

**APPENDIX 1**  
**PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Fly-Grazed Horses**

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

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.

<b>Recommendation 1:</b>	<b>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.</b>				
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)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>  SBC and the Police remain committed to this work however the three other neighbouring authorities have decided not to remain engaged with this work.	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>  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.	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>  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	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>  Both the overarching Policy and consideration of an SLA with an equine bailiff remains with Cleveland Police Legal Team.	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>  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):			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)			<b>2 (On-Track)</b>	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
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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Evidence of Progress (December 2022):			Cleveland Police have added the necessity for the policy / protocol to be in place on the Police Executive Risk Register and since the last update this has further been raised and discussed with chief financial officer who is supportive of the work thus far. In addition to this and after lengthy scoping work Cleveland police have confirmed they intend to produce the protocol based on Kent Police's response. This is in essence a recovery and green yard service. It is expected that it will look similar to the way vehicle recoveries work within the force currently.	The policy and protocol is now confirmed as to reflect that of the Kent protocol and Police procurement have approached World Horse Welfare to determine the viability of a green yard arrangement. As the Kent protocol has been confirmed this will allow for a green yard arrangement to be put in place.	
Assessment of Progress (December 2022): (include explanation if required)			<b>3 (Slipped)</b>	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>	

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Evidence of Impact (December 2022):	After lengthy scoping work Cleveland Police intend to produce a protocol based on Kent Police's response. This is in essence a recovery and green yard service. It is expected that it will work in a similar to the way vehicle recoveries work within the force currently. The issue of horses on the public carriage remains on the Police risk register and now has also been discussed with agreement in principal with the Police Chief Financial Officer.
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<b>Recommendation 2:</b>	<b>The agreed joint formal policy is made publicly available, with specific awareness-raising work undertaken with local horse-owners.</b>	
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)	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>
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)	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>
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.

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		<a href="https://www.stockton.gov.uk/article/8008/Equine-and-tethering-advice">https://www.stockton.gov.uk/article/8008/Equine-and-tethering-advice</a>
Evidence of Progress (December 2022):	Subsequent to the draft policies and protocol having been produced and after discussion with Police Legal and Procurement Teams the decision to use the Kent model and protocol has been agreed with the main impact being the need for and use of a green yard. The necessity for this work has been escalated within Cleveland Police and added to the Police Executive Risk Register as well as now having the support of the chief financial officer.	The dedicated web pages and public information have been maintained and also re-evaluated to ensure they meet with access requirements and now note public information for equine identification law, advice for tethering, grazing on Council Land and advice for private landowners.  <a href="https://www.stockton.gov.uk/article/8008/Equine-and-tethering-advice">https://www.stockton.gov.uk/article/8008/Equine-and-tethering-advice</a>
Assessment of Progress (December 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>
Evidence of Impact (December 2022):	The necessity for this work has been escalated within Cleveland Police and added to the Police Executive Risk Register as well as now having the <b>support of the chief financial officer.</b>	The only outstanding element of this task is the inclusion of the protocol once complete.

<b>Recommendation 4:</b>	<b>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.</b>	
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.

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Assessment of Progress (January 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>3 (Slipped)</b>  Pre-review arrangements remain in place.	<b>3 (Slipped)</b>  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)	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (May 2022):	Web pages publicly available containing both horse welfare information and detailed advice to landowners.  <a href="https://www.stockton.gov.uk/pets-companion-animals">https://www.stockton.gov.uk/pets-companion-animals</a>	Web pages publicly available containing both horse welfare information, advice to landowners and the public as well as SBC and RSPCA contact details.  <a href="https://www.stockton.gov.uk/article/8008/Equine-and-tethering-advice">https://www.stockton.gov.uk/article/8008/Equine-and-tethering-advice</a>
Evidence of Progress (December 2022):	Officers from Stockton Animal Welfare continue to address and resolve all issues of fly grazed or loose horses as noted to the Environmental Health Department.  Officers continue to support both horse owners and those impacted by illegal grazing and retain contact details and close relationships with all horse owners.  The dedicated web pages and public information have been maintained and also reevaluated to ensure they meet with access requirements and now note public information for equine identification law, advice for tethering, grazing on Council Land and advice for private landowners.	

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Assessment of Progress (December 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>	
Evidence of Impact (December 2022):	<a href="https://www.stockton.gov.uk/article/8008/Equine-and-tethering-advice">https://www.stockton.gov.uk/article/8008/Equine-and-tethering-advice</a>	

<b>Recommendation 6:</b>	<b>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.</b>		
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)	<b>3 (Slipped)</b>	<b>3 (Slipped)</b> TBC (March 2022)	<b>3 (Slipped)</b>
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)	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>
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.
Evidence of Progress (December 2022):	In the absence of an agreed formal joint policy there has been no change to current operational actions taken by SBC Animal Welfare and as such when we receive a report of an equine animal being illegally		Subsequent to the draft policies and protocol having been produced and after discussion with Police Legal and Procurement Teams the decision to use the Kent model and protocol has been agreed with the main impact being the

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	<p>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>		<p><b>need for and use of a green yard.</b> The necessity for this work has been escalated within Cleveland Police and added to the Police Executive Risk Register as well as <b>now having the support of the chief financial officer.</b></p>
<p>Assessment of Progress (December 2022): (include explanation if required)</p>	<p><b>2 (On-Track)</b></p>		<p><b>2 (On-Track)</b></p>
<p>Evidence of Impact (December 2022):</p>	<p>Until a fully agreed joint policy is set SBC Animal Welfare continue to operate and act on all reports of horses loose/on Council/Private land or instances where the horses are causing a risk to the public or where there are welfare concerns.</p>		<p>The use of a green yard is the single most positive step to date in this process as this negates the need for any horse to remain on land as it will now have a dedicated area for the animal to be safely retained once in place.</p> <p>The Police have noted that the business case for such is currently in the process of being completed and has now been sent through for finalisation by Cleveland Police Procurement. Once this has been submitted then the financial aspect will be finalised.</p>

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<b>Recommendation 7:</b>	<b>Consideration be given to arranging a future microchipping clinic in the Borough (in conjunction with the British Horse Society).</b>	
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)	<p><b>2 (On-Track)</b></p> <p>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.</p>	
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)	<p><b>2 (On-Track)</b></p>	
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.	
Evidence of Progress (December 2022):	The BHS Welfare Team or indeed any charity in the North East has not offered a free microchipping service this year and charities continue to struggle financially never more so than now with donations being cut as the cost of living crises impacts on the entire country. SBC Officers have spoken with National Offices however feel it may be more beneficial to create a joint working approach with a local contact. This however may require a financial contribution from the Local Authority or Police.	
Assessment of Progress (December 2022): (include explanation if required)	<p><b>2 (On-Track)</b></p>	

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Evidence of Impact (December 2022):	Local contact with World Horse Welfare has already been undertaken by the Police and they are currently advising on green yard provision. In the absence of free microchipping sessions nationally it may be valid to consider a small local session subject to cost.		
<b>Recommendation 8:</b>	<b>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.</b>		
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><b>3 (Slipped)</b></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)	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>		
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.		

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Evidence of Progress (December 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 (December 2022): <small>(include explanation if required)</small>	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (December 2022):	SBC Animal Welfare and the Police remain committed to achieving a joint approach and have dedicated staff in post within both organisations to do so. The offer of further working has not been accepted by neighbouring authorities and as such consider this task complete. That said SBC/CP will continue to act as a leader in this area and should the future benefits be noted by neighbouring authorities they will be welcome to join and support this work.

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