

Date: Thursday 21 September 2023 at 4.30 pm

Venue: Jim Cooke Conference Suite, Stockton Central Library, Stockton - on - Tees,
TS18 1TU

Cllr Pauline Beall (Chair)
Cllr Paul Rowling (Vice-Chair)

Cllr John Coulson
Cllr Jason French
Cllr Sylvia Walmsley
Cllr Sally Ann Watson

Cllr Richard Eglington
Cllr Barbara Inman
Cllr Alan Watson

AGENDA

- 1 Evacuation Procedure** (Pages 7 - 8)
- 2 Apologies for Absence**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Minutes**
To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 27 July 2023 (Pages 9 - 16)
- 5 Monitoring the Impact of Previously Agreed Recommendations - Bonfires on Public Land**
Progress report for the previously completed Bonfires on Public Land review. (Pages 17 - 32)
- 6 Safety of Staff in the Night-Time Economy**
To consider a report on this topic which was included on the scrutiny work programme for 2023-2024. (Pages 33 - 38)
- 7 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2023-2024** (Pages 39 - 42)

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please

Contact: Senior Scrutiny Officer, Gary Woods on email gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk

KEY - Declarable interests are:-

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's)
- Other Registerable Interests (ORI's)
- Non Registerable Interests (NRI's)

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance



Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land and property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

- a) any unpaid directorships
- b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- c) any body
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
 - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

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Jim Cooke Conference Suite, Stockton Central Library **Evacuation Procedure & Housekeeping**

If the fire or bomb alarm should sound please exit by the nearest emergency exit. The Fire alarm is a continuous ring and the Bomb alarm is the same as the fire alarm however it is an intermittent ring.

If the Fire Alarm rings exit through the nearest available emergency exit and form up in Municipal Buildings Car Park.

The assembly point for everyone if the Bomb alarm is sounded is the car park at the rear of Splash on Church Road.

The emergency exits are located via the doors between the 2 projector screens. The key coded emergency exit door will automatically disengage when the alarm sounds.

The Toilets are located on the Ground floor corridor of Municipal Buildings next to the emergency exit. Both the ladies and gents toilets are located on the right hand side.

Microphones

During the meeting, members of the Committee, and officers in attendance, will have access to a microphone. Please use the microphones, when directed to speak by the Chair, to ensure you are heard by the Committee.

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Crime and Disorder Select Committee

A meeting of Crime and Disorder Select Committee was held on Thursday, 27th July, 2023.

Present: Cllr Pauline Beall (Chair), Cllr Paul Rowling (Vice-Chair), Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Richard Eglington, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Alan Watson, Cllr Sally Ann Watson

Officers: Marc Stephenson (A,H&W); Gary Woods (CS)

Also in attendance: None

Apologies: None

CD Evacuation Procedure

1/23

The evacuation procedure was noted.

CD Declarations of Interest

2/23

There were no interests declared.

CD Minutes

3/23

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee meeting which was held on 9 March 2023 for approval and signature.

AGREED that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 9 March 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CD Overview Report 2023

4/23

As part of the annual opportunity to hold Cabinet Members and services to account, as well as understand the challenges and issues arising at the start of the current year's work programme, the Committee was presented with the overview report from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Adults, Health and Wellbeing directorate. Introduced by the SBC Assistant Director – Community Safety and Regulated Services, who began by emphasising the importance placed on this area of work by the Council, attention was drawn to the following elements:

Crime and Disorder Overview

- Overall, a total of 25,056 crimes within Stockton-on-Tees were reported to Cleveland Police during the period July 2022 to June 2023 – this was 3,076 (14.0%) more crimes compared with the same period in the previous year, and in-line with both national and Tees Valley trends of increasing levels of reported crime (though Stockton-on-Tees had the lowest increase within the Tees Valley).
- Since the previous July 2021 to June 2022 period, there had been recorded increases in several crime types including violence against the person, robbery, theft, criminal damage and arson, public disorder, trafficking of drugs, and

possession of weapons. However, there had been fewer recorded sexual offences, bicycle thefts, and burglaries.

- Stockton-on-Tees had a crime rate of 114.5 crimes per 1,000 of the population which was higher than the 'most similar group' (compiled using data such as population figures and deprivation levels) average of 97.5 crimes per 1,000. When comparing crime within the Borough against the other Tees Valley areas, Stockton-on-Tees had the lowest crime rate in the Cleveland Police force footprint for the last financial year.
- In terms of anti-social behaviour (ASB) within the Borough, up to the end of June 2023, reports to Cleveland Police decreased by 13.4% when compared to the previous 12 months. However, in the last financial year to March 2023, 3,692 service requests were recorded by SBCs Community Safety Team as ASB (including noise and alcohol issues) – an overall increase of 461 incidents (14.3%) in the last year.

Despite an extremely challenging year in terms of raw crime data, the Committee was assured that scrutiny of such information was continually considered by the Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP), and that a more positive picture was already being seen post-April 2023. To further understand the July 2022 to June 2023 reporting period, Members requested a breakdown of crime data (per crime type) following this meeting. If possible, a crime locality map would also be useful.

Debate ensued around the impact of COPA (Cleveland Online Policing App) on the latest reported crime figures. It was stated that the Council worked closely with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cleveland regarding this relatively new app and received regular updates from the PCCs office with regards its use. It was, however, difficult to say the app had directly contributed to the increase in reported cases, but it certainly provided a good intelligence source (e.g. fly-tipping). Officers clarified that, whilst crime could initially be reported through the COPA, incidents were then routed through established channels to avoid double-counting. Members also noted the 'My Stockton' app which enabled direct reporting into the Council.

Members drew attention to reports of individuals attempting to access house / car doors within certain hot-spot areas and were informed that a spike in such activity can sometimes occur upon the release of previous offenders from prison (though officers were currently unaware of any organised crime groups targeting specific parts of the Borough in relation to door-trying). In response, the Committee queried whether, if patterns of behaviour were known following offenders re-entering the community, organisations could better prepare for the potential impact of their release. It was subsequently confirmed that multi-agency meetings already took place to plan for an offender's emergence from detention, and that individuals were closely tracked for a period once released (whilst acknowledging that resources needed to be appropriately utilised).

With regards the statement that Stockton-on-Tees had the lowest crime rate in the Cleveland Police force area, Members countered that this was not necessarily reflected in the views of local residents, and that a number of people may not be reporting incidents due to a lack of confidence in authorities (particularly amongst older demographics). The Committee heard that crime

data was collected from a myriad of sources (e.g. annual survey via the SSP, MORI survey) in order to get a more accurate overall picture.

Members expressed frustration that efforts made by Cleveland Police / SBC were not always sufficiently backed-up by the courts. Whilst it was noted that there had been an increase in closure orders across Stockton-on-Tees (even though this could often merely move a problem onto a different area), the Committee queried what could be done to break the cycle of undesirable behaviour of some individuals, and also highlighted concerns over local developer plans for 10-bed properties and landlords being willing to take on tenants regardless of their previous conduct. Another potentially significant issue was the number of applications for amusement licenses, something which appeared contradictory to managing the existing situation within certain parts of the Borough – although this was a decision for the Licensing Committee, it was felt that such establishments were not always helpful in addressing problem behaviour.

The Committee expressed concern in relation to violence against women and girls. Officers gave assurance that this crime type was very much on the radar of the police, with a sense that many incidents go unreported (the existing level of reporting meant that the Borough was unable to access potential funding).

Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

- Following a review by the Committee, SBC introduced its first PSPO in April 2023 covering both Stockton Town Centre and Norton Village – this established new measures to tackle both aggressive begging and alcohol consumption within defined geographical areas of the towns.
- The launch had been met with overwhelming positivity and support from the public and businesses operating within these areas.
- Since its inception, 112 instructions had been issued to individuals in breach of the PSPO to cease their behaviour. 30 instances had required a formal warning, with 17 fixed penalty notices being issued.

Re-iterating a concern that was raised during the course of the Committee's original review, Members asked if work was being done to ensure the PSPO was not merely dispersing individuals into different areas of the Borough to continue their ASB. Officers gave assurance that the Council was mindful of this potential consequence, but that it continued to provide resources in order to prevent, and attempt to address the underlying reasons for, such conduct (which mainly involved only a small cohort of individuals). Different conversations / engagement was now taking place in the context of the PSPO, and the Council had learnt much about needs / behaviour, with some services being repositioned to help individuals (e.g. CGL drop-ins).

The Committee was reminded that, as part of the PSPO process, a review period would be required to determine its possible extension (if necessary).

Protect and Prevent

- The roll-out of Prevent awareness-raising training had continued throughout the Council this year and to key partners in education and community-based services. A programme of engagement continued within schools and additional

briefings had been carried out at Riverside College, Durham University and other educational establishments.

- Following an assurance audit undertaken by the Home Office earlier this year, SBCs approach around Prevent, and processes around Channel (referral process which is used to support individuals at risk of being drawn into extremism), had received full assurance status.
- A new area of focus for this year would be on the Protect aspect of the CONTEST strategy. Also known as Martyn's Law, there was pending UK-wide legislation that would place a requirement on those responsible for certain publicly accessible locations to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures.

In response to a Committee query, it was stated that 13 individuals had been identified as part of the local Prevent agenda, with five cases proceeding to Channel panels. Whilst risk was not necessarily deemed 'extremism', extreme behaviour was identified which could be addressed through other established routes. Members were reminded that the Prevent awareness-raising training could be accessed via <https://www.support-people-vulnerable-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk/prevent-duty-training-learn-how-support-people-vulnerable-radicalisation>.

Discussion ensued around the potential impact of Martyn's Law and the emerging statutory obligations (as a result of the Manchester Arena bombing). The Committee was informed that significant cost / resource implications were likely, although many unknowns remained around this piece of legislation (including who would be principally responsible for the regulations).

Community Safety & Regulated Services

- A new community safety strategy had been developed with partners and was now in place which identified six key challenging areas of focus for the all-member organisations in the community safety partnership.
 - o Managing the impact of serious and organised crime on Stockton-on-Tees.
 - o Reducing serious violence.
 - o A focus on vulnerability and those criminally exploited.
 - o Crime and disorder linked to drugs and alcohol.
 - o Reducing the offending rate of the most prolific offenders.
 - o Reducing anti-social behaviour and improving feelings of safety.
- Separately, other SBC-specific priorities had also been identified:
 - o Maximising the effectiveness of the additional investment made in community safety-related services to protect residents, businesses and the investment in the Borough's town centres.
 - o Supporting the arson reduction strategy in partnership with Cleveland Fire Brigade.
 - o Tackling serious violence (new strategy developed in partnership with other responsible authorities and the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV)).
 - o Giving due consideration to the new Protect Duty placed on Local Authorities as part of the wider national counter-terrorism strategy.
- Internal restructuring of SBC services had meant that the majority of frontline regulatory areas were now working much more closely together to achieve the Council's priorities.

With reference to the new community safety strategy, the Committee noted that all six key challenging areas could be linked to drugs. It was recognised that the supply and use of drugs was a national issue, and was very much connected to organised criminal groups who continued peddling pain within a range of communities regardless of socio-economic status.

Clarification was sought around the stated Home Office pilot (via Cleveland Police) to tackle organised crime via a new 'clear, hold, build' (CHB) framework approach. Members heard that the whole Ropner Ward would be included in this pilot, as well as some peripheral areas in neighbouring Wards, and subsequently stressed the need for Ward Councillors to be aware of, and engaged in as part of, any forthcoming plans / initiatives.

Trading Standards

- Whilst only a relatively small service (four officers), SBC Trading Standards operated right across the full range of consumer protection legislation, with the main areas of responsibility including fair trading, product safety, food standards, animal feed, weights and measures, age-restricted sales, tobacco / vapes / alcohol controls, and scams awareness.
- Becoming more of an issue as cost-of-living pressures continued, and with potentially dangerous consequences, the service obtained closure orders in the past year against three local premises involved in the supply of illegal tobacco.
- Over the past year, officers had removed over 2,000 illegal vapes from sale around the Borough, and two premises had been shut in the past week for selling overstrength vapes.
- Examples were noted as part of efforts to protect residents from rogue traders. It was emphasised that these were usually complex cases that can take years to investigate – however, significant impact can be made.

The Committee echoed rising concerns around vaping devices containing lithium batteries which have reportedly caused fires / explosions. Members also highlighted the potential futility of warning young people about the impact of vaping if products continue to be marketed inappropriately.

Licensing

- Another small team, the service continued to process over 2,000 applications and responded to over 1,000 service requests annually.
- Due to proactive work in, and strong communication links made with, the licensed trade, the number of problem premises was low. This had allowed resources to be dedicated to additional initiatives on reducing serious violence and violence against women and girls.
- Underage sales test purchasing resumed this year (following a pause due to the COVID pandemic), the result of which had seen a number of inappropriate sales leading to a range of action from advice through to formal warnings and even the removal of management from one site.
- The increase in home dog boarding and dog breeding applications was noted, with the service continuing to investigate unlicensed dog breeding.

Environmental Health

- Fully staffed, the service remained committed to protecting local consumers

and food businesses, addressing health and safety concerns, protecting local land, air and water quality environments, and protecting the health / welfare of local animals via the SBC Animal Welfare Service. High quality pest control / management was also part of the existing offer.

- The Council's management of the two closed landfill sites at Cowpen and Whitton were referenced, including the system in place to control gasses at the latter in order to protect the local environment and population.
- Air quality remained a focus for the service and this continued to be widely monitored at key sites across the Borough. The latest annual report submitted by SBC to the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) was commended by Government ministers (a rare occurrence for any Local Authority), and demonstrated a general downward trend in pollution levels, most likely as a result of road vehicle technology improvements, further electrification of the road fleet, and numerous SBC measures to improve local air quality. 2023 would see the Council publish its first Air Quality Strategy (a new statutory requirement).
- Stockton-on-Tees remained a leading Local Authority for proactive sampling of food premises / food stuffs to ensure consumer protection. The Commercial Food Safety Team would also be delivering an innovative and forward-thinking pilot in 2023-2024 for the delivery of free level two food safety training for local businesses.

Members were particularly pleased to learn of the progress around air quality and felt that this was a topic which would benefit from closer scrutiny at some point during the recently initiated four-year Council term.

The Chair thanked the SBC Assistant Director – Community Safety and Regulated Services for presenting a comprehensive report which summarised key activity (relevant to this Committee) within the directorate.

AGREED that:

- 1) the Adults, Health and Wellbeing overview report be noted.
- 2) a breakdown of crime data be provided to the Committee as requested.

**CD
5/23**

Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2023-2024

Chair's Update

The Chair had no further updates.

Work Programme 2023-2024

Consideration was given to the current Crime and Disorder Select Committee Work Programme. The next meeting was scheduled for 21 September 2023 and would include consideration of the draft scope and plan for the Committee's first in-depth review of the current municipal year regarding safety of staff in the night-time economy. An update on progress of outstanding actions in relation to the previously completed Fly-Grazed Horses review was also anticipated.

AGREED that the Crime and Disorder Select Committee Work Programme 2023-2024 be noted.

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Agenda Item

Crime and Disorder Select Committee

21 September 2023

PROGRESS UPDATE ON PREVIOUSLY AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS – BONFIRES ON PUBLIC LAND

Summary

Members are asked to consider the evidence and assessments of progress contained within the attached Progress Update on the implementation of previously agreed recommendations in relation to the review of Bonfires on Public Land (see <http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/images/att43232.pdf> for the final report).

Detail

1. Following the Cabinet consideration of scrutiny reports, accepted recommendations are then subject to a monitoring process to track their implementation.
2. Two main types of report are used. Initially this is by means of Action Plans detailing how services will be taking forward agreed recommendations. This is then followed by a Progress Update report approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan (unless requested earlier). Evidence is submitted by the relevant department together with an assessment of progress against all recommendations. Should members of the Select Committee agree, those recommendations which have reached an assessment of ‘1’ are then signed off as having been completed.
3. If any recommendations remain incomplete, or if the Select Committee does not agree with the view on progress, the Select Committee may ask for a further update.
4. The assessment of progress for each recommendation should be categorised as follows:

1	Achieved (Fully)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has been fully implemented within the timescale specified.
2	On-Track (but not yet due for completion)	The evidence provided shows that implementation of the recommendation is on track but the timescale specified has not expired.

3	Slipped	The evidence shows that progress on implementation has slipped. An anticipated date by which the recommendation is expected to become achieved should be advised and the reasons for the delay.
4	Not Achieved	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved. An explanation for non achievement of the recommendation would be provided.

5. To further strengthen the monitoring process, from August 2020, the Progress Update report will also include references on the evidence of impact for each recommendation.
6. For progress update reports following the completion of a review, the relevant Link Officer(s) will be in attendance.
7. **Appendix 1** (Review of Bonfires on Public Land) sets out the outstanding recommendation for this Committee, and is supplemented by **Appendix 2** (Additional Update: Bonfires on Public Land) which provides information on further developments in relation to agreed actions previously signed-off in March 2023 as fully achieved. Members are asked to review the update and indicate whether they agree with the assessments of progress.

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APPENDIX 1


PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Bonfires on Public Land

SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE	
Review:	Bonfires on Public Land
Link Officer/s:	Marc Stephenson (now Sharon Cooney)
Action Plan Agreed:	March 2023

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 5:	To further deter the construction and lighting of unauthorised bonfires, SBC identifies any alternative sites within the Borough where official bonfires may be able to be facilitated in the future.
Responsibility:	SBC Head of Community Safety
Date:	November 2022
Agreed Action:	SBC will monitor and where reasonable advertise diversionary events including official bonfires to deter the practice on public land.
Agreed Success Measure:	Evidence of a communication / engagement strategy which accounts for advertisement of diversionary activity during this period.
Evidence of Progress (March 2023):	<p>There is continued work to identify and accurately track bonfire hotspots and this will continue throughout the year and approaching 2023 season.</p> <p>During Autumn 2022, the Authority conducted a Social Media campaign on the approach to Mischief Night and Bonfire Night, advertising many diversionary activities to attract families, children and Young People to alternative sites and activities, including the Halloween Spooky Walk that coincided with Mischief Night. Bearing in mind that not all bonfires and ASB in the season take place on 5th November, work was undertaken with SBC Youth Workers to divert young people throughout the period.</p> <p>The Shrewsbury Town Council approach is being explored and our own strategy being developed based on this for implementation in Autumn 2023. Environmental Crime Officers have been tasked with engagement activity over the next few months to identify appropriate sites and discuss with residents and businesses.</p>

APPENDIX 1 PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Bonfires on Public Land

				
Assessment of Progress (March 2023): (include explanation if required)	2 (On-Track)			
Evidence of Impact (March 2023):	<p>The data for 'Recommendation 1' demonstrates the achieved reductions in deliberate fire-setting for Bonfire Season.</p> <p>An update on the implementation of an approach similar to The Shrewsbury Town Council method will be presented to the Committee in due course. Autumnus 2023 will incorporate a collaborative approach with Youth outreach and schools.</p>			
Evidence of Progress (September 2023):	<p>There is continued work to identify and accurately track bonfire hotspots and this will continue throughout the year and approaching 2023 season.</p> <p>The overall strategy is outlined in the supplementary document (see Appendix 2). Case Management Officers have been tasked with engagement activity over the next few months to identify potential sites and discuss with residents and businesses. We are also working with Licensing and with Corporate Comms to identify and publicise organised events across social media platforms.</p>			
Assessment of Progress (September 2023): (include explanation if required)	2 (On-Track)			
Evidence of Impact (September 2023):	n/a			

Assessment of Progress Gradings:	1 Fully Achieved	2 On-Track	3 Slipped	4 Not Achieved
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Additional Update: Bonfires on Public Land

(Recommendations 1-4: signed-off as fully achieved in March 2023)

Recommendation 1:	To supplement Cleveland Fire Brigade’s (CFB) annual promotion of fire safety ahead of the bonfire season, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) reviews its own public engagement approach to reinforce this messaging across all available communication mechanisms, emphasising dangers of bonfires and impact on local residents.
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Community Safety team continue to work closely with Cleveland Fire Brigade and planning for Mischief and Bonfire period has already started. Case Management Officers have put together a Problem Solving Plan to start addressing the main issues well in advance. This includes redesigning an information leaflet and developing joint messages to be communicated across CFB, Police and SBC social media platforms. Last year’s social media campaign was very successful and we aim to repeat/better that performance with the 2023 campaign.

(A draft of the leaflets are included at the end of this document).

(Planned letter to be sent out to identified locations, 2023 included at the end of this document)

(Planned letter for Primrose Hill Joint Operation 2023 included at the end of this document)

Case Management Officers and CFB will jointly attending Eco pop up shops at Arlington Park in the run up to bonfire season in order to educate residents on fire safety, promote the message to attend planned, scheduled events and to inform them of the implications of fly tipping and bonfires and provide guidance on waste removal etc.

Additional Update: Bonfires on Public Land

(Recommendations 1-4: signed-off as fully achieved in March 2023)

Recommendation 2:	In terms of communicating to the wider public, SBC considers adopting the Shrewsbury Town Council approach in emphasising a zero tolerance towards unauthorised bonfires (including contact routes for permission to light a bonfire on public land and the potential consequences for failing to seek permission).
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Stockton Borough Council Partnership Bonfire Strategy 2023

Aims and objectives.

To reduce the harm and antisocial behaviour associated with the Mischief and Bonfire period in 2023, through collaboration with the community, raising education and awareness, and working with partners to keep people safe.

1. Education and awareness.
 - a. Identify alternative, organised events taking place on key dates during the period.
 - b. Publicise these events across platforms and with partners.
 - c. Promote responsible behaviour and safe alternatives.
 - d. Provide guidance on legislation and health and safety considerations (bonfires, fireworks etc).
 - e. Promote responsible use of fireworks.
 - f. Make full use of communication methods such as letters, leaflets, social media and the community.

2. Community Engagement.
 - a. Encourage local communities to organise safe alternative events.
 - b. Collaborate with partners to support community initiatives.
 - c. Collaborate with the community, schools and partners to spread the message of safety and responsible behaviour throughout the period.

3. Enforcement
 - a. Work with partners, particularly CFB and Police to enforce regulations on fireworks and bonfires, including size limitations, clearances and safety precautions.
 - b. Discourage unsafe practices, spelling out the dangers and the likely legal consequences.
 - c. Work with Licensing to enforce Firework legislation to minimise risk.

4. Response
 - a. Liaise with Ambulance, CFB and Fire to understand agency responsibilities in case of accidents and emergencies.
 - b. Develop an operational plan for SBC and understand how that fits in with partners and emergency services.

Additional Update: Bonfires on Public Land

(Recommendations 1-4: signed-off as fully achieved in March 2023)

- c. Work together to understand and mitigate foreseeable risks in the period leading up to Mischief and Bonfire week.
5. Monitoring and Reporting
 - a. Ensure incidents are properly recorded and shared between agencies during and after the operation.
 - b. Ensure there is shared situational awareness, particularly on key dates, by having effective communication methods in place between partners and an understanding of each other's responsibilities.
 - c. Record interventions and engagement activity so the operation can be evaluated for effectiveness.
 - d. Hold a structured debrief for shared learning and service improvement.

Potential problem locations have been identified using council and partnership data, and this is a standing agenda item on the Joint Action Group.

Research indicates that no Local Authority area permits unofficial bonfires on land, and only properly organised, licensed and insured events would be sanctioned by the Safety Advisory Group.

We are aware of community events that do take place, some of which have become more popular now there is no Riverside display. There are some safety and environmental concerns regarding bonfire locations, nature of the fireworks and burning of materials. We are engaging with the community, monitoring intelligence and working with police, CFB and housing partners to mitigate some of the issues.

There is an Action Plan and a monthly partnership task and finish group in place and we have considered offering to work with the 'organisers' of one large event that takes place annually, if they can be identified, and attempt an official event. However, it is believed this on its own would not satisfy the community and they would go ahead with their large unofficial bonfire elsewhere in the locality, creating even more of a problem.

CFB/Police/SBC will visit individuals believed to be organising or influencing the event and advise them not to use the illegal fireworks or to go ahead with the large bonfire. Safety advice and guidance about safe events will be given, and the likely consequences of something going wrong.

Licensing/Trading Standards/Police Any information about illegally held fireworks will be fed back in so that appropriate action can be taken to remove them from use. We will do joint operations to maximise enforcement potential in advance.

Case Management Officers have been tasked with collating information on local organised events across the bonfire period and publishing this across partnership platforms to persuade the public to attend safe, organised events.

Additional Update: Bonfires on Public Land

(Recommendations 1-4: signed-off as fully achieved in March 2023)

The team targeting problem locations with resident letters, similar to the guidance sent out last year on how to dispose of waste responsibly and safety information on fireworks and bonfires, including reminding people of their legal responsibilities.

We have also secured Home Office funding for Operation Grant – A Port Clarence operation to prevent fly tipping and illegal fires. The operation has already started.

Recommendation 3:	SBC reinforces existing communication arrangements with both CFB and Cleveland Police for them to report details of dispensed combustible materials for collection (both during and outside the bonfire season).
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During the bonfire season CFB and Police have direct access to Control Room via radio and telephone to report any issues. Via ASB funding we are also sourcing five Airwave handsets which will afford even greater interoperability between SBC and police.

An online reporting system is used by all agencies and the public and has proven to be a success as the request can be created at the scene using the online form. This generates a job which can be directly accessed by enforcement to pick up/attend and action.

This has proven to be efficient as it gives the options to include pictures of the waste and pinpoint the location of the waste on a map making it easier for the officer investigating. This has encouraged members of the public to report waste.

This sharing of information is vital and has proven to have a positive impact, although last year there was no reporting mechanism for separating reports from different agencies and sources, we are hoping to use different codes for recording this year which should enable us to demonstrate the different sources. There are email addresses published for prompt removal of combustible material on land owned by Thirteen Housing and to contact Care for Your Area and CFB.

Additional Update: Bonfires on Public Land

(Recommendations 1-4: signed-off as fully achieved in March 2023)

Recommendation 4:	SBC continues to support CFB and Thirteen Housing Group in undertaking leaflet-drops to identified bonfire hotspot neighbourhoods within the Borough regarding fire safety and reporting routes for anti-social behaviour / associated disorder.
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We continue to work jointly with CFB and Thirteen and have planned operations in Primrose Hill and across identified locations in the run up to Bonfire period. The strategy, aims and objectives is outlined in the previous section and the Operation for Mischief/Bonfire period is currently in draft format pending an information and intelligence update.

Since 14th August 2023, the team are also working alongside Cleveland Police to conduct evidence based ASB patrols in 7 hotspot locations across Stockton, Billingham and Thornaby. A monthly data is completed and sent to the PCC.

There will be a post Autumnus debrief and statistics will be published for the period post operation.

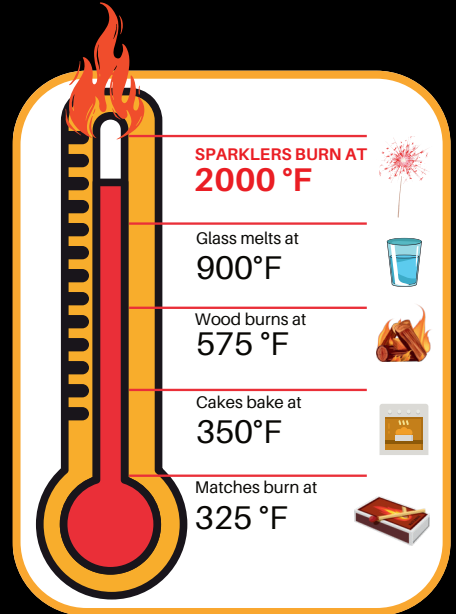
REMEMBER REMEMBER



SAFETY FIRST THIS NOVEMBER

- **Be Smart**
- **Be Safe**
- **Be Sensible**

Don't forget fireworks are explosive and extremely dangerous so remember:



Think don't drink - alcohol and fireworks do not mix



Stay alert - always supervise children around fireworks



Stand back - keep behind safety cordons



Four-legged friends - keep pets indoor



Turn over to find out the Firework Code to stay safe



STAY SAFE & FOLLOW THE FIREWORK CODE



- Do not buy fireworks from UNLICENCED retailers..These fireworks may be unsafe and illegal.
- Always keep fireworks in a closed box.
- Take them out one at a time and close the box.
- Never put fireworks in your pocket.
- Be considerate. Let your neighbours know you will be having a display, especially if they are elderly or they have pets or children.
- Avoid setting fireworks off late at night, particularly if it is a school-night.
- Ensure your pets are safe.
- Never go back to a lit firework unless the instructions advise otherwise.
- Never throw fireworks; it is dangerous.
- Light fireworks one at a time, at the end of the fuse, and at arm's length.
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear suitable gloves, even when lighting them.
- Never give sparklers to a child under the age of 5.
- Never throw spent fireworks on a bonfire.

Only buy fireworks that comply with current safety standards.

Carefully follow the instructions on EACH firework.



MISUSE OF FIREWORKS COULD RESULT IN A FINE AND PROSECUTED



Consumer Fireworks (those available to the general public) fall into three main categories (sometimes referred to as CAT).

CAT F1 – Smaller fireworks, some of which are suitable for indoor use and generally have the smallest safety distance.

CAT F2 – Small to Medium sized fireworks which are suitable for outdoor use only. Generally the minimum safe distance to spectators is 8 meters, although the specific instructions for each firework may state a larger distance, which is why it is important to check.

CAT F3 – Medium to Large sized fireworks and the highest available to the general public. Generally the minimum safe distance to spectators is 25 meters, although the specific instructions for each firework may state a larger distance, which is why it is important to check.

WHAT IS FIREWORK MISUSE?

- * Possessing CAT F1 fireworks whilst aged 15 or under
- * Possessing CAT F2 or CAT F3 fireworks whilst aged 17 or under
- * Letting off fireworks between 11pm and 7am (midnight on Bonfire Night and 1am on New Years)

DID YOU KNOW...?

Flytipping and setting bonfires on public land is...

ILLEGAL



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

REPORT



Flytipping & illegal bonfires to your local council

Be a **FireStopper.**

Deliberate fires destroy communities.

Tell us what you know

FireStoppers.

0800 169 5558

firestoppersreport.co.uk

100% anonymous. Always.



WHEELIE BIN... TAKE IT IN!

Wheelie bins can become easy targets. Keep them **secure**, put them out on **day of collection** and bring them back in **as soon as possible.**



Municipal Buildings
Church Road
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 1LD
SAT NAV code: TS19 1UE

Tel: 01642 528439

Email: Civic.Enforcement@stockton.gov.uk

Date: 16/08/2023

Dear Resident,

Bonfire Season

As we approach bonfire season, the Civic Enforcement Service would like to take this opportunity to remind residents of the appropriate way to store and dispose waste lawfully.

Fly tipping costs local authorities millions of pounds each year to remove but it also has a detrimental impact on both our community and environment. You can help us tackle this problem.

Bonfire season is approaching, and it creates a potential target for people setting deliberate fires which creates an added strain on our emergency Services. Along with the additional strain, fly tipping waste is a criminal offence and can leave you subject to a fine of an unlimited amount and imprisonment of up to 5 years.

Additionally, Stockton Council and Cleveland Fire brigade urge all residents to attend safe, scheduled events and to follow the firework code and to not participate in bonfires on land where no permission has been granted.

What if I have waste to remove?

If you have waste that needs removing, we encourage residents to recycle where possible and utilise the facilities the council have to offer. Care for your area offer a Bulky Waste collection service which can be arranged online at <https://www.stockton.gov.uk> or via telephone 01642 391959.

Your local household Waste Recycling centre **SUEZ Recycling UK**, is located on Haverton Hill Road, TS231PY. There is a booking system in place and slots can be booked on the council's website - <https://digital.stockton.gov.uk/hwrc-bookings>

There are registered waste carriers that can take your waste which can be found on the Waste Carriers Register - <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers> - Just be sure to obtain a receipt from the person you pay to transfer the waste.

Customer address
Address line one
Address line two
Address line three
Postcode

How do I report Fly Tipping, waste accumulation or someone who I believe to not be a waste carrier?

The above issues can be reported into Civic Enforcement via email on: Civic.Enforcement@stockton.gov.uk or by telephone on 01642 528439.

We are working closely with Cleveland Fire brigade to prevent any fly tipping occurring and subsequently being set alight for the purpose of this season and to prosecute any offenders and emphasise that these actions have consequences.

This residential area has been highlighted by statistics from SBC and Cleveland Fire Brigade as a location where these incidents of illegal bonfires and waste accumulations have previously taken place. Therefore, we urge anyone who witnesses fly tipping occurring or a waste accumulation in gardens to contact us on 01642 528439 or via email on Civic.Enforcement@stockton.gov.uk especially with this season approaching.

As a community we can prevent these incidents taking places by conducting the relevant checks, securing our own waste, and reporting any waste accumulation or fly tipping offences promptly. Let's enjoy this season responsibly and protect our community, emergency services and environment.

Yours,

Civic Enforcement - Environmental Crime Co-ordinators.

Municipal Buildings
Church Road
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 1LD
SAT NAV code: TS19 1UE

Tel: 01642 528439

Email: **Civic.Enforcement@stockton.gov.uk**

Date:16/08/2023

Dear Resident,

Waste storage and Disposal

Civic Enforcement Service want to take this opportunity to remind residents of the appropriate way to store and dispose waste lawfully due to an increase in fly tipping in the vicinity and incorrect display of household waste. These incidents are investigated by our Enforcement Officers and can carry a heavy penalty for the perpetrator.

Fly tipping waste is a criminal offence and can leave you subject to a fine of an unlimited amount and imprisonment of up to 5 years. Fly tipping costs local authorities millions of pounds each year to remove but it also has a detrimental impact on both our communities and environment, you can help us tackle this problem in order to improve our quality of life within the locality and community.

Your designated household waste collection days can be located on <https://www.stockton.gov.uk>. Household waste/ wheeled bins can be placed out for collection on dusk the previous day and must be returned to your property by dawn the day of collection. They must be kept within your property boundary at all other times.

As a community and with partnership working in Stockton, agencies such as Cleveland Fire Brigade, Thirteen, and Cleveland Police are working collectively to engage with residents in your locality, supporting community engagements and activities and supporting residents in the development of the area and community.

Enclosed is some useful contact information for residents to be able to seek help with any issues they may be experiencing. Together we can achieve more for our community.

Yours Sincerely,

Civic Enforcement - Environmental Crime Co-ordinators.

In partnership with



AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CRIME AND DISORDER SELECT COMMITTEE

21st SEPTEMBER 2023

STAFF SAFETY IN THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

SUMMARY

Public safety in our night-time economy is a key objective for Stockton on Tees Borough Council. Through the multi-agency efforts of both partners and both our community safety and licensing teams, much has been done to improve feelings of safety whilst enjoying the leisure offer in our town centres. This includes a range of efforts to improve the public space including the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order, high visibility patrols in the town centres and a comprehensive network of CCTV cameras. These efforts compliment an already robust licensing regime, supported by proactive relationships with premises such as Pub Watch and well established multi-agency working.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. Consider the content of this report in order to understand the current efforts to promote safety in the night time economy.

INTRODUCTION

As a result of the scrutiny topic recommendation being adopted by the Crime and Disorder Select Committee, a tripartite was held in order to discuss this topic in detail. The tripartite took the form of a desk top exercise, which resulted in a request from the Chair of the Committee for this report to be produced in order to present back to the wider committee for consideration.

BACKGROUND

In August 2023, a jointly commissioned Cleveland wide problem profile of understanding violence in the night time economy was undertaken by Crest Advisory, a think-tank who are experts in areas such as justice, policing and public safety. The report highlighted a number of key findings which are relevant to consider in the context of staff safety in the night time economy although interestingly, the safety of staff working within the night time economy did not feature as an area of specific concern within the findings despite those working in the night time economy contributing to the report itself. The profile also made clear that there is a lack of available baseline data in relation to staff safety in the night time economy especially.

What the problem profile did confirm however is that both police incident (and offence) data and hospital admittance data show clear peaks in demand on Friday and Saturday evenings in particular, though there are a significant number of incidents throughout most afternoons. When focussing on incidents within the NTE in Stockton on Tees, the evidence suggests that 6pm to 6am should be used as a

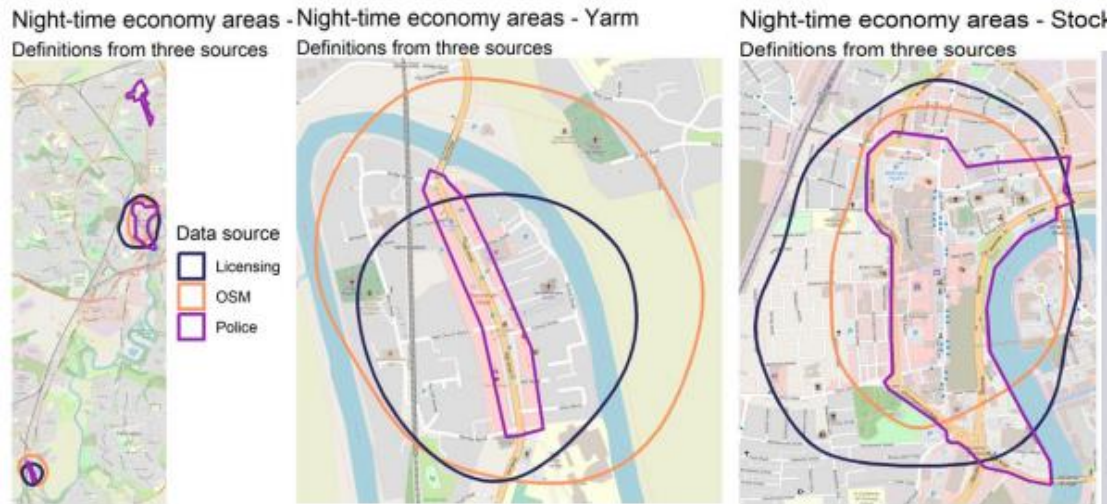
broad definition of NTE 'hot-times' though in some instances it may be sensible to focus this even further on Friday and Saturday nights specifically.

Stakeholders felt there was no clear profile of the 'typical victim' or offender. Most stakeholders highlighted that victims and offenders spanned a wide age range, though there are differences in profiles based on when in the evening people are around. Older cohorts of individuals were identified by stakeholders as being in the NTE earlier in the evenings, while younger individuals are entering NTE areas much later at night. These perceptions were reinforced by the police and hospital data which show a clear transition through the night - from older individuals who are more likely to be victims, offenders, or attend hospital before midnight, to younger individuals who appear in the data after midnight.

A substantial proportion of the offences committed before midnight on Friday and Saturday nights are violence without injury offences. As the night continues though, offences are more severe, with violence with injury becoming more prevalent, and the number of attendances at hospital for assault increasing significantly. Although assault was the main driver of hospital attendances after midnight, particularly with 18-34 year olds, there were still a significant number of alcohol related injuries - particularly for the older age cohorts.

The general decline in the NTE over the past ten years, combined with substantial cuts to services such as the council, police and ambulance service has created a substantial challenge for addressing violence in the night time economy. License holders do not feel they have the resources to implement the safety measures they would like to. They also feel like the services are not supporting them as fully as they should. In contrast, the data suggests that the police and hospitals are dealing with an unmanageable demand across the region, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights (when there can be significant delays in responding to calls), but that the volume of incidents is relatively high from late morning through to the early hours of the next day on a near continuous basis.

Stakeholders felt that the older cohort in particular was leaving the NTE earlier or not venturing out because of fear of violence. Media reports, social media, and word of mouth are all believed to have a significant impact on the likelihood of individuals to go out into the NTE or head home early, and a negative incident at a venue can substantially reduce customer numbers for a long period of time. The cost of living crisis has also led to many people 'pre-drinking' before going out (more so than was previously the case). This further impacts on venues and their ability to survive and results in many potential customers arriving into NTE areas already significantly inebriated. Safety measures that some venues have put in are potentially discouraging potential customers as the fear of violence is so substantial that stakeholder believe the sight of security processes or equipment might suggest the venue is not safe.



CURRENT MEASURES

Pub Watch

National Pubwatch is a voluntary organisation set up to promote best practice through supporting the work of local Pubwatch Schemes. Its aim is to achieve a safer drinking environment in all licensed premises throughout the UK. Pubwatch enables licensees to take collective action to ban troublemakers, while promoting effective working relations between licensees, the police, and local authorities. The scheme helps to make licensed premises places where people can enjoy themselves safely.

Pubwatch could be seen as the licensed trade's equivalent of Neighbourhood Watch. The main difference is that a Pubwatch scheme is much more proactive in setting its own objectives and tackling the specific and unique problems faced by the pub on-trade. Pubwatch is not a new concept and has been successfully operating across the United Kingdom for over 40 years including here in Stockton on Tees.

The basic principle of Pubwatch is that its licensee members will agree to work together to improve the safety of their premises, for the benefit of their staff and customers. They will introduce initiatives to try and combat the criminal activity and anti-social behaviour that can often be associated, but not exclusively, with the misuse of alcohol or drugs. Invariably therefore the work of a Pubwatch scheme will be to set standards of acceptable behaviour and act robustly against the small number of individuals who cause problems for the pub trade. This will often result in Pubwatch members agreeing to jointly ban problem individuals who are violent, damage property, use or deal drugs or act in an anti-social manner for a period of time or indefinitely.

Pubwatch is seen as good practice by the Police and Home Office and is a valuable way of demonstrating a commitment to promoting the four licensing objectives under the Licensing Act 2003 and the responsibility of the licensing trade in general. It is also a means to discharge a part of a licensee's health and safety responsibility to their staff and customers.

Pubwatch can protect staff and customers, preserve, and improve trade and fosters good working relationships with the Police, Licensing Authority, and the Courts. Pubwatch meetings are split into five areas here in Stockton on Tees:

- Stockton TC
- Thornaby and Ingleby
- Norton and Estates
- Yarm
- Billingham

Each area has a meeting chair and licensees meet every 2 weeks (last round of meetings was beginning of September). Each area has varying degrees of engagement with the Stockton TC, and Yarm pub watches most attended and effective. Licensing officers attend all meetings along with Police and we use this as a forum to discuss issues, trends and distribute materials such as spiking prevention measures, metal detectors wands and bleed control kits.

Multi-Agency Working

Incidents that occur within all our town centres, including in the night time economy, feature in the established Joint Action Group, made up of key partners across Stockton on Tees including Cleveland Police. Data in relation to incidents, emerging trends, intelligence and feedback are monitored on a regular basis and appropriate actions taken to address problems. This ensures that there is joint ownership of our town centres and that resources from across a range of agencies can be brought to bare in order to quickly resolve emerging issues. Over the past several years, there has been no recorded issues or concerns raised in relation to staff safety in the night time economy and unfortunately incidents involving staff are not recorded separately and therefore baseline information on the extent of this issue is not available.

We do know from this partnership and the work of CURV (Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence), that key issues such as serious violence are closely monitored and the measures put in place could have secondary benefits to staff, as well as visitors to the night time-economy. Recently, funding was made available via the OPCC (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner) for measures aimed at tackling violence in the night time economy. This has included improvements to CCTV including increase monitoring, the introduction of the 'Ask for Angela' scheme and the provision of equipment such as metal detectors, spike detection strips, glass and bottle covers as well as additional research and intelligence analysis.

In order to inform the development of our multi-agency approach to issues arising in the night time economy, we also research and consider best practice from around the country which can also be adopted here in Stockton on Tees. This is co-ordinated via both Stockton BID and also the wider Safer Stockton Partnership which also scrutinises both activity and results to ensure that the response is both efficient and impactful.

Licensing

The use of licensing conditions on premises is strictly governed by the law and the conditions implemented must be done so in a reasonable and proportionate way in order to meet with licensing objectives. Under the Licensing Act 2003 conditions can be attached to a licence to promote the four licensing objectives:

- the prevention of crime and disorder
- public safety
- the prevention of public nuisance
- the protection of children from harm.

Conditions include any limitations or restrictions attached to a licence or certificate and essentially are the steps or actions that the holder of the premises licence or the club premises certificate will be required to take or refrain from taking in relation to the carrying on of licensable activities at the premises in question.

Failure to comply with any condition attached to a licence or certificate is a criminal offence, which on conviction is punishable by an unlimited fine or up to six months' imprisonment. The courts have made clear that it is particularly important that conditions which are imprecise or difficult for a licence holder to observe should be avoided.

Licence holders should make provision to ensure that premises users safely leave their premises. Measures that may assist include providing information on the premises of local taxi companies who can provide safe transportation home; and ensuring adequate lighting outside the premises, particularly on paths leading to and from the premises and in car parks, but transport to and from work is not a licensable activity and therefore cannot be considered as a condition attached to a licence and as such can not be enforced.

CONCLUSION

A significant amount of focus is given to ensuring the night time economy offer within Stockton on Tees is safe and managed well. Whilst this is done primarily through our licencing function, a significant amount of work is done by the venues themselves. Likewise, partnership working is at the forefront of our approach to ensure people are safe when visiting, working or indeed living in close proximity to the night time offer in our towns. A significant amount of work is planned this year to compliment what has been achieved so far on violence reduction and to improve the environment around our town centre offer. This has been achieved through the strong working relationships and forums which have already formed such as Pub Watch.

The desktop exercise at the tripartite stage did lead to the conclusion that there would be little to gain from carrying out a full review of this topic in isolation especially given that regular updates on issues such as this can be provided by to the committee for Members generally should it be requested. As far as our current activity goes, national guidance is being adopted, new initiatives to tackle emerging issues are being regularly put in place and we are currently fully maximising our licencing activity to the extent that the current legislation allows. As a result, I recommend that the objectives outlined in the scrutiny review can be met through the existing arrangements already in place as outlined in this report.

Name of Contact Officer: Marc Stephenson
Title: Assistant Director (Community Safety and Regulated Services)
Email Address: Marc.Stephenson@stockton.gov.uk

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CRIME AND DISORDER SELECT COMMITTEE
Work Programme 2023-2024

Date (4.30pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
29 June (1.00pm) (informal)	Scrutiny Training	Scrutiny Team
27 July	Overview Report: Adults, Health and Wellbeing	Marc Stephenson
21 September	Safety of Staff in the Night-Time Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report Monitoring: Progress Update – Bonfires on Public Land	Marc Stephenson Sharon Cooney
19 October	Monitoring: Progress Update – Fly-Grazed Horses	Stephen Donaghy / John Wrintmore
9 November		
21 December		
25 January		
22 February		
21 March		

2023-2024 Scrutiny Reviews

- Safety of Staff in the Night-Time Economy
- Access to and Impact of Vaping
- Play Area Distribution, Maintenance and Physical Accessibility

Monitoring Items (scheduled / to be scheduled)

- Fly-Grazed Horses (Progress Update) – Oct 23
- Bonfires on Public Land (Progress Update) – Sep 23
- Tree Asset Management (Progress Update) – TBC

Other Information Sources / Updates

- **Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP):** The SSP is the local community safety partnership and works together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) – meeting dates, agendas and minutes can be accessed via <https://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/users/public/admin/kab71.pl?cmte=SSP>. Every three

CRIME AND DISORDER SELECT COMMITTEE Work Programme 2023-2024

years, the SSP undertake a Crime and Disorder Audit and, following public consultation, produce a Community Safety Plan which sets out how agencies within the Partnership intend to achieve targets in crime reduction. The latest version is the [Stockton-on-Tees Community Safety Strategy 2022-2025](#).

- **Serious Violence Duty:** The Duty (Aug 22) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-2021-factsheets/police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-2021-serious-violence-duty-factsheet> and associated guidance (Dec 22): https://www.gov.uk/government/news/efforts-to-tackle-serious-violence-and-homicide-stepped-up?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=66d44b4c-9d22-4f1d-aed7-517818847183&utm_content=immediately
- **Martyn's Law:** ([The Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Draft Bill](#)) has recently (May 23) been published, which will introduce new requirements for those responsible for certain public premises or events to take protective security measures to mitigate against terrorist attacks. Also known as Martyn's Law, this will likely have a number of implications for Councils. Further details can also be found on [the Home Office's Martyn's Law factsheet](#). The LGA has recently (Apr 23) published [a case study highlighting how Manchester Council](#) has embedded the principles of Martyn's Law into their licensing process.
- **Modern Slavery:** The anti-slavery charity Unseen has recently (May 23) [published its Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline data for 2022](#). Figures show the number of potential victims of modern slavery in the UK more than doubled to record levels last year, with a particularly sharp increase in alleged exploitation in the care sector.
- **Youth Offending:** *Turnaround* is a voluntary youth early intervention programme led by the Ministry of Justice. The programme provides multi-year grant funding to Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) across England and Wales until March 2025, enabling them to intervene earlier and improve outcomes for children on the cusp of entering the youth justice system. The eligibility criteria for *Turnaround* includes; children involved in anti-social behaviour (ASB) – ranging from coming to notice for repeated involvement in ASB up to and including receiving a Civil Order for ASB. The Ministry of Justice is encouraging all community safety teams to engage with their local YOT Manager or Management Board to discuss a referral pathway for eligible children so they can be offered support via *Turnaround*.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB):** The [ASB Action Plan](#) (updated in May 23) includes a proposal to develop relevant metrics for local partners to report on. However, the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman issued a recent (Aug 23) press release expressing concern that [Councils were not doing enough to help victims of ASB](#). The Ombudsman has also produced a [learning lessons from complaints about antisocial behaviour](#) document which includes scrutiny questions for Councillors.
- **CONTEST:** In July 2023, the Government published its [updated counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST](#), which judges that risks from terrorism are rising. In related matters, SBC rolled-out mandatory staff training around the Prevent and Protect duty at the end of April 2023.
- **Fire & Rescue:** [State of Fire & Rescue 2022](#) - His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire and Rescue Services Annual Assessment of Fire and Rescue Services in England. Arson and deliberate fire setting remain a significant issue for Cleveland Fire Brigade with Cleveland being the arson capital of the UK – in October 2022, Cleveland Fire Brigade [appealed for everyone to become a FireStopper in a new bid to reduce arson and violent attacks on Firefighters](#).

CRIME AND DISORDER SELECT COMMITTEE Work Programme 2023-2024

- **Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cleveland:** Further information on the office of the PCC can be found on via <https://www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk/commissioner/office/> - this includes engagement with the **Cleveland Police and Crime Panel (PCP)**. Access to PCP agendas and papers can be found via <https://www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk/commissioner/office/the-work-of-cleveland-police-and-crime-panel/>.

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