

**Date:** Thursday 21 December 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 Barbara Inman  
Cllr Alan Watson

Cllr Richard Eglington  
Cllr Shakeel Hussain  
Cllr Sylvia Walmsley

## **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 9 November 2023. (Pages 9 - 14)
- 5 Monitoring the Impact of Previously Agreed Recommendations - Bonfires on Public Land**  
  
Progress report for the previously completed Bonfires on Public Land review. (Pages 15 - 20)
- 6 Scrutiny Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility**  
  
To receive information from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Regeneration and Inclusive Growth directorate in relation to this scrutiny topic. (Pages 21 - 32)
- 7 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2023-2024** (Pages 33 - 36)

**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 9 November 2023.

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

**Officers:** Stephen Bowerbank, Graham Clingan, Keith Jackson, Andie Mackay, Neil Mitchell (CS,E&C) and Gary Woods (CS).

**Also in attendance:** None.

**Apologies:** Cllr Richard Eglington, Cllr Jason French, Cllr Alan Watson and Cllr Sally Ann Watson.

### **CD/18/23 Evacuation Procedure**

The evacuation procedure was noted.

### **CD/19/23 Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

### **CD/20/23 Minutes**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee meeting which was held on 19 October 2023 for approval and signature.

AGREED that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 19 October 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **CD/21/23 Scrutiny Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility**

Following the Committee's approval of the scope and plan for the Outdoor Play Provision review at the last meeting in October 2023, this first evidence-gathering session involved initial submissions from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Community Services, Environment and Culture directorate.

Introduced by the SBC Head of Environment, Leisure & Green Infrastructure, and supported by the SBC Strategy & Greenspace Development Manager, the session began by analysing maps and lists of existing informal sports facilities and play areas. Regarding the former, there was a variety of provision across the Borough, mostly involving multi-use games areas (MUGAs) which were sometimes accompanied by outdoor gyms and / or skateparks. Kick walls and / or other surfaced games areas were also highlighted, as was one third-party MUGA in Billingham.

Consideration was then given to the spread of play areas across Stockton-on-Tees, with the mapping of the different types of provision supplemented by the 2018 'play value' assessments for 'toddler', 'junior' and 'teen' categories. Members noted that there seemed to be no reference to the Morley Carr, Yarm site which was linked to a housing development – it was acknowledged that, to ensure accuracy, colleagues from the Planning Team may need to provide input regarding knowledge of any additional play area facilities which were in the pipeline.

A presentation giving more detail around the current position in relation to the Borough's play areas and informal sports facilities followed. Led by the SBC Head of Environment, Leisure & Green Infrastructure, and again supported by the SBC Strategy & Greenspace Development Manager, areas covered included:

- Existing portfolio
- Classification of play areas: destination, neighbourhood, and doorstep
- Play value
- Types of informal sport provision
- Inequalities in provision

The terminology used to classify play areas was outlined, as were examples of each type. As larger facilities within parks, 'destination' sites served a wide catchment area and had been invested in considerably by SBC in recent years, offering a wide variety of equipment that provided good 'play value' for a range of users from toddlers to teenagers. 'Neighbourhood' sites were mainly situated within larger green spaces of a community (with a more moderate quantity of equipment), whereas 'doorstep' sites were smaller facilities which were located on green space or self-contained zones within housing areas (many of which had been installed by housing developers). It was noted that there was variance even within these three categories (for example, one site within the Borough contains just a single slide).

In terms of 'play value', the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) had developed an industry-standard methodology for assessing the quality and variety of play experiences – this considers the value of equipment across age-ranges, as well as the characteristics and quality of the site itself (e.g. landscape, infrastructure, access). Scores for each of the Borough's sites were included within the SBC submission for this evidence session, though it was noted that these assessments were quite dated (2018) and would need to be re-evaluated to provide an accurate picture of the current state and value of local facilities.

Reasons for the growing inequality of outdoor play provision across the Borough were highlighted. The last significant investment in Stockton-on-Tees facilities was back in 2008 (though not all areas benefitted at that time), and since then, many sites had been provided (or improved) with Section 106 contributions as a result of housing developments. However, this had the potential for a higher density of smaller-space provision, and those areas of the Borough which had not seen new housing had therefore not gained in relation to additional / upgraded play facilities.

Reflecting on the information provided, the Committee began by focusing on the list of play areas and associated play value assessments. Noting that the Councillor role enabled them to get out and about within their communities, Members were not surprised to see preconceptions about the state of facilities realised when analysing the play value scores, many of which were deemed 'average', 'below average' or 'poor'. Mindful, too, that the last tranche of significant investment was over 15 years

ago, the Committee queried if the Council would be better served to focus on quality over quantity – officers present subsequently confirmed that they would welcome a future concentration on fewer sites that had an improved offer.

The introduction of new play areas, often with limited value, as part of housing developments was explored, with Members expressing concern that some of this may be happening against the advice of Council officers or built just so the Council could say it was using Section 106 money (contributions from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure). Officers acknowledged that there were play areas within the Borough that were not appropriate and in need of investment, and that a clear rationale needed to be made available, and properly assessed, for the future development of new and existing sites. There was also a planning issue at the heart of this, too, something which the Committee may wish to probe further as part of this review.

With regards Section 106 funding, officers stated that this finance provides SBC with more control over the quality of provision to ensure better play value. It was also noted that a number of the play value assessments should perhaps have been represented as 'not applicable' for certain age-ranges as some sites were not aiming to cater for all children and young people from toddler to teen. In response, Members observed that there were instances where all three categories were ranked 'poor', and also highlighted concerns that areas were being used by some young people despite them being targeted at much younger children, with associated problems arising such as bad behaviour / language which caused parents of toddlers / juniors to have a negative experience or even stay away from sites.

The Committee returned to the theme of play value and was informed a re-assessment of the Borough's existing sites was not yet scheduled – contact with RoSPA, either as part of or after this review, could be initiated, though. Whilst wanting to get a fair and updated measure of standards across the Borough's facilities, Members did, however, point out that any official assessment of play value was not necessarily an indicator of popularity, and that even a simple space can be creatively used by children and young people, some of whom come from outside the local catchment area to access it.

Focus was drawn onto those play sites owned by Town / Parish Councils (most of which were deemed to offer 'poor' play value), with Members keen to ascertain what pressure was put on these bodies to repair / replace equipment. Officers noted that some Town / Parish Councils had invested in recent years to strengthen the offer, though they do this out of their own budget which, like SBCs, is limited and stretched.

Emphasising the need to ensure value-for-money as part of any investment, Members pointed to problems with soft matting within certain play areas which did not appear to be overly durable despite the high cost. Officers gave assurance that value-for-money considerations were prioritised when designing a new play space, not just regarding the equipment itself, but also the maintenance of the overall facility.

Specific attention was drawn to the existing situation at Norton Meadows, with the Committee relaying concerns from local residents who were paying a management fee to a developer in relation to nearby play provision which was deemed by the wider community to be a public area and therefore accessible to anyone. Asked if there were similar examples elsewhere, officers stated that they were not aware of other such issues within the Borough, and that individual planning conditions would need to

be understood to determine any further action – that said, officers committed to following this query up after the meeting to establish any problem with third-party-owned sites.

The Committee concluded its questions by emphasising its awareness that, like within most Council services, money was tight and needed to be spent wisely. To this end, when considering future outdoor play provision plans, Members may need to move away from localism in the pursuit of what is best for the Borough as a whole.

A second presentation was then provided focusing on inspection and maintenance requirements / processes associated with outdoor play provision. Led by the SBC Construction & Facility Services Manager, and supported by the SBC Care For Your Area (CFYA) Asset Manager and SBC Senior CFYA Technician (both of whom were involved in the inspection of facilities on a daily basis), information included:

- Why do we inspect and maintain (legal requirements, best practice)?
- SBCs aim
- Inspections
- Risk management
- Budget financial pressures today
- Playground summary

Emphasising that the ongoing inspection and maintenance of the Borough's outdoor play sites was a real pressure area for SBC, officers explained that checks and any required actions were undertaken to ensure that playground equipment remained safe and compliant with relevant standards. Whilst there were legislative requirements around the need to inspect (with potentially costly repercussions if this was not carried out), there was no defined legal standard in terms of how that was conducted – that said, the Council's insurers would expect that processes conformed with good practice. In essence, inspection and maintenance procedures were about managing risk.

The existing inspection regime comprised weekly / fortnightly checks on any signs of weathering and vandalism, and a quarterly check on the strength / stability of equipment (including rotting / corrosion of materials). Reactive inspections were undertaken in response to any calls or intelligence around faults, and an annual independent inspection also provided external scrutiny of local play provision.

Pressures on the existing inspection and maintenance budget associated with Stockton-on-Tees outdoor play spaces were outlined (exacerbated by increasing incidents of vandalism), an amount which had not been uplifted since before 2017 and which contributed to ongoing challenges around this scrutiny topic. Efforts were made to find alternative funds (e.g. underspends within the directorate) and longer-lasting materials (e.g. use of bark instead of expensive soft matting), and removing any equipment or whole sites would be a last resort given the current brief to keep areas open as long as they were safe. Critically, the present budget was earmarked for maintenance only, and was not a replacement fund – as such, the Borough had a large amount of valuable play equipment with no plan for the future.

The Committee opened its line of questioning on this latter point, expressing deep concern over the absence of a replacement fund for the Borough's play area equipment which would inevitably deteriorate over time. The use of bark instead of soft matting / surfaces as a more cost-effective solution was also debated, with

Members (who were mindful of the Committee's previous review on Tree Asset Management) asking whether SBC had the ability to produce its own bark for the Borough's outdoor play spaces. Officers stated that any attempt to generate chippings would require a sifting process as only soft bark could be used for play areas, and maintenance was still needed for this material to ensure it was kept at the right level (though it was much less costly than matting). The use of bark also provided potential challenges around accessibility, though Members countered that measures could surely be put in place to enable all users to access equipment (e.g. footpaths in between chippings).

Reference was made to the rising demand for statutory Council provision which inevitably had a knock-on effect regarding budgetary pressures for non-statutory services. The Committee also noted that Councillors in Stockton-on-Tees were fortunate to have access to a Ward budget which helped support improvements to their locality, a welcome resource which Members in other Local Authority areas did not have.

Two queries were raised in relation to play area insurance policies and the lifespan of the Borough's existing sites. For the former, officers stated that as long as SBC made facilities as safe as they could be, insurers would assume liability for claims against the Council. Regarding the latter, Members heard that this was difficult to estimate given each play space was different to others (though RoSPA did conduct life-expectancy evaluations). It was, however, noted that the last significant investment into outdoor play space (2008) reflected the focus on natural play (and therefore incorporated numerous wooden products), and that this was predominantly capital funding which did not include a maintenance element.

Mindful of the ongoing developments in relation to Stockton waterfront, the Committee asked if play space planning included considerations around maintenance of any new sites intended for this zone. In response, it was confirmed that officers within the SBC Community Services, Environment and Culture directorate had provided views and calculations with regards play space proposals, and whilst this aspect had not always been factored-in in the past, confidence was expressed that longer-term thinking would feature strongly in the plans to revamp Stockton Town Centre. Members responded by urging any future commitment on capital spend to also consider ongoing revenue costs.

Attention returned to the financial pressures outlined in association with the inspection and maintenance of sites. Noting the £60,000 shortfall in the annual budget allocation compared to the current amount spent plus anticipated costs in relation to outstanding work still to complete, Members felt this demonstrated the justification for this review and also asked for a breakdown on how much of the £83,000 already spent pertained specifically to play areas.

Regarding inspection schedules, the Committee queried if the current SBC programme was a regulatory requirement or was something the Council chose to do. The legislative need to conduct inspections was reiterated, as was the flexibility in which these could be carried out (since there was not a legally defined manner in which to do this). In terms of SBC, officers took a snapshot of an individual site's use – if this was a more popular facility, it would be inspected more frequently. However, it was also noted that the inspection and maintenance team comprised of only four technicians for the whole of the Borough, thus limiting the capacity for more regular oversight.

Focus moved onto the environmental agenda, with Members questioning if this was considered as part of the planning for new play sites – officers highlighted the SBC environmental strategy (one of the aims of which was to increase biodiversity and natural spaces), as well as the need to consider the play value of green spaces and how the environment could be used to enhance play (which in some cases could be more cost-effective than actual equipment). The inclusion of sensory equipment to promote accessibility was also probed, with the Committee informed that there was ongoing dialogue with the Stockton Parent Carer Forum regarding the development of facilities – that said, this was a challenging area given the wide range of accessibility needs.

The Committee finished by asking if a larger capital commitment towards Stockton-on-Tees play spaces was now needed as part of a political agreement. In response, it was stated that if there was a desire to maintain the current level of outdoor play provision across the Borough, a capital injection would appear necessary. Recognising the existing financial situation which the Council was experiencing, the Committee Chair urged that Councillors refrained from requesting feasibility studies for new play areas while this review was being undertaken.

Officers were thanked for their contributions to this first evidence-gathering session, with plans for visits to some of the Borough's play areas then noted (these would be confirmed to Members in the near future).

AGREED that:

- 1) the information be noted.
- 2) details on any other issues with third-party-owned sites where local residents pay a management fee (akin to those raised in relation to Norton Meadows) be provided.
- 3) a breakdown on how much of the annual SBC budget allocation covering the inspection and maintenance of parks, open spaces, cemeteries and allotments had been spent in relation to play areas.

## **CD/22/23 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 December 2023 and would focus on the second evidence-gathering for the review of Outdoor Play Provision. A further update on progress of the outstanding actions in relation to the previously completed Bonfires on Public Land review was also anticipated.

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

## Agenda Item

### Crime and Disorder Select Committee

21 December 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 <https://modern.gov.stockton.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet/202209151630/Agenda/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	<p>The evidence shows that progress on implementation has slipped.</p> <p>An anticipated date by which the recommendation is expected to become achieved should be advised and the reasons for the delay.</p>
4	Not Achieved	<p>The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved.</p> <p>An explanation for non achievement of the recommendation would be provided.</p>

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. Members are asked to review the update and indicate whether they agree with the assessment of progress.

**Name of Contact Officer:** Gary Woods  
**Post Title:** Senior Scrutiny Officer  
**Telephone No:** 01642 526187  
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## APPENDIX 1


### PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Bonfires on Public Land

SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE	
<b>Review:</b>	<b>Bonfires on Public Land</b>
<b>Link Officer/s:</b>	<b>Marc Stephenson (now Sharon Cooney)</b>
<b>Action Plan Agreed:</b>	<b>November 2022</b>

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

<b>Recommendation 5:</b>	<b>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.</b>
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 5<sup>th</sup> 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)	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>
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)	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>
Evidence of Impact (September 2023):	n/a
Evidence of Progress (December 2023):	There was a sustained programme of partnership working between September and November 2023, with Police, CFB and Housing associations. Particular attention was paid to those locations that had been identified via intelligence and information analysis.

## APPENDIX 1 PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Bonfires on Public Land

Letter drops were done for identified hot spot areas, warning people of the dangers of fireworks, bonfires and waste accumulations, and of potential consequences and penalties. Joint social media communications were also carried out. (see below example)



### **🔥🔥🔥 OFFICERS STEP-UP FIREWORK SALES CHECKS AHEAD OF BONFIRE NIGHT 🔥🔥🔥**

**Our Trading Standards and Licensing teams have been busy carrying out test purchases to ensure fireworks are not sold illegally in our Borough during the run-up to Bonfire Night.**

**It is illegal to sell fireworks to anyone under the age of 18 – and businesses must also be registered in order to sell fireworks for private use, which also must adhere to safety regulations.**

**Councillor Norma Stephenson, the Council’s Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety, said: “We want to ensure that all our residents can enjoy Bonfire Night safely, which is why we are continuing to carry out proactive checks and make sure rules aren’t being broken.**

**“If you suspect that somebody may be selling fireworks illegally, you can report it to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, or alternatively you can make our Licensing team aware by emailing [licensing@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@stockton.gov.uk).**

**“And for more tips on how to keep safe this Bonfire Night, please stay tuned to our social media channels.”**



## APPENDIX 1

### PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Bonfires on Public Land

	<p>Environmental audits and community walkabouts were done in Ropner, Newtown, Hardwick and Billingham. CFYA were on duty to remove accumulations in the week prior and on Bonfire Night itself.</p> <p>CFYA, Cleveland Police, Enforcement and CCTV/Drones worked together to identify waste accumulations and antisocial behaviour on the run up to and on the night of Bonfire Night.</p> <p>Using SBC drones, a property was identified on Hardwick Estate that was accumulating waste, most likely to use on the community bonfire that takes place every year. A joint visit was conducted with Environmental Health and police to warn the resident about the potential dangers and penalties for accumulating the waste and to burn it on public land. The gathering on Hardwick was substantially smaller and less impactful than last year. Both police and CFB reported less antisocial activity than last year.</p> <p>In terms of the identification of any alternative sites within the Borough where official bonfires may be able to be facilitated in the future, no sites are obvious but we will continue to consider moving forward in the future.</p>
<p>Assessment of Progress (December 2023): (include explanation if required)</p>	<p><b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b></p> <p>A clear reduction was achieved on previous year statistics and reports are that the Hardwick Bonfire was significantly reduced in size. Encouragingly, there has been some local social media chat suggesting residents may be willing to get involved in the 'clean up.' However, this must be balanced against being seen to allow illegal activity to go ahead.</p>
<p>Evidence of Impact (December 2023):</p>	<p>Deliberate Primary Fires – 17% reduction on 2022                  Deliberate F3s – 10% reduction on 2022                  Violence To Staff – 0 occurrences on bonfire night</p>

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

### Crime and Disorder Select Committee

21 December 2023

## **SCRUTINY REVIEW OF OUTDOOR PLAY PROVISION: QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION, MAINTENANCE, AND PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY**

### **Summary**

The second evidence-gathering session for the Committee's review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility will focus on a contribution from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Regeneration and Inclusive Growth directorate.

### **Detail**

1. As part of the scoping process for this review, the Committee identified the SBC Planning Team and the SBC Place Development Team as key contributors. Both of these Council services (sitting within the Inclusive Growth and Development department) have been asked to respond to the following:
  - Brief overview of the role of both the SBC Planning and the SBC Place Development teams in relation to this scrutiny topic.
  - Local plan policies and how these influence new play / informal sport facility development.
  - List (inc. Planning Ref) of play / informal sport facilities that have been provided as part of new housing developments over the past two years, and details of any facilities currently under development / planned as part of an approved planning application (inc. locations of any provision identified in area 'masterplans' (e.g. West Stockton)).
  - Rationale behind developers building new rather than improving existing assets.
  - Understanding the rights of the general public on the use of play facilities managed and funded by individual housing developments or residents under a service charge (e.g. Norton Meadows).
  - How s106 works and the requirements around this (e.g. proximity of play provision to new development)
  - Can we ask for a revenue element within a s106 to enable maintenance or sinking funds?
2. The SBC Assistant Director – Inclusive Growth and Development, SBC Planning Services Manager, and SBC Place Development Manager are scheduled to attend this meeting. A report has been prepared and is included within these meeting papers.
3. A copy of the agreed scope and plan for this review is included for information.

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<b>Crime and Disorder Select Committee</b>
<b>Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility</b>
<b>Inclusive Growth &amp; Development (Planning Services / Place Development)</b>

As part of the scrutiny review process, information has been requested with regards to open space provision and the associated planning processes, these are outlined below;

- **Local plan policies and how this influences new play / informal sport facility development.**

The key overarching strategic policy of the Local Plan is Policy SD5 which seeks to ensure that the natural, built and historic environment is conserved and enhanced which includes green infrastructure networks and assets of which open space is a part of.

Policy ENV6 builds on that detail with criterion 2, requiring that Green infrastructure should be integrated, where practicable, into new developments but also allowing for 'appropriate contributions' towards green infrastructure. Criterion 2 states;

*Where appropriate, development proposals will be required to make contributions having regard to standards and guidance provided within the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD or any successor. Green infrastructure should be integrated, where practicable, into new developments. This includes new hard and soft landscaping, and other types of green infrastructure. Proposals should illustrate how the proposed development will be satisfactorily integrated into the surrounding area in a manner appropriate to the surrounding townscape and landscape setting and enhances the wider green infrastructure network.*

Additionally, the Council also has two Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) which provide further guidance on provision of open space. These are the 'Planning Obligations SPD' and the 'Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD'.

The planning obligations SPD sets out that wherever possible that planning obligations shall be provided for on site, and where this is not practicable, or appropriate off-site improvements or contributions may be sought to fund their provision.

The Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD sets local standards for quantity, quality and proximity which provide clarity and certainty about the level of developer contribution which may be required and also the circumstances in which open space will be required on site.

For clarity open space under planning documentation consists of the following ;

- Parks and Gardens;
- Natural Greenspace;
- Green Corridors;
- Sports Facilities;
- Amenity Greenspace;
- Play Areas;
- Allotments;
- Cemeteries and Churchyards;

- **List of applications approving play / informal sport facilities as part of new housing developments over the past two years,**

- 20/0191/EIS – Yarm Back Lane; provision of open space across the site and two play areas. (E 440694; N 519297)
- 20/0279/REM - Allens West; provision of open space and play area (E 441320; N 514887)
- 21/0156/FUL – St Martins Way, Kirklevington; provision of open space (E 442576; N 509482)

- **Rationale behind developers building new rather than improving existing assets.**

The provision of open space also plays a much larger role within creating environments residents want to live, work and play within. They have an important role in providing high quality environments, creating a sense of place and creating inclusive communities.

As above policy direction indicates a preference for on-site provision.

Simplifying the process, it is effectively about the scale of development proposed and the level of impact (population growth) a development has. The ultimate aim is to improve the provision of open spaces and recreation facilities in the Borough.

All new developments will vary in size and it is likely to be more appropriate that smaller developments provide an off-site contribution where it is necessary and justified.

Larger scale developments are likely to justify a need for on site provision due to the level of population increase across the site. Additionally where sites are situated on the periphery of settlements existing open space and play areas may not be nearby or readily accessible.

- **What are the rights of the general public on the use of play facilities managed and funded by individual housing developments or residents under a service charge.**

The planning system does not seek to restrict or prevent the use of the facility for any resident. Privately maintained areas of public open space are not intended to be for exclusive use for residents of an estate.

- **How S.106 works and the requirements around this for play provision to new developments**

Planning obligations (also known as Section 106 agreements), like planning conditions can only be required to make a development acceptable in planning terms and they must meet the tests set out under the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regulation (122) which are;

- necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
- directly related to the development; and
- fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

As above, the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD sets local standards for quantity, quality and proximity.

Contributions towards off site provision must be identified and they must also be fully costed schemes to be compliant with the tests set out in the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). For example the Council isn't able to ask for a generic figure derived from the calculator as



a contribution and instead must highlight a particular scheme (and the associated costs of the delivery of that scheme).

Members should also be aware that on the back of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) there will be changes to planning obligations in the future, as the Infrastructure Levy is introduced, this is a mandatory, pre-set and non-negotiable. The Infrastructure Levy will largely replace planning obligation except for “large and complex sites”. A response to the technical guidance is still awaited as is the associated secondary legislation.

- **Can we ask for a revenue element within a s106 to enable maintenance or sinking funds?**

Section 106 funding (S.106) is generally only for capital projects and revenue funding towards on-going running costs is unlikely to be available.

Where the Council are to assume responsibility for the maintenance of either on or off-site open space, the Council requires a commuted revenue lump sum for the equivalent of 25 years maintenance. All calculations are based on the approved landscaping scheme. This sum is placed in an interest-bearing account and the interest is used solely for grounds maintenance.

Maintenance costs are generally only acceptable where it relates to the maintenance of open space provision being secured. However, there is no legal requirement for a developer to ask the Council to adopt or maintain the open space and they can choose to maintain it themselves. This is often funded through an additional service charge to a management company from the occupants of a development. Where long-term maintenance may be provided by a management company, a management plan is provided and agreed to ensure the open space is suitably maintained in perpetuity.

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<b>Crime and Disorder Select Committee</b>
<b>Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility</b>
<b>Outline Scope</b>

<b>Scrutiny Chair (Project Director):</b> Cllr Pauline Beall	<b>Contact details:</b> <a href="mailto:pauline.beall@stockton.gov.uk">pauline.beall@stockton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Scrutiny Officer (Project Manager):</b> Gary Woods	<b>Contact details:</b> <a href="mailto:gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk">gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk</a> 01642 526187
<b>Departmental Link Officer:</b> Neil Mitchell (SBC Head of Environment, Leisure & Green Infrastructure)	<b>Contact details:</b> <a href="mailto:neil.mitchell@stockton.gov.uk">neil.mitchell@stockton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?</b>	
<p>The review will contribute to the following Council Plan 2023-2026 key objectives (and associated 2023-2024 priorities):</p> <p><i>A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop and enhance provision and support for children and young people with additional needs or accessing alternative provision.</li> <li>• Support people to live healthy lives and address health inequalities through a focus on early prevention, long-term conditions, substance misuse, smoking, obesity, physical activity and mental health.</li> <li>• Work with our communities and partners to develop our approach to healthy places, in the context of regeneration plans and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.</li> </ul>	
<b>What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?</b>	
<p>It is widely accepted that play is an essential part of every child’s life and is vital for the enjoyment of childhood as well as social, emotional, intellectual and physical development. Play facilities are therefore seen as an essential element to allow people to live healthy lives and help ensure activity is established at an early age, thus reducing long-term health conditions.</p> <p>Previous analysis has indicated that outdoor play provision is uneven across the Borough, with significant variations in the play value, age and accessibility of equipment and sites. Many older play areas are in decline and, as is being felt by Local Authorities up and down the country, there is insufficient budget to maintain all the current sites.</p> <p>In terms of new sites, the majority of these are established through planning obligations and consequently increase provision in areas where new development is taking place. Conversely, there are limited opportunities to establish or improve play areas in existing residential areas. In either case, it should be noted that all sites are subject to challenge relating to accessibility and play value.</p>	

Play areas can be an emotive topic and have elicited a range of comments (both positive and negative) from the public with regards the existing offer. Like so many other Council-related activities, balancing public expectation with the realities of deepening Local Authority funding pressures is becoming an increasing challenge. There is a well-established need to maintain an effective portfolio of high-quality play area assets within the Borough's communities, but this must be sustainable, provide value-for-money, and be accessible to as many people as is feasibly possible.

The main aims for this review will 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.

**The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:**

What is meant by the term 'outdoor play provision' – what does this encompass (what does it not)?

How is 'meaningful play' determined – what are its characteristics and how does / should this impact upon play provision?

Are there any legislative requirements around outdoor play provision?

What is the Borough's existing outdoor play offer – where are these sites located, what do they provide, what is their play value, and where are the identified gaps in provision?

How should the provision of major new play facilities planned for Stockton Waterfront influence decisions around the distribution and management of play provision elsewhere in the Borough, and will it have any impact on budgets to maintain existing facilities?

How are existing sites managed / maintained and what is the cost of this to the Council? How has this changed over time and what are the future projections based on the current offer?

What is the process around new play provision created as part of new developments? What are the responsibilities of developers and the Council, how does this change over time, and what are the implications of this?

What are the accessibility / inclusivity requirements around outdoor play sites? Has the Council been challenged regarding this and what is realistically achievable in the context of available space and financial constraints?

What feedback has been received from the public regarding outdoor play provision?

Can we learn anything from other Local Authorities who are likely to be wrestling with similar challenges regarding outdoor play provision?

<p>What are the potential future options around outdoor play provision (including alternative funding possibilities)? How does / might this feed into key corporate policies such as Fairer Stockton-on-Tees / Powering Our Communities?</p>	
<p><b>Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?</b></p> <p>Council, Cabinet, developers, public.</p>	
<p><b>Expected duration of review and key milestones:</b></p> <p>5 months (report to Cabinet in April 2024)</p>	
<p><b>What information do we need?</b></p> <p>Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBC review of outdoor play and informal sport provision (2019)</li> <li>• RoSPA Play Value Assessments (available for specific play area sites in the Borough)</li> <li>• Resources available from the charity Play England: <a href="http://www.playengland.org.uk">www.playengland.org.uk</a></li> </ul>	
<p><i>Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)</i></p> <p>Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment, Leisure &amp; Green Infrastructure</li> <li>• Care For Your Area</li> <li>• Town Centres Development</li> <li>• Planning / Place Development</li> </ul> <p>Association of Play Industries (API)</p> <p>RoSPA</p> <p>Play England</p> <p>Stockton Parent Carer Forum</p> <p>Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF)</p> <p>Local Government Association (LGA) / Other Local Authorities</p>	<p><i>What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ ‘Outdoor play’ terminology / definitions</li> <li>➤ Existing outdoor play provision offer</li> <li>➤ Process / implications of new sites</li> <li>➤ Maintenance of existing assets</li> <li>➤ Plans for play provision in town centres</li> <li>➤ Role of these SBC teams around this topic</li> <li>➤ Equal play campaign</li> <li>➤ Best practice / Local Authority engagement</li> <li>➤ Safety and management of play areas</li> <li>➤ Previous analysis of the Borough’s offer</li> <li>➤ Design / Quality in Play approaches</li> <li>➤ Resident views on the existing play area offer</li> <li>➤ Young people views on existing provision</li> <li>➤ Experience of this issue</li> </ul>

<p><b>How will this information be gathered? (eg. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)</b></p> <p>Committee meetings, reports, research, site visits (TBC).</p>
<p><b>How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?</b></p> <p>Committee meetings, information submissions.</p>
<p><b>How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?</b></p> <p>The Public Sector Equality Duty requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. This review will be mindful of these factors.</p>
<p><b>How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?</b></p> <p><u>Stockton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA): Physical inactivity:</u> recommended levels of physical activity significantly worse than the national average; specific sectors of the community less physically active than the general population; not all residents derive the same level of physical activity opportunities from the Borough's outdoor public spaces due to variations in quality, quantity, accessibility and connectivity (Dec 2018).</p> <p><u>Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023: All people in Stockton-on-Tees live well and live longer.</u> We know that socio-economic and environmental factors influence health-related behaviours. Therefore working with partners to shape the infrastructure across the Borough which can impact on whether or not a healthy lifestyle is an easy and accessible choice is key.</p> <p><u>All people in Stockton-on-Tees live in healthy places and sustainable communities:</u> We know that a range of factors including; good housing, warm homes, access to green space and healthy food, opportunities for physical activity, good transport links, air quality, antisocial behaviour and crime are all linked to physical, mental health and wellbeing outcomes. Planning policies and subsequent decisions can have a significant impact on health and wellbeing through the design of neighbourhoods, buildings and public space in the way they encourage people to be socially integrated, physically active or limit the growth of take-away and alcohol outlets.</p>
<p><b>Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clear strategic guidance upon the development of new play facilities and priorities and rationalisation of existing play provision.</li><li>• Budgetary provision for maintenance of play provision is proportionate to the number of play areas that are retained.</li></ul>

<b>Project Plan</b>
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<b>Key Task</b>	<b>Details/Activities</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>Scoping of Review</b>	Information gathering	<b>September 2023</b>	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
<b>Tri-Partite Meeting</b>	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	<b>09.10.23</b>	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
<b>Agree Project Plan</b>	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	<b>19.10.23</b>	Select Committee
<b>Publicity of Review</b>	Determine whether Communications Plan needed	<b>TBC</b>	Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer
<b>Obtaining Evidence</b>	SBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment, Leisure &amp; Green Infrastructure</li> <li>Community Services</li> </ul> SBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusive Growth and Development (Planning / Place Development)</li> </ul> SBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Centres Dev.</li> </ul> TBC	<b>09.11.23</b>  <b>21.12.23</b>  <b>25.01.24</b>  <b>22.02.24</b>	Select Committee
<b>Members decide recommendations and findings</b>	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	<b>21.03.24</b>	Select Committee
<b>Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders</b>	Circulation of Report	<b>March 2024</b>	Scrutiny Officer
<b>Tri-Partite Meeting</b>	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations	<b>TBC</b>	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
<b>Final Agreement of Report</b>	Approval of final report by Committee	<b>25.04.24</b>	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
<b>Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee</b>	Consideration of report	<b>07.05.24</b>	Executive Scrutiny Committee
<b>Report to Cabinet / Approving Body</b>	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	<b>16.05.24</b>	Cabinet / Approving Body

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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"> <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 (Community Services, Environment and Culture)</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>• Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (Regeneration and Inclusive Growth)</li> </ul>	Marc Stephenson  Chris Renahan / Simon Grundy / Antony Phillips
25 January	Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (Regeneration and Inclusive Growth)</li> </ul>	Iain Robinson / Mike Smith
22 February	Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBC</li> </ul> Overview Reports (TBC)	TBC  TBC

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

Date (4.30pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
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

### 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

### 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://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Cid=1144&Year=0>. 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

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

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 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 Oct 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>.
- **Dangerous Dogs Act 1991:** The Government has added the XL Bully breed type to the list of dogs banned under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in England and Wales. From 31 December 2023, breeding, selling, exchanging, advertising, rehoming, gifting, abandoning, and allowing an XL Bully dog to stray will be illegal, and these dogs must be muzzled and on a lead in public. From 1 February 2024 it will be a criminal offence to own an XL Bully in England and Wales unless the owner has a Certificate of Exemption. [Defra has published further information about how to prepare for the ban which will be updated regularly](#), and they will continue engagement with stakeholders.
- **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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