

**Date:** Thursday 9 November 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 19 October 2023. (Pages 9 - 12)
- 5 Scrutiny Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility**  
  
To receive information from relevant Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council departments in relation to this scrutiny topic (to follow).
- 6 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2023-2024** (Pages 13 - 16)

**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: Scrutiny Support Officer Rachel Harrison on email [rachel.harrison@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.harrison@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**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation</b>	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
<b>Sponsorship</b>	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.
<b>Contracts</b>	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.
<b>Land and property</b>	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.
<b>Licences</b>	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
<b>Corporate tenancies</b>	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.
<b>Securities</b>	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 19 October 2023.

**Present:** Cllr Pauline Beall (Chair), Cllr Paul Rowling (Vice-Chair), Cllr Richard Eglington, Cllr Jason French, Cllr Shakeel Hussain (sub for Cllr Sally Ann Watson), Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Sufi Mubeen (sub for Cllr John Coulson), Cllr Susan Scott (sub for Cllr Alan Watson) and Cllr Sylvia Walmsley.

**Officers:** Stephen Donaghy (A,H&W), Neil Mitchell, Stephen Bowerbank (CS,E&C) and Gary Woods (CS).

**Also in attendance:** Dan Heron (Cleveland Police)

**Apologies:** Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Alan Watson and Cllr Sally Ann Watson.

### **CD/12/23 Evacuation Procedure**

The evacuation procedure was noted.

### **CD/13/23 Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

### **CD/14/23 Minutes**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee meeting which was held on 21 September 2023 for approval and signature.

AGREED that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 21 September 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **CD/15/23 Monitoring the Impact of Previously Agreed Recommendations - Fly-Grazed Horses**

Consideration was given to the assessments of progress on the implementation of the recommendations from the Committee's previously completed review of Fly-Grazed Horses. This was the fourth progress update following the Committee's agreement of the Action Plan in February 2021, with developments in relation to outstanding agreed actions noted as follows:

- Recommendation 1 (Cleveland Police, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) and other relevant partners, in conjunction with any other interested Tees Valley Local Authorities, develop a joint formal policy document to address the fly-grazing of horses on both Council and non-Council land, clearly outlining the roles and responsibilities of the relevant organisations): The Cleveland Police Procurement Team are currently engaged with the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) working group who are developing a national approach to the issue of fly-grazed horses. The force are awaiting an indication of timescales in respect of the NPCC working group and cannot

move forward until this steer has been given. In the meantime, the police have continued to meet with the SBC Environmental Health Service Manager and there has been a Chief Inspector of local policing appointed who is now a permanent addition to the district – this is important in providing consistency for the problem-solving process.

- Recommendation 6 (Relevant SBC departments identify specific areas of Council land requiring a zero-tolerance approach based on location alone, along with an assessment of the resources required to support the enforcement of the new formal policy on these pieces of land and any other land where a horse's presence poses an identified risk): As set out previously, SBC Environmental Health continue to address all complaints of this nature on a case-by-case basis. The team also continue to engage with the public, particularly individuals from the travelling community, and maintain strong links with the RSPCA.
- Recommendation 7 (Consideration be given to arranging a future microchipping clinic in the Borough (in conjunction with the British Horse Society)): Local charities remain under considerable financial pressure, both post-pandemic and because of the reported cost-of-living crisis, with donations dramatically reduced. The availability of free microchipping sessions (as well as other associated offers) for the public are not currently being undertaken.

The Cleveland Police representative in attendance stated that the force recognised its responsibilities in relation to this practice, but could not develop a policy which was not fully aligned to any national approach. The force received a very limited number of calls regarding fly-grazed horses, and this had to be balanced against the potentially significant investment required to manage local cases. That said, Cleveland Police remained committed to reaching a solution and, to this end, would continue to work with SBC officers.

The Committee reflected on the length of time that had elapsed since the agreement of the post-review Action Plan back in early-February 2021. Whilst it was immensely frustrating that progress on the anticipated joint formal policy between Cleveland Police and SBC had been slow, it was emphasised that important work had been actioned around this scrutiny topic, with improvements to the Council's communications on the issue, the public being more informed about what to do in the event of a horse being fly-grazed, and positive informal relationships being formed / reinforced with local horse-owners.

Following discussion, Members agreed that there was little to be gained in requesting any future progress updates in relation to the outstanding recommendations until the national picture became much clearer and Cleveland Police could reach a firm position on the way forward regarding a joint formal policy.

AGREED that:

- 1) the Fly-Grazed Horses progress update be noted and the assessments for progress be confirmed.
- 2) the next update on progress would not be scheduled until significant developments had been seen regarding the national police approach to the issue of fly-grazed horses.

## **Scrutiny Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility**

Consideration was given to the draft scope and project plan for the Scrutiny Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility, the proposed aims of which would be to:

- Examine the Borough's existing outdoor play offer in terms of play value and distribution, and identify locations where there is currently an imbalance in provision.
- Ascertain who is responsible for individual facilities and what the management / maintenance and sustainability requirements are now, and are likely to be in the future (including revenue costs).
- Consider accessibility / inclusivity factors in relation to play provision so practical and financial implications are understood and factored into decisions around existing and future plans.
- Contribute to future policy around play area provision, giving an appraisal of potential options.

Several key contributors had been identified in relation to this scrutiny topic, including a number of SBC departments, the Association of Play Industries (API), RoSPA, Play England, Stockton Parent Carer Forum, Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF), and the Local Government Association (LGA) / other Local Authorities. It was also intended to arrange visits to various outdoor play sites across the Borough as part of the evidence-gathering phase, with a view to reporting the Committee's findings and recommendations to Cabinet in April 2024.

The Committee expressed broad agreement with the content of the scope and requested that the initial evidence session in November 2023 included documentation mapping the Borough's existing outdoor play provision. Other elements which would need to be ascertained included legal requirements for accessibility, resident views on local play areas, and issues around the sustainability of new and existing sites in terms of maintenance.

A query was raised on the actual use of some of the current play sites and whether this was monitored in any way. Members noted several variables (e.g. whether, school holidays) which impacted upon play area usage, and officers confirmed that tracking this was a challenge due to multiple entries to an individual site and the limits on resources to carry out such a task. That said, there may be an opportunity to link-in with relevant community groups to establish play area 'traffic', though it was agreed that it would not be appropriate to ask SBC staff to sit and monitor the number of people using a particular site.

Noting that this scrutiny topic was a complex issue which often elicited much public opinion, the appointed Link Officer for this review (SBC Head of Environment, Leisure and Green Infrastructure) reinforced the three key aspects for the Committee to consider – the unfair distribution of facilities and quality of provision, maintenance pressures associated with existing and new sites, and accessibility challenges and the balance between enabling as many people (often with complex / multiple needs which differ from others) to use facilities versus the costs of such provision. It was acknowledged that there were associated issues around vandalism and CCTV coverage, but these aspects would not be focused upon during this review, nor would any ongoing changes in related legislation.

AGREED that the draft scope and project plan for the Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility review be approved.

**CD/17/23 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2023-2024**

Chair's Update

The Chair highlighted a forthcoming 'community conversation' initiative which had been organised by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and was scheduled to take place next Thursday (26 October 2023) from 5.45pm to 8.00pm in the Jim Cooke Conference Suite, Stockton Central Library. This was an opportunity for the public to give their views on community safety and policing, and Members were asked to promote this event where possible.

Work Programme 2023-2024

Consideration was given to the current Crime and Disorder Select Committee Work Programme. The next meeting was scheduled for 9 November 2023 (moved forward from the original date of 23 November 2023) and would focus on the first evidence-gathering for the review of Outdoor Play Provision.

Members were reminded about the 'Other Information Sources / Updates' section of the work programme which included a list of useful links to ongoing community safety / crime and disorder issues.

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

**CRIME AND DISORDER SELECT COMMITTEE  
Work Programme 2023-2024**

<b>Date</b> (4.30pm unless stated)	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
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"> <li>Report</li> </ul> Monitoring: Progress Update – Bonfires on Public Land	Marc Stephenson  Sharon Cooney
19 October	Monitoring: Progress Update – Fly-Grazed Horses  Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Draft) Scope and Project Plan</li> </ul>	Stephen Donaghy / Dan Heron / Stuart Hodgson  Neil Mitchell
9 November	Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council</li> </ul>	Neil Mitchell / Graham Clingan / Andie Mackay / Steve Bowerbank
21 December	Monitoring: Progress Update – Bonfires on Public Land  Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBC</li> </ul>	Sharon Cooney  TBC
25 January	Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBC</li> </ul>	TBC
22 February	Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBC</li> </ul>	TBC
21 March	Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBC</li> </ul>	TBC

## CRIME AND DISORDER SELECT COMMITTEE Work Programme 2023-2024

### 2023-2024 Scrutiny Reviews

- Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility
- Access to and Impact of Vaping

### Monitoring Items (scheduled / to be scheduled)

- Fly-Grazed Horses (Progress Update) – TBC
  - Bonfires on Public Land (Progress Update) – Dec 23
  - Tree Asset Management (Progress Update) – TBC
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### 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 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](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. [New modern slavery risk assessment and due diligence guidance for local authority commissioners of adult social care](#), produced by the University of Nottingham Rights Lab in tandem with the LGA, was published in October 2023 - it provides advice on to how to set up effective local systems to identify and manage the risks of modern slavery in adult social care.
- **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

## CRIME AND DISORDER SELECT COMMITTEE Work Programme 2023-2024

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](#).
- **Shoplifting:** Police to treat shoplifting like organised crime (BBC online article published in October 2023): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-67191793>.
- **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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