

APPENDIX 1
PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Fly-Grazed Horses

SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE	
Review:	Fly-Grazed Horses
Link Officer/s:	Stephen Donaghy
Action Plan Agreed:	February 2021

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

Recommendation 1:	Cleveland Police, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) and other relevant partners, in conjunction with any other interested Tees Valley Local Authorities, develop a joint formal policy document to address the fly-grazing of horses on both Council and non-Council land, clearly outlining the roles and responsibilities of the relevant organisations.				
Responsibility:	SBC	SBC / Police / other Cleveland LAs	SBC	Police	Police
Date:	End-February 2021	End-February 2021	April 2021	Ongoing	Ongoing
Agreed Action:	Identify key partners from all four local authorities and the Police	Provide key contact details for both week and weekend shifts	Assist the Police in completing the Cleveland wide policy by providing a detailed work process relevant to SBC	Consider local/national horse contractor provision or SLA potential by the Police	Discuss the potential for the Police to identify a suitable designated officer(s) to implement similar arrangements to current DLO format
Agreed Success Measure:	Key partners identified	Key contact details shared and updated regularly	Agree formal policy between Cleveland Police and SBC (other LA's to do similar which	Police undertaking and agreeing to an SLA	Police to identify internal officers with specific responsibility for horse

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			will allow for a formal Cleveland wide Policy		policy / workplan
Evidence of Progress (January 2022):	Partners were identified and SBC and the Police hosted a number of meetings with officers from neighbouring authorities to attempt and gain joint working across the Cleveland area.	Key contacts were identified at each of the relevant local authorities however after several meetings hosted by SBC with the support of the Police the other key contacts decided not to continue with this work.	SBC remains committed to assisting the Police but the policy now rests with the Police as no further information has been provided by the other three Cleveland local authorities.	The Police are currently considering an SLA with an equine bailiff however the previously considered SLA/ contributions from the 4 LA's has been mooted by virtue of only SBC remaining engaged with the Policy development and agreement of working practises.	The Police have identified a PCSO for the Stockton area who will be able to work with SBC Animal Welfare once a formal policy is agreed with the Police.
Assessment of Progress (January 2022): (include explanation if required)	1 (Fully Achieved) SBC and the Police remain committed to this work however the three other neighbouring authorities have decided not to remain engaged with this work.	1 (Fully Achieved) The three other neighbouring authorities have failed to support this work. SBC remains committed to working with the Police and current arrangements with Sgt Cookland, SBC Animal Welfare.	2 (On-Track) The Policy remains with the Police who due to severe staff shortages due to Covid and also the temporary long term loss of a key Legal/ Procurement officer (family bereavement) have not as yet completed on the policy document. That said the	2 (On-Track) Both the overarching Policy and consideration of an SLA with an equine bailiff remains with Cleveland Police Legal Team.	2 (On-Track) Officer identified but not currently active as yet.

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			document is currently being reviewed and an outcome should be forthcoming.		
Evidence of Impact (January 2022):	SBC and the Police have decided to continue with this vital work irrespective of neighbouring authorities not wishing to remain involved.				
Evidence of Progress (May 2022):	SBC and the Police remain committed to this work however the three other neighbouring authorities have decided not to remain engaged with this work.	The three other neighbouring authorities have failed to continue to support this work. SBC remains committed to working with the Police and current arrangements with Sgt Cookland, SBC Animal Welfare.	Cleveland Police have added the necessity for the policy/protocol to be in place on the Police Executive Risk Register. The policy and protocol for Cleveland Police is now in draft format and is being examined by Police Legal and Procurement Teams. A meeting has also been agreed with Police Procurement (09/06/22) to seek a dedicated budget for this work.	The policy and protocol are now in draft format and Police procurement have approached World Horse Welfare to determine the viability of a green yard arrangement.	PCO confirmed as responsible for this area of work.
Assessment of Progress (May 2022): (include explanation if required)	1 (Fully Achieved)	1 (Fully Achieved)	2 (On-Track)	2 (On-Track)	1 (Fully Achieved)
Evidence of Impact (May 2022):	The necessity for a Cleveland Police Policy and Protocol have been added to the Police Executive Risk Register. After examination of various other Police policies (York as an example) a draft Cleveland Policy and Protocol have been produced. Stockton remains committed to this process and in addition to this an officer from Cleveland Police has been agreed as the key link officer.				

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Recommendation 2:	The agreed joint formal policy is made publicly available, with specific awareness-raising work undertaken with local horse-owners.	
Responsibility:	SBC	SBC
Date:	Work commenced with Cleveland Police on 1st Feb 2021 – will continue for next 12 months	Work commenced with Cleveland Police on 1st Feb 2021 – will continue for next 12 months
Agreed Action:	Agreed joint policy will be shared locally via SBC website and media	Direct officer contact with horse owners who will discuss the new policy while interacting with known owners
Agreed Success Measure:	Policy made publicly available	Policy made available and discussed with horse owners
Evidence of Progress (January 2022):	Policy remains under review with Cleveland Police Legal.	TBC on formal adoption of Cleveland Police Policy.
Assessment of Progress (January 2022): (include explanation if required)	2 (On-Track)	2 (On-Track)
Evidence of Impact (January 2022):	n/a	n/a
Evidence of Progress (May 2022):	Draft Policy and Protocol have now been produced after discussion with Police Legal and Procurement Teams. The necessity for this work has been escalated within Cleveland Police and added to the Police Executive Risk Register.	Cleveland Police and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council have agreed to engage with horse owners when the policy is formally adopted. Dedicated web pages have also been created which will also host a copy of the agreed policy with permission of Cleveland Police.
Assessment of Progress (May 2022): (include explanation if required)	2 (On-Track)	2 (On-Track)
Evidence of Impact (May 2022):	Draft documents produced and being examined by Police Legal and Procurement Teams.	Dedicated web pages produced providing essential responsible horse ownership information and available for hosting of Policy document. https://www.stockton.gov.uk/article/8008/Equine-and-tethering-advice

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Recommendation 3:	There is improved presence (e.g. dedicated webpage) on the Council website around the issue of fly-grazed horses, including key (non-personal) contacts (Council and other partners) / links to guidance / tips for landowners / formal policy (once finalised), etc.
Responsibility:	SBC (Environmental Health & IT)
Date:	May 2021
Agreed Action:	A new SBC webpage will be created dedicated to responsible horse ownership which will detail the completed policy, note Council email addresses, basic horse safety information, roles and responsibilities for key partners and legal requirements for horse ownership, permitted/licensed grazing sites, etc.
Agreed Success Measure:	Webpage created and all relevant information added and made publicly available
Evidence of Progress (January 2022):	A Council wide overhaul of its public facing webpages started in 2021. Environmental Health like all departments have been heavily involved in this work which aims to create a Council website which is user friendly, allows for inclusion and easy access to services. The Animal Health webpages and forms are currently being finalised and subject to approval in March by the Head of Environmental Health and Animal Health/Welfare Manager will go live alongside all other services.
Assessment of Progress (January 2022): (include explanation if required)	3 (Slipped) Webpages have already been reviewed by SBC IT and as well as the content being made simpler to promote the “customer journey” the text and forms associated with Animal Welfare and Horses is being assessed and in many areas already complete subject to going live in March.
Evidence of Impact (January 2022):	None currently – evidence will be gathered post March 2022.
Evidence of Progress (May 2022):	Web pages live and containing both essential horse ownership information as well as being prepared to host the Cleveland wide policy document.
Assessment of Progress (May 2022): (include explanation if required)	1 (Fully Achieved)
Evidence of Impact (May 2022):	Web pages publicly available containing both horse welfare information, advice to land owners and the public as well as SBC and RSPCA contact details. https://www.stockton.gov.uk/article/8008/Equine-and-tethering-advice & https://www.stockton.gov.uk/pets-companion-animals

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Recommendation 4:	Where identified, SBC continue to work with landowners (particularly those previously / currently affected by this issue) to reinforce their rights and obligations, as well as avenues of wider support and guidance.	
Responsibility:	SBC (Environmental Health)	SBC (Environmental Health & IT)
Date:	May 2021	May 2021
Agreed Action:	Advice and guidance to be provided to private landowners as their options and legal powers should they wish to deal with issues of fly-grazed horses on their land. Potential for agreements with third party landowners to undertake work at cost on the behalf (Thirteen)	Advice and information to also be included on new webpage
Agreed Success Measure:	Will allow wider joined up approach across land targeted for the use of fly-grazing within the borough	Webpage created and all relevant information added and made publicly available
Evidence of Progress (January 2022):	Pre-review arrangements remain in place.	As per recommendation 3.
Assessment of Progress (January 2022): (include explanation if required)	3 (Slipped) Pre-review arrangements remain in place.	3 (Slipped) As per recommendation 3.
Evidence of Impact (January 2022):	n/a	n/a – no evidence available until post March 2022.
Evidence of Progress (May 2022):	Advice and guidance to be provided to private landowners as their options and legal powers should they wish to deal with issues of fly-grazed horses on their land has been achieved through continued contact with SBC officers and a dedicated advice web page having been developed which is now live.	Web pages live and containing both essential horse ownership information as well as being prepared to host the Cleveland wide policy document.
Assessment of Progress (May 2022): (include explanation if required)	2 (On-Track)	1 (Fully Achieved)
Evidence of Impact (May 2022):	Web pages publicly available containing both horse welfare information and detailed advice to landowners. https://www.stockton.gov.uk/pets-companion-animals	Web pages publicly available containing both horse welfare information, advice to landowners and the public as well as SBC and RSPCA contact details. https://www.stockton.gov.uk/article/8008/Equine-and-tethering-advice

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Recommendation 5:	Further investigation of potential Council land for a licenced grazing pilot scheme be undertaken as part of the wider SBC Asset Review (ensuring input from the Council's Environmental Health department).
Responsibility:	SBC (IG, P&D Services / Environmental Health)
Date:	Ongoing
Agreed Action:	SBC Land & Property Officers to detail the progress of the Asset Review and any potential identified areas for grazing/licenced grazing as per the review outcomes
Agreed Success Measure:	Land identified and proposed for use. Where no land can be identified that this is noted and the rationale detailed
Evidence of Progress (January 2022):	Land & Property continue with their review of land across the Borough, but no sites have currently been identified.
Assessment of Progress (January 2022): (include explanation if required)	2 (On-Track)
Evidence of Impact (January 2022):	n/a
Evidence of Progress (May 2022):	Land & Property continue with their review of land across the Borough, but no sites have currently been identified. Advice for land owners and the public has been made publicly available.
Assessment of Progress (May 2022): (include explanation if required)	2 (On-Track)
Evidence of Impact (May 2022):	When we receive a report of an equine animal being illegally grazed on Council land, the location of each equine is assessed on an individual basis and risk rated in relation to public safety (i.e. access to the highway/public footpaths/children's play areas) as well as damage to Council assets. Additionally, the welfare of the animal is checked, particularly in relation to tethering equipment, body condition, hoof condition, access to grazing and clean water. Any concerns that we may have been raised with owners if they are known to us, otherwise ownership will be investigated.

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Recommendation 6:	Relevant SBC departments identify specific areas of Council land requiring a zero-tolerance approach based on location alone, along with an assessment of the resources required to support the enforcement of the new formal policy on these pieces of land and any other land where a horse's presence poses an identified risk.		
Responsibility:	SBC (IG, P&D Services / Env Health, CFYA)	SBC (Environmental Health)	SBC (Environmental Health)
Date:	December 2021	December 2021	December 2021
Agreed Action:	Relevant SBC departments / members identify those areas of council land (for various reasons i.e. nuisance / damage / aesthetics / sensitivity / future development) where fly-grazing won't be tolerated under any circumstances	Identified land to build into the overall policy and publicised accordingly	Tender process for the provision of horse bailiff to undertake seizure of horses and all associated costs with this process
Agreed Success Measure:	Clear policy for all concerned as to where horses will not be tolerated and the outcomes / actions that will be implemented	Webpage created and all relevant info added and made publicly available	Suitable contractor in place to undertake agreed role at agreed rates
Evidence of Progress (January 2022):	Current situation remains unchanged. Each situation is still currently assessed on a case-by-case basis considering both safety as well as potential damage to SBC land or property.	Webpages are being reviewed.	Current informal arrangements remain in place.
Assessment of Progress (January 2022): (include explanation if required)	3 (Slipped)	3 (Slipped) TBC (March 2022)	3 (Slipped)
Evidence of Impact (January 2022):	n/a	n/a	n/a

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Evidence of Progress (May 2022):	<p>When we receive a report of an equine animal being illegally grazed on Council land, the location of each equine is assessed on an individual basis and risk rated in relation to public safety (i.e. access to the highway/public footpaths/children's play areas) as well as damage to Council assets.</p> <p>Additionally, the welfare of the animal is checked, particularly in relation to tethering equipment, body condition, hoof condition, access to grazing and clean water. Any concerns that we may have been raised with owners if they are known to us, otherwise ownership will be investigated.</p>	Webpage have been created and all relevant info added and made publicly available.	Police procurement have reviewed the need for a dedicated budget, and this is to be discussed/agreed at an arranged meeting on 09/06/22. In addition Cleveland Police have added this to their Executive Risk Register.
Assessment of Progress (May 2022): (include explanation if required)	2 (On-Track)	1 (Fully Achieved)	2 (On-Track)
Evidence of Impact (May 2022):			Essential work noted with Police risk register, meeting with Police Legal/Procurement to be undertaken with SBC in attendance 09/06/22.

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Recommendation 7:	Consideration be given to arranging a future microchipping clinic in the Borough (in conjunction with the British Horse Society).	
Responsibility:	SBC and relevant stakeholders / charity groups	
Date:	March 2022	March 2022
Agreed Action:	Working in conjunction with horse charities / stakeholders to provide microchipping / passporting / gelding clinics to be provided as soon as current pandemic safety measures / national lockdowns end & charities have available funding / resource	
Agreed Success Measure:	Future clinics / events agreed and undertaken with partners	Improved health / welfare of horses and liaison with horse owners
Evidence of Progress (January 2022):	No microchipping sessions have been agreed.	
Assessment of Progress (January 2022): (include explanation if required)	2 (On-Track) Due to the various lockdowns throughout 2021/22 and lack of funding for charities with no sessions have been progressed. This will be reassessed and further discussions with horse charities made in 2022.	
Evidence of Impact (January 2022):	n/a	
Evidence of Progress (May 2022):	With the pandemic safety measures / national lockdowns having ended & charities potentially have available funding / resource to provide microchipping SBC officers have contacted both the British Horse Society and World Horse Welfare and are currently in discussions to allow for a local chipping session to take place.	
Assessment of Progress (May 2022): (include explanation if required)	2 (On-Track)	
Evidence of Impact (May 2022):	SBC Officers have contacted BHS and a list of events is to be provided to SBC as they are not again being planned. This information will come direct from the BHS Welfare Team. Dates and Locations TBC.	

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Recommendation 8:	An Officer network group to encourage regular collaboration (including the sharing of best practice around this issue) between the Council and relevant partners regarding fly-grazed horses be created.		
Responsibility:	Police		
Date:	01/02/2021	01/06/2021	01/02/21 (dates to date 01/02/21, 12/03/21 & 23/04/21)
Agreed Action:	Meeting of all four LAs and Cleveland Police to take place 01/02/21 to agree working group and TOR's / meeting frequency		
Agreed Success Measure:	Agreed working group established	TOR complete for group	Meeting frequency agreed
Evidence of Progress (January 2022):	SBC with the Police attempted for several months to form an Officer Working Group. The initial meetings were attended by the other Cleveland Councils sporadically and then when asked to confirm interest in the combined Policy/TOR/Officer commitment no further progress was made and the work was left with SBC and the Police as interested parties to continue with and hopefully in time show best practice.		
Assessment of Progress (January 2022): (include explanation if required)	<p>3 (Slipped)</p> <p>SBC and the Police remain committed to this undertaking and the Police continue to work with their internal Legal/Procurement partners to agree a Cleveland Policy. This policy and continued close working with SBC will allow each organisation to continue to work together while still fulfilling their individual respective responsibilities.</p>		
Evidence of Impact (January 2022):	n/a		
Evidence of Progress (May 2022):	SBC and the Police remain focused on achieving a local Police Horse Policy and enhanced partnership working between both organisations. An officer (PCO) has been identified as the link officer from within the Police to directly work with SBC Animal Welfare staff.		
Assessment of Progress (May 2022): (include explanation if required)	<p>2 (On-Track)</p>		
Evidence of Impact (May 2022):	Police – SBC remain working towards our common goal with Police senior and operational staff identified to work with SBC Animal Welfare.		

Assessment of Progress Gradings:	1 Fully Achieved	2 On-Track	3 Slipped	4 Not Achieved
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