 frontline partner agency workers attended the training sessions to roll out the information to their respective vulnerable target groups. Energy efficiency products such as low energy light bulbs, TV and computer power down adaptors and room temperature cards have also been distributed to householders. Cold alarms that audibly warn vulnerable residents that the temperature of a room is falling to a dangerous level were also distributed along with carbon monoxide alarms to households that have appliances that are particularly susceptible to giving off poisonous carbon monoxide fumes.



## Zero Waste

# Middlesbrough's Street Champions

During 2014 Middlesbrough Council's Street Champions, an environmental version of Neighbourhood Watch, volunteered to keep their local area clean and tidy. This joint initiative between residents and the Council saw a network of Street Champions keeping an eye on their local neighbourhoods. They reported issues such as litter, dog fouling, graffiti, broken street furniture, overflowing bins and abandoned cars.

Street Champions try to improve the quality of the local environment and to involve the local community in their area to create a sense of ownership and pride. Following training, the Middlesbrough Street Champions set to work improving the local environment. At a Community Clean Up Day the Street Champions made improvements to Tennyson Street alley, removing detritus and debris. The growth of the Street Champions network is anticipated to bring further improvements to Middlesbrough's physical environment in the near future.





## Zero Waste Tools for Self Reliance

The One Planet Middlesbrough: Creating Sustainable Communities project has supported Middlesbrough Tools Workshop throughout 2014.

Allied Resource Community (known as Middlesbrough Tools Workshop) is one of over 50 suppliers contributing refurbished tools to a national charity, 'Tools for Self Reliance'.

The Tools Workshop is based at the Larchfield Community. Work is carried out by supervised volunteers, some of whom require a little support or have additional needs, and who refurbish old hand tools donated by members of the public. As many as 20 volunteers benefit from Middlesbrough Tools Workshop activities each year. Donated tools often belong to former tradesmen from Teesside's industries and have sentimental value to the families of the donors although they are surplus to requirements; every donated item is accepted and is either repaired, re-used or recycled.

The tools are packaged into crated, trade-based kits, for example carpentry kits, bicycle mechanics' kits and seamstresses' kits. The kits are shipped from Middlesbrough Tools Workshop to Tools for Self Reliance's headquarters in Southampton, and from there delivered to communities in six African countries. Beneficiaries also receive training and local support to use them efficiently and effectively.

Where donated tools cannot be used for kits, Middlesbrough Tools Workshop makes use of opportunities to sell refurbished tools through local events and through direct sales.

For more information, please visit [www.middlesbroughtoolsworkshop.org.uk](http://www.middlesbroughtoolsworkshop.org.uk)





## Sustainable Transport James Cook Rail Station

At 08.49am on Sunday 18th May 2014, James Cook University Hospital was serviced by its first passenger train on the Middlesbrough to Whitby line.

The station was built following a joint funding bid to the Department for Transport between Tees Valley Unlimited, James Cook University Hospital, Network Rail and Middlesbrough Council, delivering an investment into the area worth £2.2million.

James Cook University Hospital is a major trip generator in Middlesbrough. The train line runs parallel to the site, so the construction of a station was an obvious addition. By providing an alternative to the private car, it is envisaged that traffic associated with the site will be reduced. The station is fully lit, covered by CCTV with a seated, covered waiting area. The station also has

an electronic screen, and public address announcements. Currently, the station is serviced by 16 trains per day in each direction, with a view to increase this. Just 4 minutes from Middlesbrough station, the facility allows interchange with the Saltburn to Darlington line, creating opportunities to link into the national network.

Patronage levels have risen to in excess of 2,000 journeys per month, and are anticipated to increase with additional trains. The developments on the Prissick land to the south of the station will also increase the attractiveness of rail travel to the site, providing access to the new Middlesbrough Sports Village, Cycle Circuit, various housing developments and proposed velodrome.

Prices for journeys are competitively priced as follows:

Middlesbrough	Marton	Gypsy Lane	Nunthorpe	Whitby	Newcastle
£1.90	£2.00	£2.30	£2.80	£6.70	£12.60
Return (£2.10)	Return (£2.20)	Return (£2.60)	Return (£3.10)	Return (£10.10)	Return (£15.40)

(correct as of February 2015)







## Sustainable Transport Pimp my Bike Project



Based in Albert Park, Middlesbrough Bike Academy has fully equipped cycle workshop facilities and provides cycle maintenance training to members of the public, workplaces and partnership organisations across the town.

During 2014 - 2015 the Bike Academy continued to deliver cycle training (with funding provided by Middlesbrough Council's Public Health team and the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund) and also launched the Pimp my Bike project, with the support of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Police Property Act Fund. This successful initiative saw participants issued with redundant bikes and shown how to disassemble them completely. The bikes were

then sent away to have the paint removed. Upon their return they were re-sprayed by the learner in a colour of their choice.

A four day accredited training course then followed which gave the learner the skills to rebuild the bike; checking and replacing the components as necessary. A small budget was allocated to each bike to allow the purchase of customising items such as saddles, pedals and handle bar grips. This allowed the learner an opportunity to put a personal touch to their bike. Once completed, the bike was retained by the learner to be used as a sustainable form of transport to access employment, training or social opportunities.





## Sustainable Materials Smitten with Mittens

Smitten with Mittens is an innovative project that makes use of materials that would otherwise be discarded. With the help of volunteers, and donations from members of the public and from local charity shops (where they are alternatively used as rags), single gloves are paired as closely as possible and 'upcycled' into a useable and saleable product.

Gloves have been distributed across Middlesbrough to assist up to 30 vulnerable people to tackle cold winter temperatures. The provision of gloves has assisted residents to stay warmer in their homes, and will have also helped to reduce residents heating costs and fuel-related carbon emissions.

Work continues with the Smitten with Mittens project through the warmer months and it is anticipated that gloves will be sold through charity shop networks to raise funds to continue their work.

Smitten with Mittens is supported by the One Planet Middlesbrough: Creating Sustainable Communities project.







## Sustainable Materials Janitorials Products Contract

Procurement requested Greenham Ltd to implement and identify green products as listed on the contract. Placed upon the internet under the Corporate Contract title “Janitorial Supplies” is the pricing list titled “Janitorials Pricing List 2015 (Green Products)”. The green items are identified by the appropriate emblem.

In addition we have placed the Greenham “Sustainable products” information sheet –be green” under the Janitorials Supplies contract so end users understand the strategy underpinning the contract between ourselves and Greenham:

### **Biodegradable**

A finished product that can break down or decompose under natural conditions and process within a restricted period of time e.g. PLA, wood or paper.

### **Recycled**

The finished product contains an element of recycled material resulting from either post-consumer or production waste e.g. recycled polymers or paper.

### **Renewable**

The finished product is predominantly manufactured from a naturally occurring raw material that will be replenished through normal ecological cycles e.g. paper, wood or corn.

### **Energy efficient**

Products that have been specifically designed to have a lower impact on the environment, usually by using less energy with the added benefit of lower running costs.





## Local and Sustainable Food MEC Growing Projects

Middlesbrough Environment City has continued to lead on a range of projects to increase the amount of food grown in Middlesbrough, improving access to fresh, healthy produce in our communities.

New growers have been encouraged to take part in formal training to gain the skills needed to grow their own produce. The network of community growing sites has been maintained and expanded. Growing spaces at Peoples' Park in West Middlesbrough, Easterside and Saltersgill continue to be developed and a new site is also being created in Albert Park.

The Middlesbrough Environment City apprenticeship programme has been a great success, with all six apprentices to date moving into employment and five completing the City and Guilds Local Environmental Service Award based around horticulture and cleansing. The apprentices made a valuable contribution to managing the community growing sites as well as helping to develop growing spaces for pupils in the five schools taking part in the Hearty-BEATS project.







## Local and Sustainable Food Middlesbrough Food Action Plan



Work has commenced on refreshing and updating Middlesbrough's Food Sustainability Action Plan, originally produced in 2011 as part of the Healthy Town Programme. Food accounts for around 25% of Middlesbrough's ecological footprint and there are many challenges faced by residents in maintaining a healthy diet that is affordable and has minimum impact on the environment.

The new Food Action Plan, which was put out for consultation in Spring 2015, will focus on six themes: health and nutrition; sustainable food; fairness/tackling food poverty; reducing food waste; education and skills; and a strong local food economy.

The themes cover 40 ambitions ranging from a new Business Charter, a Residents' Food Pledge, better support for food banks, cooking skills events, growing more local food, improving food purchasing networks and doing more to help people who find themselves in food poverty.

The new Food Action Plan will build on existing good work around food in Middlesbrough, such as programmes of growing skills training for residents, development of new community growing sites and allotments, healthy cooking courses and Middlesbrough Council's Food 4 Health programme.



## Sustainable Water Water Saving Week

The One Planet Middlesbrough: Creating Sustainable Communities team used March's Water Saving Week to draw attention to the importance of conserving water in both the home and garden. The initiative built on the success of 2014's award winning 'Save a Bucketload' allotment water saving project, a partnership with Middlesbrough Council and Northumbrian Water, and the Ecofit project that introduced household measures to tackle problems with surface water in the Gresham area. Through the project, the One Planet Middlesbrough team promoted the use of residential water saving devices through a series of events in public spaces in Middlesbrough.

The Parkway Centre, in Coulby Newham, was the focus for advice-giving sessions where residents took part in a demonstration of devices and received a useful 'Hints and Tips' leaflet. Participants were also provided with the opportunity to question water experts. For the garden, a selection of water butts, suitable for a range of residential settings, and mulches to protect the water content of soil surfaces, were on display. Social media – Facebook and Twitter – were also utilised to distribute important messages about water saving and to encourage all residents to value the clean water sources Middlesbrough has available.



## Sustainable Water & Land Use and Wildlife James Cook Gardens

James Cook Gardens, Middlesbrough's newest park, was officially opened on the 10th October 2014. The park was funded by the Grove Hill Joint Venture a partnership between Middlesbrough Council and Erimus Housing, with additional funding from the Environment Agency.

Pupils from local schools, Linthorpe Community Primary and Beech Grove Primary, worked with a local artist Alan Morley to draw their vision of the new park and a competition to name the park was won by three year old Azaan Rashid.

Alongside landscaping work to create the park, a major element of the project focused on enhancements to the stretch of Marton West Beck that runs through it.

The beck - previously hidden within a deep concrete channel - has been naturalised, opening it up as a feature which people can enjoy and which enhances the surrounding area.

In naturalising the watercourse a backwater and a detention basin have provided added flood risk protection to properties downstream. It is also helping in the aim to improve the water quality of Marton West Beck.

A rare bird, the Little Egret, has subsequently been spotted in the beck by visitors from the Environment Agency proving that if you provide the habitat wildlife will come. A total of 87 trees have been planted to complete the park's landscape. There are 47 semi mature trees and 40 black poplar stakes. Black poplar is a nationally rare tree species and this is the first reintroduction in Middlesbrough.

Designs are being worked up for a play area on the site to provide potential additional park facilities for the future.

The new park is central to the wider regeneration of the Grove Hill area, which is being totally revamped to make way for new housing, alongside a host of public realm and environmental improvements.







## Land Use and Wildlife

### West Middlesbrough Becks and Water Voles Project



Over the last year, work has continued on the implementation of the West Middlesbrough Becks and Water Voles project, funded by Biffa Award, through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Middlesbrough's beck valleys are an important home for the Water Vole, a rapidly declining small mammal, as well as other wildlife. Through the project around one hectare of new ponds and reed beds have been created alongside Marton West Beck, Newham Beck and Bluebell Beck, with volunteers planting over 1,500 reed plants. These will provide additional feeding areas for the

Water Voles and refuges when the becks are in flood. In addition, almost one kilometre of bank side scrub has been thinned. This will allow more light to penetrate the ground, resulting in the development of lush vegetation, which will provide cover and food for Water Voles and other wildlife.

Local people and visitors will also be able to find out more about the fascinating wildlife to be found along these green corridors through interpretation boards that will be installed along both Bluebell Beck and Marton West Beck.



## Culture and Community

# Middlesbrough Town Hall – Restoration and Redevelopment

During 2014/15 Middlesbrough Council has worked to develop and secure funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for an £8 million scheme to restore the cultural venue side of Middlesbrough Town Hall. The project aims to develop Middlesbrough Town Hall as a key culture and heritage hub for the Tees Valley.



The project will see the restoration of existing public areas such as the Concert Hall and Crypt and will open up long unseen areas of the building as new public facilities, including the original Victorian Courtroom and Cells, Carriage Driveway, and Fire Station areas. The scheme of improvements will result in the building being more accessible, and a programme of activities and events developed with a range of community partners, will provide the public with a greater understanding of the history and heritage of the building and its place within Middlesbrough. In addition to contributing to a better heritage offer for the town, we hope that the capital project will mean that the Town Hall is more sustainable. More efficient heating and lighting systems have been designed, which will help the building reduce its carbon footprint. The One Planet Living project toolkit has been used to help inform project development.

Following public consultation, a Stage 2 bid was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in December 2014 and we received an award of £3.1 million in March 2015. Works will start on site in early 2016 and the Town Hall will reopen in autumn 2017.







## Culture and Community Cultures Cooking Together

Following the successful delivery of a pilot scheme, Middlesbrough Environment City worked in partnership with the town's BME communities on the Cultures Cooking Together project, with funding from Middlesbrough Council's Public Health team. The aim of the project was for participants to take part in a 'skills swap' where they prepared and cooked recipes from their own culture for the whole group to share. During the course, MEC's Healthy Cooking Co-ordinators discussed ways of adapting these recipes to make a healthier alternative.

The initial course was so well received that the model was rolled out and delivered to other groups consisting mainly of refugees and asylum seekers. Recipes from countries around the world such as Eritria, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Romania and the UK were demonstrated, shared and enjoyed by the group. Many of the attendees were socially isolated and gained a great deal from the social interaction that the courses provided.

Several of the participants are undergoing further training in the form of a Train the Trainer Course and Food Hygiene training, with a view to them passing on cooking skills within their own communities.





## Equity and Local Economy Apprenticeship Achievements

Middlesbrough Community Learning has had great success with their teaching and learning apprenticeships this year. Four hardworking apprentices who have successfully achieved their level 2 apprenticeships in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools are Garreth Robinson, Katie Irwin, Amy Simpson and William Douglas.

Middlesbrough Community and Learning offer high quality learning opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. As a focal point for the local community, they provide a range of learning opportunities and courses for adults and young people to provide the opportunity to gain experience, develop new skills, achieve qualifications and ultimately develop new careers.

Garreth, Katie, Amy and William are all from Middlesbrough and were unemployed before choosing the apprenticeship route. Following a

12 month apprenticeship in Supporting Teaching and Learning each individual has excelled throughout the programme and now all have secured full time employment with Acklam Grange School in Middlesbrough. The apprentices are looking forward to exciting career prospects ahead of them.

A spokesperson from the school said “We’re so proud of the apprentices. They are all ambassadors for the future success of Acklam Grange School”.

Jackie Adams from Middlesbrough Community Learning said “This is an excellent example of how employers can recruit apprentices to develop a skilled, motivated and qualified workforce. We are delighted to work with such a supportive employer to deliver training leading to employment for these young people.”







## Equity and Local Economy

### Middlesbrough's Fairtrade Programme

2014 - 2015 was again a busy year for the Middlesbrough Fairtrade Group, with a programme of events and activities to maintain a high profile for Fairtrade in Middlesbrough.

The Middlesbrough Fairtrade Directory was published during the year – listing over 60 retail outlets, cafes and restaurants stocking Fairtrade products. There are also many community venues, businesses and faith groups providing Fairtrade refreshments in the town, bringing the total number of places where Fairtrade products can be enjoyed to over 100.

The Christmas Shop run by Jenny Medhurst was again a great success, the town centre venue provided shoppers with the opportunity to add a range of ethically sourced products to their Christmas gift list. Teesside University Students' Union contribution to Middlesbrough's Fairtrade

Campaign was also recognised as they scooped the Fairtrade category at the Middlesbrough Community One Planet Living Awards 2014. The highlight of the year was Fairtrade Fortnight. Fairtrade breakfasts were served over the entire fortnight at Middlesbrough Cycle Centre, with excellent radio coverage from BBC Tees. The fortnight culminated with a promotional Fairtrade bus touring the boroughs of Hartlepool, Stockton and Middlesbrough where Fairtrade baking competitions also took place.

Middlesbrough's Fairtrade status will be due for renewal again in November 2015 and the group will be working hard over the coming months to engage even more residents and businesses in the programme, demonstrating Middlesbrough's commitment to global as well as local sustainability.





## Health and Happiness Hearty Beats

Children from five Middlesbrough Primary Schools are learning the skills needed for lifelong health and wellbeing alongside their parents and family members. The Hearty BEATS project, funded by Middlesbrough Council's Public Health team and supported by the British Heart Foundation, was launched in May 2014. The project aims to develop primary schools as healthy settings to promote healthy lifestyles and heart health to pupils, their parents and family members.

As part of the Hearty BEATS project, children and family members from Abingdon, Ayresome, Breckon Hill, Newport and St Thomas More Primary Schools, have taken part in a variety of healthy activities including healthy cooking, food growing, health checks and physical activities such as cycling, hoola-hooping and martial arts lessons.

Over the past year, 950 children and their family members have been able to access a wide range of health promoting activities. Abingdon Primary School has hosted some hugely successful boxing skills lessons and ladies football sessions at Breckon Hill Primary School have been extremely popular. At St Thomas More Primary School mini-tennis was a big hit and kickboxing proved popular at Newport Primary School. Ayresome Primary School is hoping to establish a regular Dad's kickboxing session.

Staff from Middlesbrough Environment City have also established Growing Clubs and Cookery Clubs where parents and children have gained food growing skills and learnt how to plan and cook healthy family meals. The schools have also enjoyed a course of outdoor play and forest schools sessions.

In addition to delivering these sessions, Middlesbrough Environment City staff will continue to give the schools and volunteers training and additional support and resources to enable them to continue to embed these healthy skills into the school setting.







## Health and Happiness Middlesbrough Sports Village

Middlesbrough's £21m Sports Village opened in May 2015. The Prissick based sports hub is set to become a major regional centre of excellence with its broad offer of sporting and leisure opportunities. The state of the art complex includes:

- Athletics Stadium
- 1km Cycle Circuit
- Plaza Skate Park
- 11-a side, 7 aside and 5 a side 3G synthetic pitches
- Gym Facilities
- Strength and Conditioning Area
- 40m Indoor Sprint Track
- Multi-functional sports hall / events arena
- Café
- Therapy Rooms
- Watt Cycle indoor performance cycle studio
- Meeting/training room
- And a 250m Outdoor Cycling Velodrome - due to open August 2015

Additionally, Middlesbrough's Sports Hub houses a four storey indoor children's play structure - the 'Fun Village'. Paul Ayre, Service Manager for Middlesbrough Council's Sport and Leisure Service, said: "It is a key thing for us to be able to engage with children from an early age. Families can come just to use the play area, and/or take up the opportunity to access to all of the available facilities".



## One Planet Middlesbrough Creating Sustainable Communities

The Big Lottery Fund supported One Planet Middlesbrough: Creating Sustainable Communities project aims to address the social, economic and environmental challenges faced by Middlesbrough residents through focussed activity on the principles of Zero Carbon, Zero Waste, Local and Sustainable Food, Sustainable Transport and Climate Change Adaptation.

One Planet Middlesbrough is a community engagement project that works with 11 delivery partners and promotes collaborative working with the community and external partners to create a more sustainable Middlesbrough. Since the beginning of 2013, the partnership has developed a series of innovative community based initiatives designed to engage residents in the One Planet Living agenda and helped them to adopt more sustainable lifestyles.



The project has developed a strong community of volunteers who have proven to be a valuable asset to the One Planet Middlesbrough team, succeeding in making positive sustainable changes to their own lifestyles whilst encouraging others in their community to do the same. Since the project began in 2013, the following achievements have been made by the partnership:

- Approximately 60 community based projects supported;
- 80 community volunteers recruited and supporting others within their communities;
- Over 4,000 residents benefited from energy efficiency advice and/or energy efficiency measures;
- Over 100 events delivered, providing advice on approaches to adopting sustainable behaviours;
- 1,200 people received recycling advice and guidance and recycling boxes;
- 1,300 people participated in community cycling activities;
- 751 people took up growing their own produce;
- 3,700 people received advice on sustainable water use;
- Informal and accredited training delivered to 270 front line staff and volunteers to promote sustainable living.



## Erimus Housing and One Planet Living

### Sustainable Transport

Residents in Grangetown accessed subsidised driving lessons and taxi driver training through the ongoing FROG programme. All participants gained computer skills, 12 people gained employment and one participant is now in full time education.

In the last year our staff have driven around 5000 miles with zero tailpipe emissions through the use of electric pool cars. There is now a Citroen C zero 100% electric pool car based at Rivers House and Hudson Quay, our two main office bases in Middlesbrough.

All the company fleet van drivers have participated in driver training, with the aim of reducing their risks on the road and their fuel consumption.

### Zero Carbon

Residents in Berwick Hills, Hemlington, Grove Hill, Brambles Farm, Newport, and the Middlesbrough town centre area have benefitted from a mix of measures to improve energy efficiency and thermal comfort in their homes.

Over 400 properties have had cavity wall insulation installed while over 200 have benefitted from external wall insulation.

Over 1,300 homes have had heating and boiler installations and improvements.

102 houses have made a move to free, low carbon electricity through the installation of photovoltaic systems.

Sixty photovoltaic panels have been installed at our Hudson Quay office which provide about 20% of the power the building uses. This electricity helps to cover the extra energy used now the building has more people working in it.



## Equity and Local Economy

Erimus residents have benefitted from financial support and advice through a combination of income reviews, savings advice and facilitation, support where loan sharks were involved, budgeting, smart shopping and access to affordable furniture.

They had the opportunity to increase their employment prospects and boost their engagement in modern life. This included digital skills and understanding, access to life skills and basic academic qualifications, apprenticeships and work experience in a variety of areas including professional or skilled roles. These Middlesbrough based projects covered all age ranges and also tackled social exclusion in some cases by helping residents to get out and about and meet their neighbours.



## Sustainable Food, Land Use and Culture and Heritage

A neglected strip of land known as Jellystone Park has been transformed into an environmentally-friendly double-use facility. The area in Grove Hill, Middlesbrough, has been revitalised in partnership with Middlesbrough College and Groundwork to create a training centre for the college's first ever horticulture students, as well as community allotments. Around 17 students a year will use the new facility as their training base and local residents will be able to get help and advice on running the allotments from students and staff at the centre.

Erimus has also worked in seven communities to develop unused external spaces into community leisure areas. These projects included cycle paths, landscaping of areas to allow community use and creating areas for allotments and horticulture. The sites were enhanced by locally inspired sculptures and artwork and included a site in Hemlington which was themed around a farmyard to remember what used to be in that area.

A project in East Middlesbrough allows residents to hire garden equipment for their own use to maintain their gardens without the expense of gardening equipment purchase.





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