

Date: Thursday 25 January 2024 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 21 December 2023. (Pages 9 - 14)
- 5 Scrutiny Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility**

To receive information from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Town Centres Development department in relation to this scrutiny topic (to follow).
- 6 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2023-2024** (Pages 15 - 18)

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

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 21 December 2023.

Present: Cllr Pauline Beall (Chair), Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Richard Eglington, Cllr Jason French, Cllr Elsi Hampton(sub for Cllr Alan Watson) , Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Eileen Johnson (Sub for Cllr Paul Rowling) and Cllr Sylvia Walmsley.

Officers: Marc Stephenson (A,H&W), Simon Grundy, Ant Phillips, Chris Renahan (R&IG), Stephen Bowerbank, Neil Mitchell (CS,E&C) and Gary Woods (CS).

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Paul Rowling (Vice-Chair) and Cllr Alan Watson.

CD/23/23 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

CD/24/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

CD/25/23 Minutes

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

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

CD/26/23 Monitoring the Impact of Previously Agreed Recommendations - Bonfires on Public Land

Consideration was given to the assessments of progress on the implementation of the recommendations from the Committee's previously completed review of Bonfires on Public Land. This was the third progress update following the Committee's agreement of the Action Plan in November 2022, with developments in relation to the outstanding agreed action noted as follows:

- 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): Reflecting on the recently concluded bonfire season, achievements were highlighted in relation to the continuation of well-established partnership-working, engagement with identified hot-spot areas, and general communications via social media. The innovative use of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) drones to detect waste accumulation was noted, as was the traditional gathering in Hardwick which was substantially smaller and less impactive

than the previous year. In terms of this Committee recommendation, it was confirmed that no alternative sites within the Borough for future official bonfires were obvious – this was something which the Council was reluctant to promote anyway as it was contradictory to the general messaging around the dangers of bonfires (whether official or unofficial) and any SBC event would mean the Council would be liable for any chosen site.

Reiterating that this recommendation was now considered ‘fully achieved’, the SBC Assistant Director – Community Safety and Regulated Services emphasised the progress made around bonfire-related issues, with a clear reduction in reported incidents compared to 2022 (17% decrease in deliberated primary fires (on top of a 30% reduction in 2022 compared to 2021), 10% decrease in deliberate F3s, and no reported occurrences of violence to staff). Whilst some bonfires were still evident during the recent ‘season’, there appeared to have been a significant push-back from the community towards the organisers of unofficial bonfire sites. The Council would continue to work alongside its partners with regards private organisers and diversionary alternatives.

Referencing the related issue of fireworks, the Committee noted some recent social media posts which had indicated that a site in Hardwick would become the Borough’s main display in the absence of a Council-organised event. In response, Members were informed about the significant number of Trading Standards prosecutions involving an estate within that Ward, as well as the more positive conversations with that particular community who did not want to be affected by bonfires and the associated problems these created.

Members spoke of their own awareness of a reduction in bonfire-related incidents within their Wards, though did observe that the traditional ‘season’ seemed to go on for longer than usual (possibly due to the mixed weather).

AGREED that the Bonfires on Public Land progress update be noted, the assessment for progress be confirmed, and the overarching Action Plan approved by the Committee following the original review be signed-off as complete (no further updates required).

CD/27/23 Scrutiny Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility

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

Prior to the directorate’s input on this scrutiny topic, the Committee considered a number of updated maps and lists in relation to both informal sport facilities and play areas across the Borough which included planned sites as well as those already under development (though not those where only initial discussions had taken place / were ongoing). Of note:

- Informal Sport Facilities: The site at Stillington had now been completed and was only awaiting lighting (it was, however, very muddy at present so opening may be delayed), and the planned site at Kirklevington was a new additional multi-use games

area (MUGA). Despite having a lot of play area provision, Ingleby Barwick only had Romano Park as an informal sport facility.

- Play Areas: In addition to the planned Stockton waterfront developments (which included play provision), several 'doorstep' sites were intended across the Borough – these involved SBC plans for Hardwick Community Park and the Elmwood Centre, and third-party facilities at Yarm Back Lane (x2), Allens West, and Kirklevington.

Maps showing catchment zones for all existing / intended provision were also presented, though it was noted that these were only crude indicators as users can travel from outside these areas, particularly for the larger 'destination' sites like Preston Park. The Committee was also reminded that the maps did not indicate 'play value' which, as had been previously seen, varied from site-to-site across the Borough, something which may be a factor in how far young people and / or families were prepared to travel to use specific facilities. These graphics did, however, allow SBC to identify gaps in provision which may then feed into section 106 (s106) considerations.

Attention turned to the main contributors to this session, the SBC Planning Team and SBC Place Development Team, who had previously been identified as part of the scoping process for this review. Introduced by the SBC Assistant Director – Inclusive Growth and Development, and supported by the SBC Place Development Manager, the SBC Planning Services Manager proceeded to give an overview of a report which responded to several key questions directed towards these Council departments, including:

- Local plan policies and how this influences new play / informal sport facility development.
- Applications approving play / informal sport facilities as part of new housing developments over the past two years.
- Rationale behind developers building new rather than improving existing assets.
- 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.
- How s106 works and the requirements around this for play provision to new developments.
- Potential for a revenue element within a s106 to enable maintenance or sinking funds.

Policy SD5 of the existing SBC Local Plan (adopted 30 January 2019) sought to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment (which included green infrastructure networks and assets), whilst policy ENV6 requires that green infrastructure should be integrated, where practicable, into new developments, but also allows for 'appropriate contributions' towards green infrastructure. In addition, the Council had two Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which provided further guidance on the provision ('Planning Obligations SPD') and quantity / quality / proximity ('Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD') of open space.

Whilst the ultimate aim was to improve the provision of open space and recreation facilities in the Borough, developer decisions on building new rather than improving existing assets were effectively about the scale of a proposed development and the level of impact (population growth) this would have. Larger scale developments were likely to justify a need for on-site provision due to the level of population increase

across the site (indeed, policy direction indicates a preference for on-site provision) – for smaller developments, however, there may be no requirement for open space to be provided and it may be more appropriate for an off-site contribution (where necessary and justified). Where sites were situated on the periphery of settlements, existing open space and play areas may not be nearby or readily accessible.

In terms of facilities managed and funded by individual housing developments or residents under a service charge, the planning system did not seek to restrict or prevent the use of the facility for any resident. Privately maintained areas of public open space were not intended to be for the exclusive use for residents of an estate.

Planning obligations (also known as s106 agreements) 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; fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development (the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD sets local standards for quantity, quality and proximity). Contributions towards off-site provision must be identified and must also be fully costed schemes to be compliant with the tests set out in the CIL (note: the Council was not 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).

Funding via s106 was generally only for capital projects, and revenue funding towards ongoing running costs was unlikely to be available. Where SBC were to assume responsibility for the maintenance of either on-site or off-site open space, the Council required a commuted revenue lump-sum for the equivalent of 25 years maintenance. All calculations were based on the approved landscaping scheme, and this sum was placed in an interest-bearing account, with the interest used solely for grounds maintenance.

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

As per the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA), there would be forthcoming changes to planning obligations as the Infrastructure Levy (IL) was due to be introduced (this was mandatory, pre-set and non-negotiable). The IL will largely replace planning obligation except for 'large and complex sites', with the Council potentially losing its ability to use s106 funding as it currently did. A response to the technical guidance was still awaited by SBC, as was the associated secondary legislation.

In conclusion, officers added that the Council's aim was for sustainable places within the Borough which contributed to the Public Health (health and wellbeing) agenda. It was also noted that there can be a significant time lag between the agreement and subsequent implementation of a developer's plan, and that views on the appropriateness of provision can be subjective as some prefer open spaces, some play areas, and others landscaped sites.

The Committee asked for clarity around the identification of responsibility for inspecting / maintaining new play area sites and was informed that arrangements were usually set out within a planning application. Planning conditions involving the maintenance of open space were usually included as part of any agreed development, with the failure to comply subject to enforcement measures. As part of the application process, developers were now asked for 'phasing plans' to demonstrate key timelines for implementation – however, the Council was reliant on the public to report any breaches of an agreed development in order to initiate potential enforcement action.

Members questioned the ramifications of developers going bust. Officers stated that this was a rare occurrence – however, should this happen, management companies were in place, with service charges paid by residents of a development then covering the ongoing maintenance of a site.

Regarding the decision to use a management company for maintenance of outdoor play provision, the Committee queried if there was any requirement for a developer to inform residents of such an arrangement. Officers noted that this was usually identified as part of conveyancing and that residents had the option for a vote if they were concerned about the upkeep of a play site within their estate (this was not something which involved SBC).

Referencing the 25-year lump-sum payment to the Council for transfer of maintenance responsibilities of a designated site, the Committee asked what elements these payments were expected to cover – grounds maintenance, cleansing, and maintenance of the equipment in the play area was subsequently listed, though it was noted that the lump-sum did not tend to cover the future renewal of the play area.

Pointing to an apparent absence of understanding of the revenue costs associated with new outdoor play provision, Members asked if the Council had to go along with a developer's proposals or whether there was any scope to ask it to invest in one of the Borough's larger 'destination' sites (as opposed to installing yet another facility which may be of lesser play value and would add to ongoing maintenance requirements). Officers responded by reaffirming earlier advice – that much depends on the scale of a development and associated impacts, with there needing to be a clear link between a development site and a 'destination' play / open space site.

The Committee drew attention to the planned new play area in Kirklevington which was near an existing site – this appeared contradictory to the requirements of the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD in terms of proximity considerations. As had been observed during previous Committee reviews, the need for timely dialogue between Council services over issues which involved multiple SBC directorates / departments was again evident, and it was also suggested that the final report of this particular review should be shared with the SBC Planning Committee.

Thanking officers from the SBC Regeneration and Inclusive Growth directorate for their contribution, the Committee then briefly reflected on last week's (14 December 2023) visits to various outdoor play sites across the Borough. Members raised the issue of residents not knowing who to complain to about concerns around a third-party-owned play site – it was suggested that the respective local MP be approached should the management company not adequately address any identified problems in the first instance.

AGREED that the information be noted.

CD/28/23 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 25 January 2024 and would feature the third evidence-gathering session for the ongoing Scrutiny Review of Outdoor Play Provision.

Reference was made to the 'other information sources / updates' section which included two additional elements involving developments around shoplifting and the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

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

**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 Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Draft) Scope and Project Plan 	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"> • Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (Community Services, Environment and Culture) 	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"> • Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (Regeneration and Inclusive Growth) 	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"> • Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (Regeneration and Inclusive Growth) 	Iain Robinson / Mike Smith
22 February	Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC 	TBC
21 March	Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC 	TBC

CRIME AND DISORDER SELECT COMMITTEE Work Programme 2023-2024

Date (4.30pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
	Monitoring: Progress Update – Tree Asset Management	Dale Rowbotham / Mark Nozedar

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
- Tree Asset Management (Progress Update) – Mar 24

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
- **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.

CRIME AND DISORDER SELECT COMMITTEE Work Programme 2023-2024

- **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](#).
- **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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