

Date: Thursday 11 July 2024 at 4.30 pm

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

Cllr Paul Rowling (Chair)
Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy (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 13 June 2024. (Pages 9 - 14)
- 5 Scrutiny Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres**
To consider information from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Community Safety and Regulated Services department in relation to this scrutiny topic. (Pages 15 - 50)
- 6 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2024-2025** (Pages 51 - 54)

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

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

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

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

KEY - Declarable interests are:-

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

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance



Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

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

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

Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Microphones

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

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COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE

A meeting of Community Safety Select Committee was held on Thursday 13 June 2024.

Present: Cllr Paul Rowling (Chair), Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy (Vice-Chair), Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Richard Eglington, Cllr Jason French, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Sylvia Walmsley and Cllr Alan Watson

Officers: Marc Stephenson (A,H&W); Graham Clingan, Dale Rowbotham (CS,E&C); Gary Woods (CS)

Also in attendance: Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety)

Apologies: None

CSS/6/24 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

CSS/7/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

CSS/8/24 Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Community Safety Select Committee meeting which was held on 25 April 2024 for approval and signature.

AGREED that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 25 April 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CSS/9/24 Action Plan for Agreed Recommendations - Review of Outdoor Play Provision

Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy wished it to be recorded for transparency purposes only that she was currently a member of Billingham Town Council as well as a Ward Councillor.

Consideration was given to a draft Action Plan setting out how the agreed recommendations from the recently concluded review of Outdoor Play Provision would be implemented, including success measures and target dates for completion. Presented by the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Strategy & Greenspace Development Manager, specific attention was drawn to the following:

- Recommendation 1 (SBC ensures both revenue and renewal considerations are an intrinsic part of any existing and future outdoor play space proposal within the Borough to maximise the long-term sustainability of such sites): There was a critical need to establish estimated costs for inspections, maintenance and renewal / replacement of equipment and surfacing for all SBC play areas and informal sports facilities as the findings would influence other elements of the Action Plan. This would take time, hence the 'due date' of 30 December 2024.

- Recommendation 6 (As part of a required rationalisation process in relation to the existing outdoor play offer:
 - c) Further detail be provided around the anticipated longer-term maintenance requirements of the new Stockton waterfront park and the impact that this may have on the available funds for maintaining other existing outdoor play spaces):
It was understood that some resources had been allocated to cover the future maintenance of the site, but further details would be sought. A three-year maintenance budget was also referenced, though further clarity was required on what this entailed / covered.
 - d) With due regard to the SBC Powering Our Future initiative, appropriate consultation (particularly with Stockton Parent Carer Forum and SBC Ward Councillors) is conducted around any proposed changes to existing outdoor play provision): Assurance was given that consultation already took place with Stockton Parent Carer Forum, SBC Ward Councillors and relevant other parties, and that this would continue as SBC sought to address this recommendation.
- Recommendation 7 (Reflecting the main outcomes from this review, SBC develops and publishes an outdoor play provision strategy...): Many of the actions proposed in the preceding recommendations were milestones towards the development / publication of a new outdoor play provision strategy. The differing 'due dates' listed for the actions in relation to this particular recommendation reflected the potential need for consultation on any proposals to change the Borough's existing outdoor play offer.

With reference to recommendation 2 (*To encourage a greater sense of community ownership, consideration be given to approaching relevant Town / Parish Councils and the local business community within the vicinity of existing outdoor play spaces to potentially support the development / maintenance of a site*), the Committee queried if there was the potential to also seek funding contributions from health bodies given the benefits that outdoor play can bring. It was subsequently noted that two officer working groups had been established to feed into the development of the new outdoor play provision strategy – this would include engagement with other Council departments (e.g. Public Health)).

The Committee thanked SBC officers for collating the draft Action Plan and approved the content as presented. The first update on progress of the actions would be required in approximately 12 months.

AGREED that the Action Plan in relation to the recently completed Scrutiny Review of Outdoor Play Provision be approved.

CSS/10/24 Monitoring the Impact of Previously Agreed Recommendations - Tree Asset Management

Consideration was given to the assessments of progress on the implementation of the recommendations from the Committee's previously completed review of Tree Asset Management. This was the second progress update following the Committee's approval of the Action Plan in March 2023, with developments in relation to the outstanding agreed actions noted as follows:

- Recommendation 1 (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) refreshes its tree and woodland management policy and procedures...): A draft policy, reflecting much of the Committee's original review of this topic, had now been produced and was included within these meeting papers for any Member feedback (prior to going through the formal process of making the draft version approved policy, and due to the work and input from the Committee, it was felt that comments should be sourced from the Committee before progressing further).

The issue of overgrown trees / vegetation from private property encroaching onto public areas was raised by the Committee, with clarity sought over the procedure for addressing this. The SBC Service Manager in attendance advised that such cases fell within the remit of the SBC Asset Management, Highway and Street Lighting team under accessibility considerations, and that it was currently the time of the year where issues like this tended to come to the fore. These cases fell outside of the proposed refreshed tree and woodland management policy, but assurance was given that the Council was aware of these instances, and they were addressed.

Continuing this theme, Members asked what would happen if a private owner refused to comply with a request from the Council to deal with overgrown trees / vegetation impacting upon public space. The Committee was informed that SBC tried to work with private owners in the first instance, but could, if necessary, carry out work itself and then recharge the landowner. Further guidance would be sought from the relevant Council team in relation to these cases and shared with the Committee.

- Recommendation 2 (Tree Preservation Order (TPO) planning procedures be reiterated to all SBC Ward Councillors and relayed to residents periodically via the Council's multiple communication mechanisms (emphasising the enforcement action that can be taken if processes are not followed)): Changes had been made to the initial draft easy read guide following feedback from Committee during the previous update in March 2024. A revised draft was included within these meeting papers – arrangements would be made for this to be shared with all SBC Elected Members and for the final version to be displayed on the Council's website.
- Recommendation 4 (A detailed business case be produced for consideration by SBC management regarding a potential reinforcement team within Grounds Maintenance to undertake smaller scale routine maintenance, thereby allowing the existing Tree and Woodland Management Service specialist staff to focus on more technical operations): Due to small changes within the Grounds Maintenance and Arboriculture services (as a result of staff retirements), additional resource had been allocated from within Grounds to undertake smaller scale routine maintenance.

The Committee thanked officers for the information provided as part of this latest update, and the stated 'assessments of progress' gradings were subsequently endorsed. Given there were still some actions still to be fully achieved, a further update would be scheduled for a future Committee meeting (to be confirmed).

AGREED that:

- 1) the Tree Asset Management progress update be noted and the assessments for progress be confirmed.

- 2) further information be provided to the Committee in relation to private owners refusing to comply with a request from the Council to deal with overgrown trees / vegetation impacting upon public space.

CSS/11/24 Scrutiny Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

Consideration was given to the draft scope and project plan for the Scrutiny Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres, the proposed aims of which would be to:

- Establish the key issues within each of the Borough's six town centres with regards safety.
- Understand the measures already in place to address these issues and ascertain any gaps in future plans.
- Identify any potential learning from other parts of the UK.

Several key contributors had been identified in relation to this scrutiny topic, including a number of SBC departments (Community Safety and Regulated Services, Public Health, Town Centres Development, Inclusive Growth and Development), the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Cleveland Police, and Cleveland Fire Authority / Brigade. Engagement with Town Councils, business forums / groups, and the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector was also intended, as was the crucial need to understand the views of residents / communities. Any learning from other Local Authority initiatives to improve views of town centres and / or tackle negative perceptions would also be sought, and it was anticipated that the Committee's findings and recommendations would be reported to Cabinet in February 2025.

During the presentation of the draft scoping document, the Committee was reminded that this scrutiny topic was linked to the SBC Powering Our Future initiative which included an ongoing project involving the Council's Community Safety and Regulated Services department. It was also emphasised that the proposals for the Committee's review were mindful to ensure focus on all six town centres within the Borough, not just about Stockton Town Centre.

The Committee expressed broad agreement with the draft scope and plan for the review, and made the following additional comments:

- Those who work in town centres also need to feel safe / secure.
- The voice of young people needs to be heard – potentially engage Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF).
- Use multiple mechanisms to gather views (including Stockton News).
- Too much talking down of town centres – not bad places, just need some improvement. Committee can act as an ambassador in highlighting the positives as well as identifying existing / future challenges.

The SBC Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety was also in attendance at this meeting and drew attention to the need to make the Borough's town centre spaces welcoming for everybody, including those who may be experiencing certain challenges (e.g. substance misuse, migrants adapting to new environments, etc.) – it was therefore hoped that consideration could be given to seeking views from those with such shared characteristics.

AGREED that the draft scope and project plan for the Welcoming and Safe Town Centres review be approved.

CSS/12/24 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2024-2025

Chair's Update

With reference to the 'Other Information Sources / Updates' section within the Committee work programme, the Chair drew attention to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cleveland entry and stated that, where appropriate, specific items in relation to the work of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel (PCP) may be included for consideration on the agenda for future Committee meetings.

Work Programme 2024-2025

Consideration was given to the Committee's current work programme (2024-2025). The next meeting was due to take place on 11 July 2024 where the first evidence-gathering session for the review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres would be held.

AGREED that the Community Safety Select Committee Work Programme 2024-2025 be noted.

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SCRUTINY REVIEW OF WELCOMING AND SAFE TOWN CENTRES

Summary

The first evidence-gathering session for the Committee's review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres will focus on the work of the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Community Safety and Regulated Services department in relation to this scrutiny topic.

Detail

1. Officers from the SBC Community Safety and Regulated Services directorate have been asked to respond to the following:
 - What is meant by the term 'welcoming' in relation to the Borough's town centres?
 - Issues (real or perceived) being highlighted for each town centre (inc. results of previous resident / visitor engagement regarding this topic).
 - Safety initiatives implemented by your department and the impact of these (inc. involvement of partners / VCSE).
 - Future initiatives planned by your department to make the Borough's town centres more welcoming / safe.
 - Role of the Safer Stockton Partnership in this scrutiny topic.
 - Ongoing SBC Powering Our Future Community Safety and Regulated Services project and how this review fits in.

A presentation addressing the above lines of enquiry is being prepared and will be shared once finalised.

2. In advance of the session, Members may wish to familiarise themselves with the latest Town Centre-related developments which can be accessed via <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/our-six-towns>.
3. In addition, the current Stockton-on-Tees Community Safety Strategy 2022-2025 can be viewed at https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/3085/Stockton-on-Tees-Community-Safety-Plan/pdf/Stockton-on-Tees_Community_Safety_Strategy_2022-2025_final_accessible.pdf?m=1647595513977.
4. A copy of the agreed scope and plan for this review is included for information.

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Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

Community Safety and
Regulatory Services



What does Welcoming and Safe mean?

Stockton Borough has six distinct Town Centres, each with their own unique characteristics and different opportunities and challenges:

- **Stockton**
- **Thornaby**
- **Billingham**
- **Yarm**
- **Ingleby Barwick**
- **Norton**

What description defines 'Safe and Welcoming' for all of these locations?

What does Welcoming and Safe mean?

Town Centre safety was debated in Parliament at the end of last year and it's fair to say ministers also had difficulty in narrowing down this issue as it impacts all who live, work or visit our Town Centres: Bus drivers, taxi drivers, shoppers, retail workers, business owners, revellers in the night-time economy, and vulnerable members of our community, including the homeless and those with addictions.

The safety issues were perhaps best summed up as follows:

“Safety in our town centres is a subject that the public are deeply concerned about. It has a totemic impact on how we feel about where we live; people love their community and hate it when a small number of people are able to wreck it for everyone else.”

What does Welcoming and Safe mean?

Other authorities have described their vision for their Town Centres, for example, York:

We want to create safe and welcoming town centres, that are vibrant and can adapt to change. The most important aspect of this, is people. People create the noise, soul and life of a town, and crucially, the captive audience for businesses to thrive. People, or footfall, is the key to a successful place. When footfall and vibrancy drop, fewer services and shops can be supported, vacancies rise and employment falls.

A vibrant and popular place will attract people and support shops and services for our residents. By influencing how and when the town centres are used, and adapting key spaces, we can manage this better and optimise the benefits for all.

Welcoming and Safe in Stockton

We need to consider what our definition is – For example:

Welcoming and safe town centres foster a sense of community, inclusivity and vibrancy. Visitors feel comfortable, respected and valued and the areas are a thriving environment for businesses, cultural events and social interactions.

Through collaboration with local stakeholders, including the business community and residents we can enhance quality of life and wellbeing for residents and visitors alike, making our six town centres an attractive destination for all.

What is Stockton's definition?

Proposed Scope and Plan

- **Establish the key issues within each of the Borough's six town centres with regards safety.**
- **Understand the measures already in place to address these issues and ascertain any gaps in future plans.**
- **Identify any potential learning from other parts of the UK.**

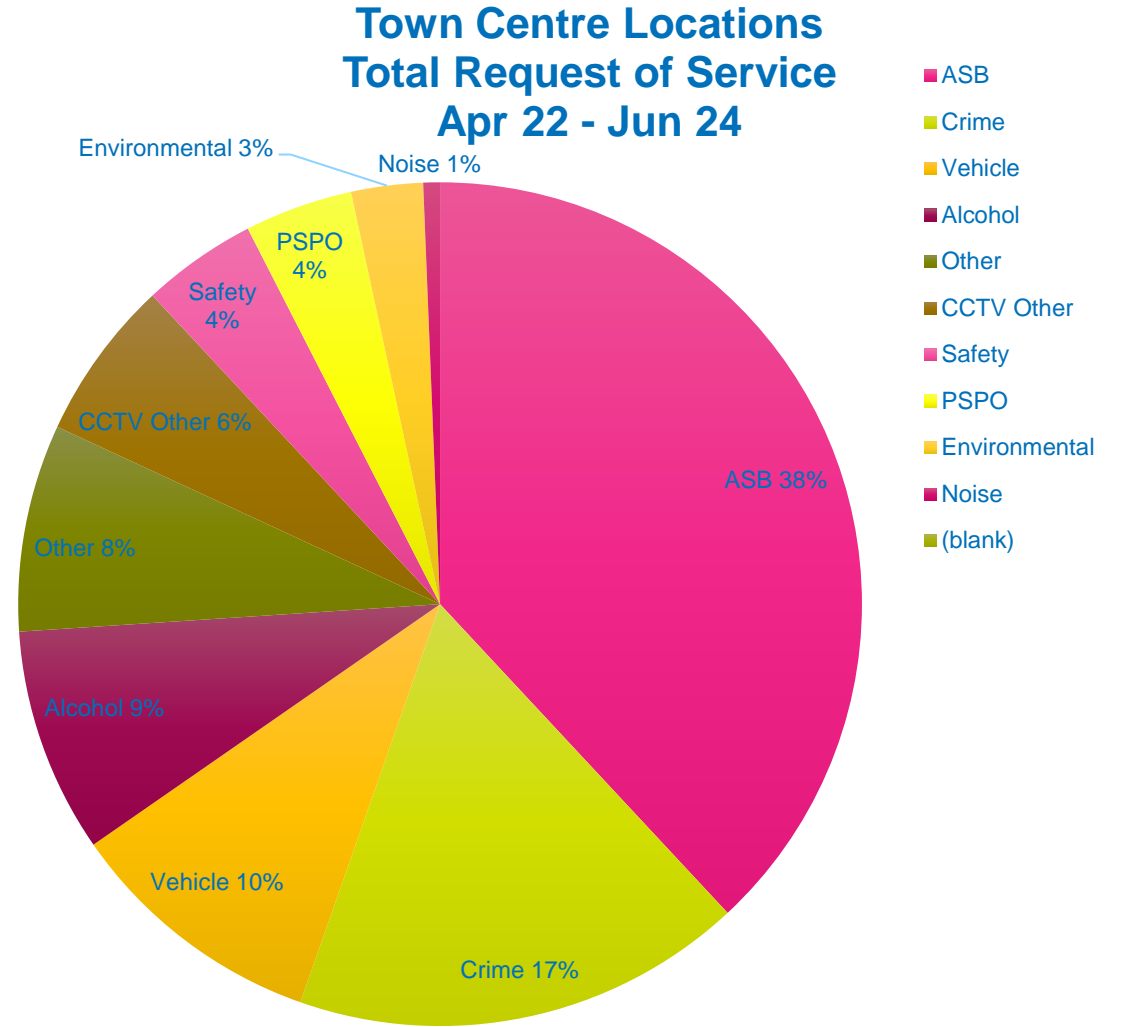
Establish the key issues

What do we already know?

- **PSPO Consultation December 2022:**
 - **Survey identified public perceptions of feeling unsafe in Stockton Town Centre and Norton Town Centre.**
 - **Respondents expressed particular concern about alcohol related ASB and Aggressive Begging.**
 - **We know that Stockton Town Centre has the highest volume of reported crime and ASB.**
 - **We know that in comparison, Yarm and Ingleby Barwick have the lowest volume of reported crime and ASB.**

The Pie chart illustrates Community Safety requests for service data for all six Town Centres.

Unsurprisingly, ASB (38%) and Crime (17%) make up the largest percentages of all requests.

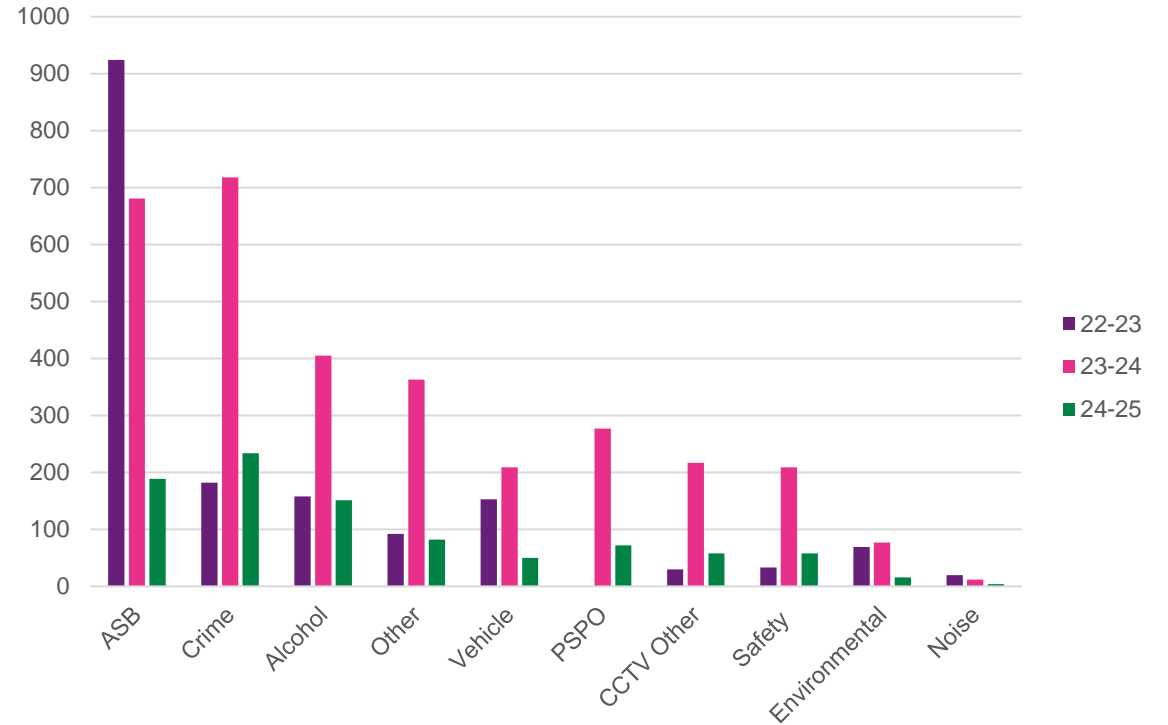


Establish the key issues

Stockton

Stockton has the highest number of incidents, with over 900 ASB reports in 22/23 dropping below 700 last year. Crime reported to SBC was over 700 last year.

Last year we started including CCTV monitored incidents in the figures, which accounts for the increases in other categories.



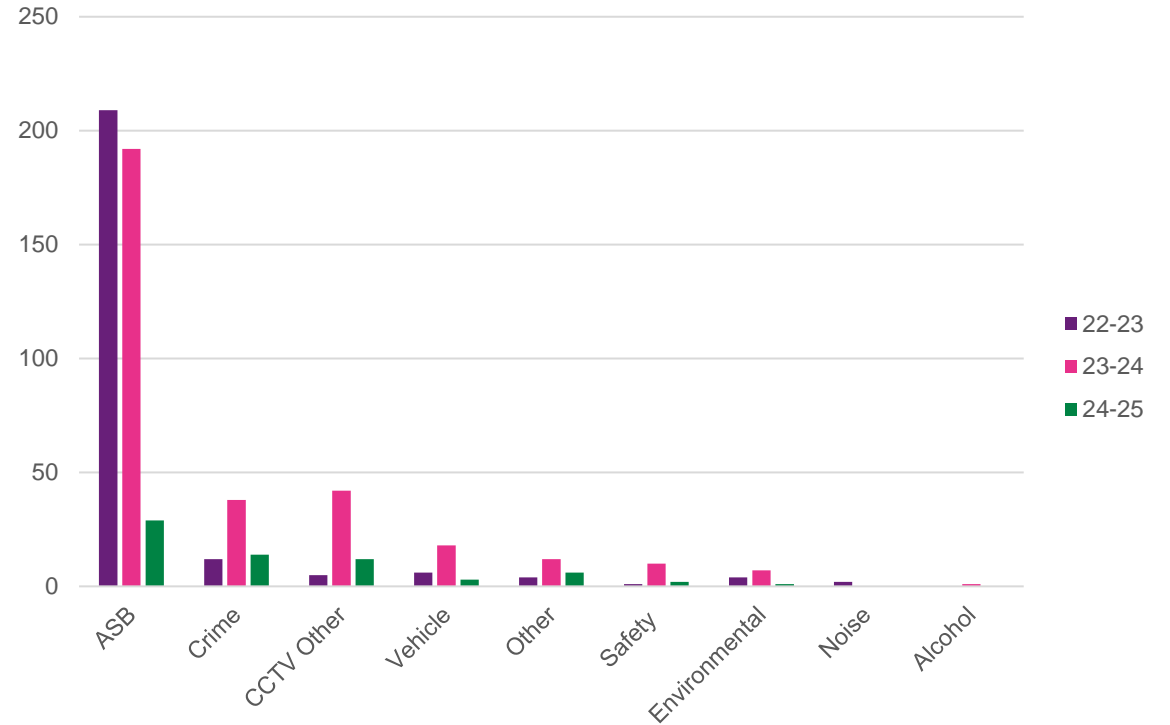
Establish the key issues

Thornaby

ASB continues to be the stand-out issue in Thornaby at around 200 incidents each year for the last two years.

A group of young people recently completed the 'Making Good' programme successfully and have not been involved in further incidents.

Thornaby TC is covered by ASB Hot Spot patrols, funded by the Home Office.



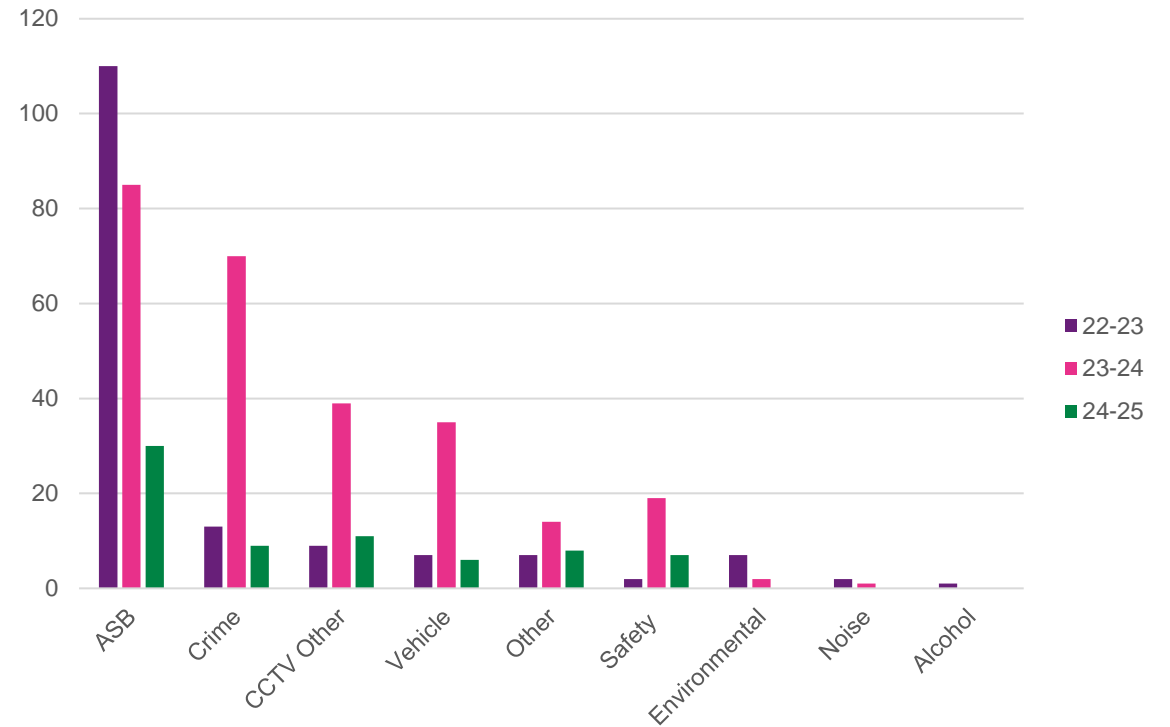
Establish the key issues

Billingham

ASB reports in Billingham are around half that of that in Thornaby by comparison.

Off Road bikes are often a cause for concern.

Billingham is also in the ASB Hot Spot patrol routes which are delivering reductions in ASB reports.

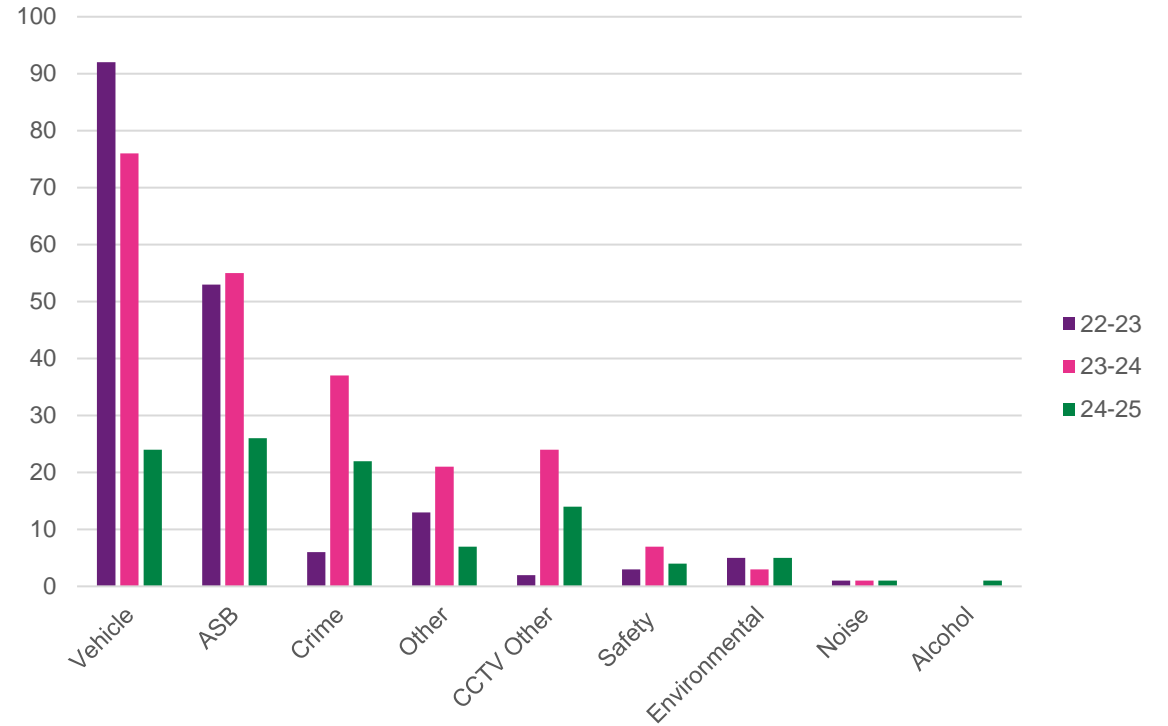


Establish the key issues

Yarm

Parking issues are the most reported category for Yarm, with low reports of ASB each year, with an average of 50 reports per year.

Challenges associated with the busy night time economy do occur but are well managed between partners including our licensing team.



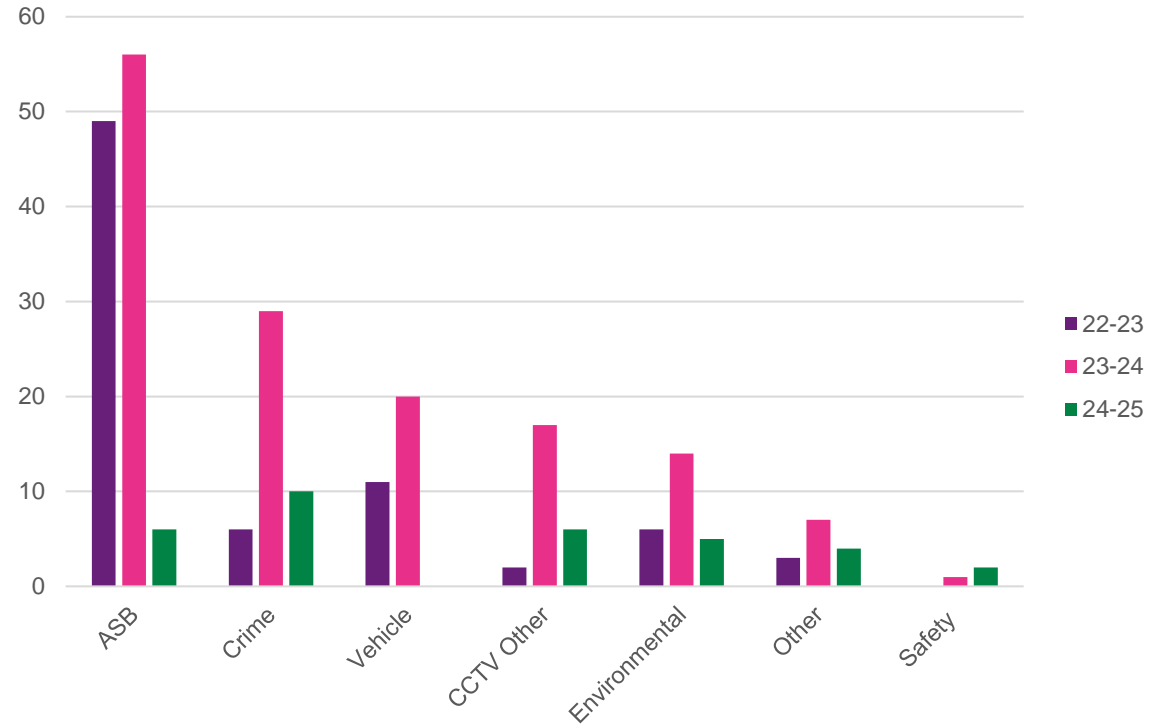
Establish the key issues

Ingleby Barwick

ASB issues remain low in Ingleby Barwick at around 50-60 reports a year.

Vehicle issues around schools do feature, either through direct reports or via elected members.

Demand due to reports are low but perceptions including fear of ASB are poor.



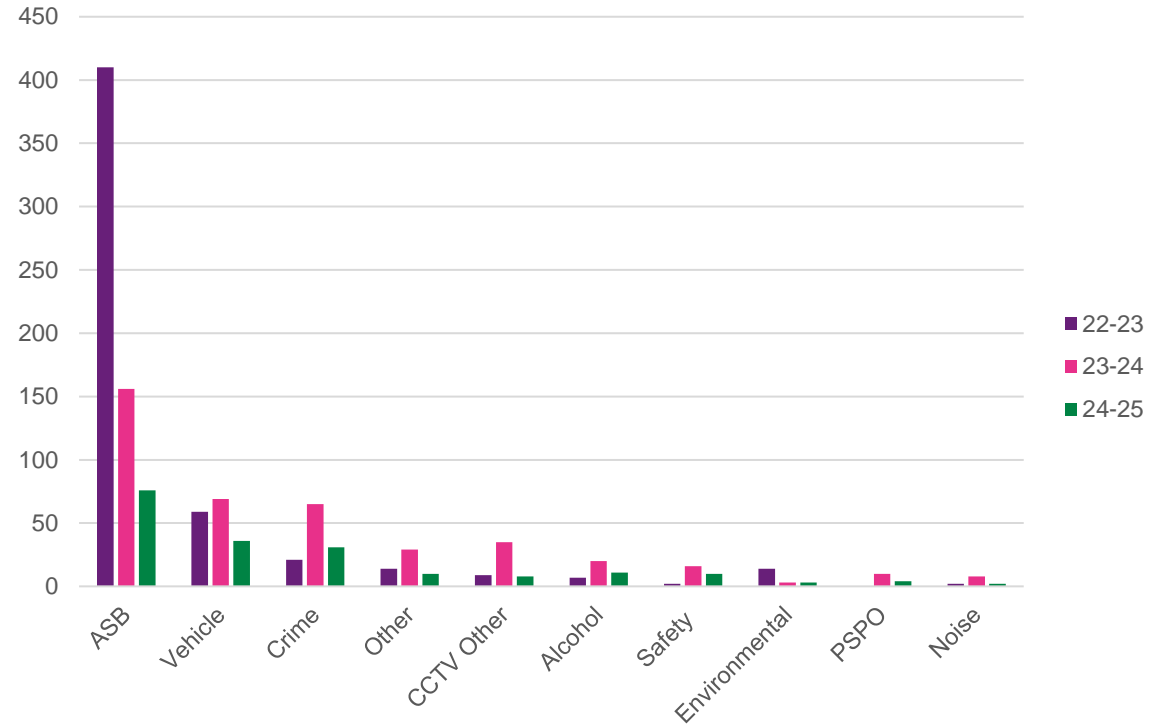
Establish the key issues

Norton

Biggest reported issue to SBC is antisocial behaviour, peaking at over 400 in 22/23, dropping to 150 last year following the introduction of a PSPO.

Concerns regarding off road motorbikes high.

ASB Hot Spot patrol routes have recently been reviewed and Norton TC will form part of the revised patrol routes.



What is already in place?

Licensing

Licensing Service is a team of 9 including Admin and Licensing Officers. The team deal with 50+ pieces of legislation dating from 1847 – 2023. The core functions of the licensing services is to ensure public safety through licensing policies and documents to promote the licensing objectives throughout the Borough. Licensing Officers carry out both proactive and reactive visits and investigate and take action against licenced and unlicenced activity to promote public safety.

The team process around 2000 applications and 1000 service requests per year.

Pubwatch – There are five pub watch groups across the Borough, Stockton Town Centre, Yarm, Billingham, Thornaby & Estates and Norton & Estates. Using Serious Violence funding (CURV), we now have Pubwatch radios, with contact into SBC Control Room.

Town Centre Audits – Licensing officers contribute to regular audits organised by Town Centre

What is already in place?

Licensing

Trauma Packs are now in key locations and licensed premises, designed to improve the chances of victims in the event of a serious accident or a violent incident. These have been purchased using Serious Violence funding secured via the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Trauma Packs consist of bandages and packing with simple instructions, designed to be used by lay persons in cases of serious injuries sustained in a wide range of circumstances such as an accident resulting in an injury.



What is already in place?

Trading Standards

Trading Standards works to promote a fair and safe trading environment, to the benefit of both consumers and reputable businesses. Trading Standards Officers will investigate all complaints regarding the sale of such products from town centre premises and market traders.

Operation CeCe to combat the sale of counterfeit and illicit tobacco, has involved significant work in and around town centre locations, particularly in Stockton. One recent raid at a town centre premises under warrant with the Police, led to the seizure of 32,660 cigarettes and almost 11kg of hand rolling tobacco. In the last 6 months alone, 5 town centre premises in Stockton, involved in the sale of counterfeit and illicit tobacco, have been closed.



What is already in place?

Trading Standards

Operation Joseph involves work to combat the sale of illicit and non-compliant vaping products. Over 1500 illegal vapes hidden within 2 separate concealments, were recently seized from a town centre premises. This premises was subsequently issued with a 3-month closure order.

Trading Standards Officers carry out proactive food standards inspections to check that town centre premises are selling food that is correctly described and meets compositional standards, as well as ensuring that the requirements around allergen controls are being implemented.

Trading Standards will also utilise the help of young volunteers to check if shops are selling age restricted products, such as cigarettes, alcohol, vapes and fireworks, to children. A lot of this work is carried out within the Borough's town centre locations.

What is already in place?

Environmental Health

Env Health address issues for dog fouling in any area of the borough and also undertake a statutory role for animals which are not kept under control.

Air quality monitoring is undertaken (both real-time and passive) at locations across the borough and in proximity to the town centres which aids in addressing future local AQ issues (Planning).

Noise, dust and odour are addressed by Environmental Health in terms of our role as a statutory consultee to Licensing and also via statutory nuisance assessments and control.

Development controls are added by Env Health for any new development including the town centre development which addresses local noise concerns and binds developers to the use of best available technique during demolition and construction phases of any give development.

What is already in place?

Environmental Health

Food safety controls in the borough are addressed by both premises inspections, complaints management and through both reactive and proactive sampling being undertaken.

Despite the backlog created during the pandemic Env. Health Commercial Officers have addressed this and hold a 100% inspection rate for all food safety categories within the borough and town centres.

Objective FSO1a - Food Hygiene Intervention Plan 2024 - 2025			
Premises Rating Category	Minimum Intervention Frequency	Number of premises due an intervention	Intervention Target
A	6 months	1	100%
B	12 months	27	100%
C	18 months	117	100%
D	24 months	669	100%
E	36 months	606	100%
Unrated	-	15	100%

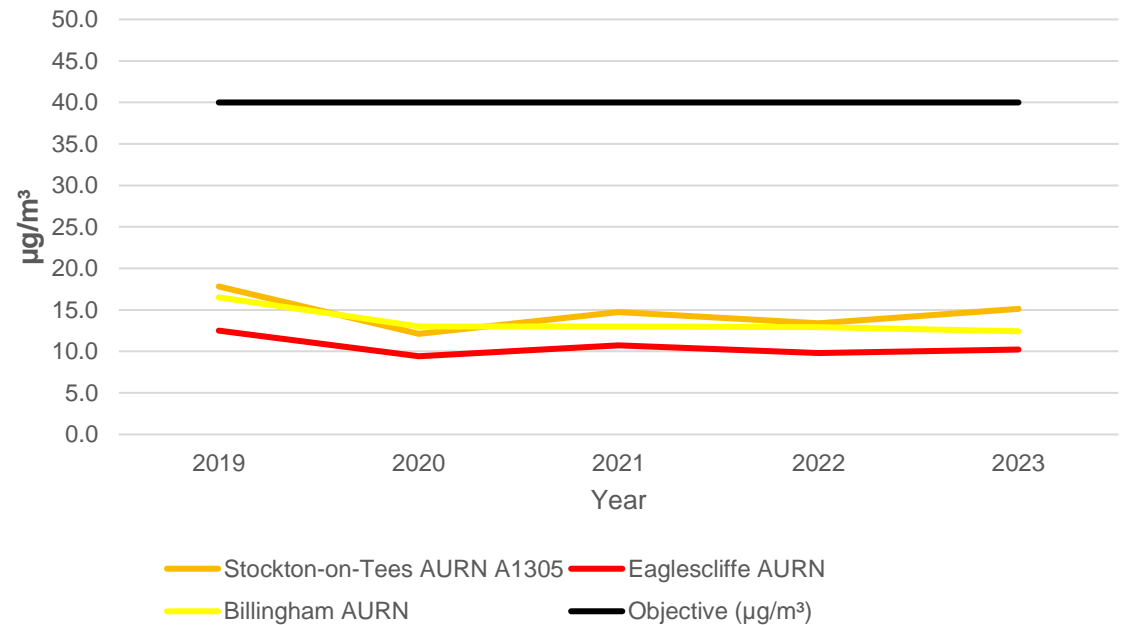
What is already in place?

Environmental Health

Stockton-on-Tees has a population of approximately 200,000 residents. Vehicle traffic is the main contributor towards air pollution within Stockton-on-Tees. Stockton-on-Tees has two major roads; the A19 which runs North and South and the A66 which runs East and West

As with most other Boroughs throughout the country there are roads within town centres which become busy at peak traffic times, roads which serve industrial estates which are used more frequently by heavy goods vehicles and roads which serve outlining villages and estates which are typically quieter and less congested.

Trends In Annual Mean NO₂ Concentrations At AURN Stations



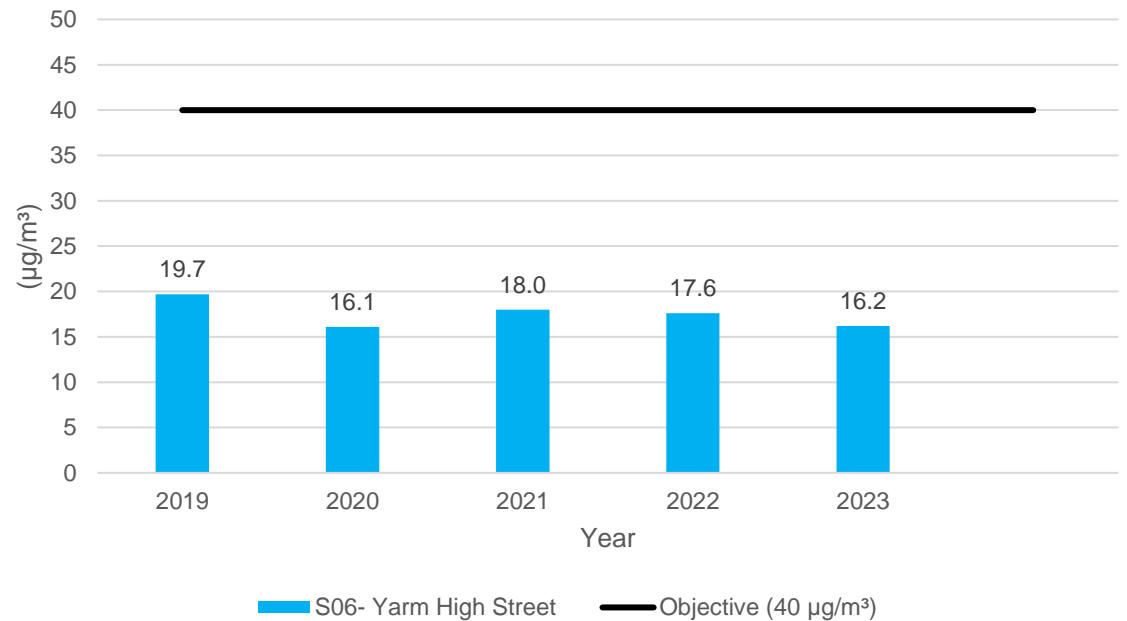
What is already in place?

Environmental Health

The Council meets with its local monitoring requirements year on year and the overall trends for air quality shows a slow decline each year for pollutants of concern.

To further capitalise on this EH have developed anti idling signage, will be implementing idling patrols circa October 2024, have worked and continue to work with local Primary Schools and are currently in the process of developing a borough wide air quality policy which will set out a vast number of current and further controls to improve local air quality.

S06- Yarm High Street.
NO₂ Annual Mean Concentrations

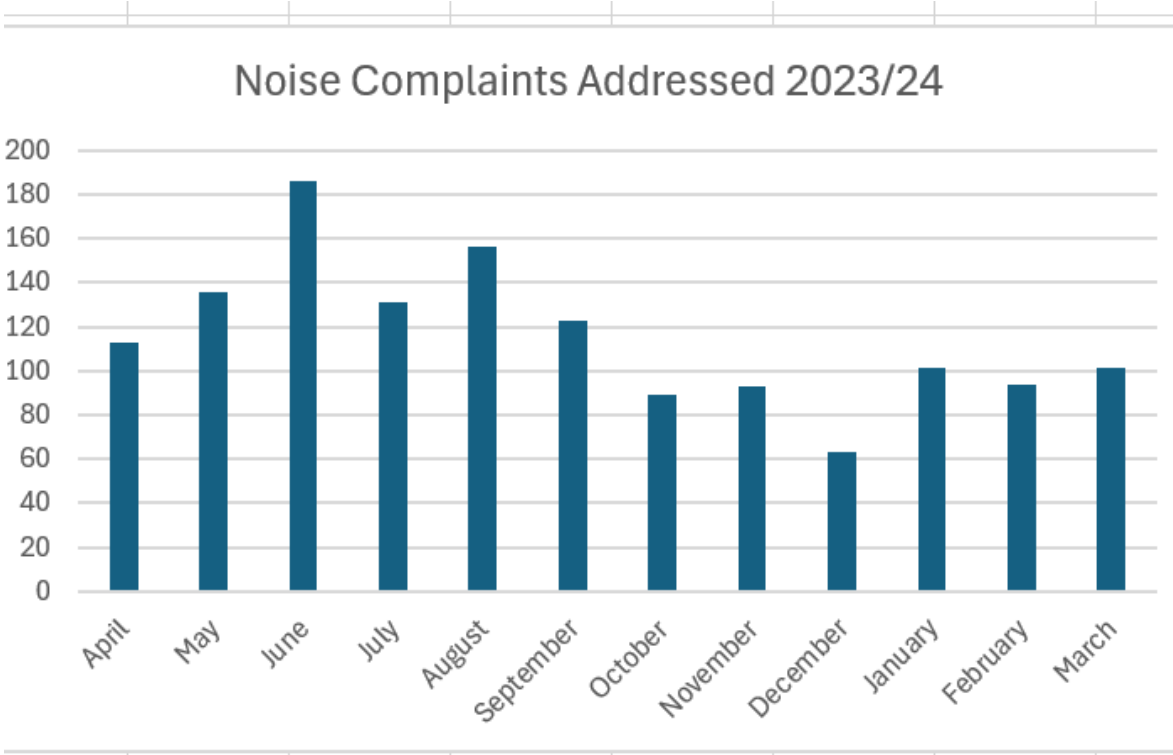


What is already in place?

Environmental Health

Noise issues impact on all residents but more so in developed town centres.

EH address all noise complaints in the borough by either designing them out at Planning or Licensing application stage and where businesses fail to maintain these standards through detailed investigation and acoustic monitoring.



Powering our Future

Community Safety and Regulated Services

Review currently on going and expected to be concluded this year with recommendations to Cabinet.

Review focused on:

- Having the correct team structures to meet future demand
- Improvement in digital innovation to maximise officer time in the community
- Improve customer access and experience including reporting and updates



Next Steps

Priorities for 2024

- Introduction of a Problem Solving and Partnerships officer to work alongside the community and internal and external partners to enhance community resilience and exploit opportunities for collaboration. They will be able to support grass roots community groups in developing their own funding bids and initiatives, enhancing community resilience and autonomy.
- Evaluation and review of PSPO in Stockton and Norton. Using information and intelligence to inform further use of our powers to ensure our communities are protected.
- Strengthening Case Management and Problem Solving capability and partnership working across departments and externally.
- Developing the work we have been doing using SS5 funding in Town Centre Ward.
- Using Immediate Justice (Making Good) referrals to further effect, diverting young people away from ASB.
- Maximising use of civil legislation, sharing information internally and externally to use the most appropriate power to disrupt crime, particularly serious and organised crime.
- Support the development and regeneration of our town centres to ensure they are welcoming places to visit

Role of Safer Stockton Partnership



Safer Stockton Partnership does:

- Sets a strategic plan to identify and tackle key community safety issues in Stockton on Tees.
- Monitors progress and performance in relation to harm reduction and perceptions of safety
- Act as a critical friend for proposals and initiatives with all partners.
- Bring together key statutory stakeholders and partners to deliver plans.
- Provides an overarching view of key strategies that impact this area of business.
- Responsible for setting a strategy and action plan to tackle serious violence.

Any Questions?



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Community Safety Select Committee
Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres
Outline Scope

Scrutiny Chair (Project Director): Cllr Paul Rowling	Contact details: paul.rowling@stockton.gov.uk
Scrutiny Officer (Project Manager): Gary Woods	Contact details: gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk 01642 526187
Departmental Link Officer: Sharon Cooney (SBC Head of Community Safety)	Contact details: sharon.cooney@stockton.gov.uk

<p>Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?</p> <p>The review will contribute to all three of the Council Plan 2023-2026 key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm</i> • <i>A place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed</i> • <i>A place that is clean, vibrant and attractive</i>

<p>What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?</p> <p>For several years now, debate has ensued over the future purpose and provision of town centres across the UK, with Local Authorities and their numerous partners considering the ways in which they can make these locations as appealing as possible within the context of a tough financial landscape. In related matters, the issue of town centre safety has drawn recent national attention, with significant concerns raised around reported increases in shoplifting, rising incidences of violence and abuse of shop staff, and police / community support officer numbers (UK Parliament - Town Centre Safety (Dec 23)).</p> <p>As Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) progresses with the redevelopment of its six town centres, fostering feelings of safety and creating welcoming spaces are crucial for several reasons. A safe environment encourages residents and visitors to engage in activities, boosting economic vitality through increased footfall and business opportunities. A welcoming town centre also promotes community cohesion and pride, attracting investment but also encouraging a sense of belonging amongst residents. Cultivating and developing a positive perception of the Borough's town centres is an essential component of the Council's regeneration strategy.</p> <p>Over recent years, a significant amount of work has gone into supporting Stockton-on-Tees town centres, both from a regeneration investment perspective and a community safety standpoint. A substantial amount of investment has been made in community safety measures such as new CCTV cameras and the provision of additional Civic Enforcement Officers to patrol and work with key stakeholders to problem-solve issues. Furthermore, last year saw the introduction of the Council's first Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to tackle aggressive begging and street drinking in both Stockton Town Centre and Norton Village.</p>
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<p>These measures, alongside additional support from SBCs strategic partners, have resulted in sustained reductions in key areas of crime and disorder. Despite this, however, the public perception of town centre safety continues to be poor amongst prospective visitors and also commercial investors.</p> <p>This review provides an opportunity to scrutinise what is currently in place in terms of promoting safety in town centres and how effective the measures are in addressing crime and disorder, whilst also further exploring what more can be done to positively promote the Borough's town centre spaces to address negative perceptions and improve feelings of safety.</p> <p>The main aims for this review will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish the key issues within each of the Borough's six town centres with regards safety.• Understand the measures already in place to address these issues and ascertain any gaps in future plans.• Identify any potential learning from other parts of the UK.
<p>The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:</p> <p>What is meant by the term 'welcoming' in relation to the Borough's town centres?</p> <p>What has the Council and its partners done to make its town centres more welcoming and safer (inc. impact of recent PSPO implementation)? How effective have these been?</p> <p>What safety issues (real or perceived) are specific to the six town centres across the Borough; what is stopping residents / visitors wanting to access these locations? What data is available to support / contradict these concerns?</p> <p>Do town centre businesses consider their location as welcoming and safe? What issues, if any, do they feel need addressing; could they assist with any of these themselves?</p> <p>How is the grant funding allocated to the Cleveland PCC area as part of the latest Safer Streets Fund (round five) being used to improve safety within the Borough?</p> <p>What is the role of the Stockton Safety Partnership (SSP) in relation to this scrutiny topic?</p> <p>How can this review contribute to / complement the ongoing SBC <i>Powering Our Future</i> Community Safety and Regulated Services project?</p> <p>How does / can the Council utilise the local voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector to support welcoming and safe town centres?</p> <p>What can the Council learn from the approach of other Local Authorities?</p>
<p>Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?</p> <p>Council, Cabinet, SBC partners, businesses, public.</p>
<p>Expected duration of review and key milestones:</p> <p>7 months (report to Cabinet in February 2025)</p>

What information do we need?	
Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government Association (LGA): Revitalising town centres (May 18) Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP): Stockton-on-Tees Community Safety Strategy 2022-2025 GOV.UK: Safer Streets Fund (Oct 23) 	
<i>Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)</i>	<i>What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?</i>
<p>Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Safety and Regulated Services Public Health Town Centres Development Inclusive Growth and Development Ward Councillors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues being highlighted for each town centre Safety initiatives implemented and the impact Role of SSP in this scrutiny topic Influencing community safety / violence prevention Plans for / progress on town centre investment and making these spaces welcoming / safe Feedback from public
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town centre priorities / plans Safer Streets Fund – impact within Borough
Cleveland Police Cleveland Fire Authority / Brigade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town centre crime / disorder data Safety initiatives implemented and the impact Past / future partnership-working with SBC
Town Councils Business Forums / Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues regarding town centre safety and measures taken to address these Past / future partnership-working with SBC
Catalyst / VCSE Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing VCSE involvement How the VCSE could further support efforts
Residents / Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views on / barriers to accessing town centres
Other Local Authority Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiatives to improve views of town centres and / or tackle negative perceptions
How will this information be gathered? (eg. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)	
Committee meetings, reports, research, existing public feedback, site visits (TBC).	

<p>How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?</p> <p>Committee meetings, information submissions.</p>
<p>How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?</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>How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?</p> <p><u>Stockton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA): Crime:</u> Crime and the fear of crime are key factors that affect people's quality of life and sense of wellbeing.</p> <p><u>Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023: All people in Stockton-on-Tees live in healthy places and sustainable communities:</u> Health and wellbeing are influenced by the environment in which people grow up, live, work and spend their leisure time and by how safe people feel in their communities.</p>
<p>Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:</p> <p>An assessment of the effectiveness of local community safety measures and recommendations on what more could potentially be done to address public concerns (whether real or perceived).</p>

Project Plan

Key Task	Details/Activities	Date	Responsibility
Scoping of Review	Information gathering	May 2024	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	29.05.24	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Agree Project Plan	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	13.06.24	Select Committee
Publicity of Review	Determine whether Communications Plan needed	TBC	Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer
Obtaining Evidence	SBC Community Safety and Regulated Services TBC	11.07.24 26.09.24 24.10.24 28.11.24	Select Committee
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	19.12.24	Select Committee
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report	January 2025	Scrutiny Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations	TBC	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Final Agreement of Report	Approval of final report by Committee	23.01.25	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of report	[04.03.25]	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet / Approving Body	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	13.02.25	Cabinet / Approving Body

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COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE Work Programme 2024-2025

Date (4.30pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
25 April	Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Draft) Final Report 	Cllr Clare Gamble / Cllr Steve Nelson / Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE / Neil Mitchell
23 May	CANCELLED	
13 June	Monitoring: Action Plan - Outdoor Play Provision Monitoring: Progress Update – Tree Asset Management Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Draft) Scope and Project Plan 	Graham Clingan Dale Rowbotham Marc Stephenson
11 July	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBC Community Safety and Regulated Services 	Sharon Cooney / Stephen Donaghy / Jimmy Jones / Leanne Maloney-Kelly
26 September	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC 	
24 October	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC 	
28 November	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC 	
19 December	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC 	
23 January		
27 February	Overview Report: Adults, Health and Wellbeing (TBC)	
27 March		

2024-2025 Scrutiny Reviews

- Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE Work Programme 2024-2025

Monitoring Items (scheduled / to be scheduled)

- Fly-Grazed Horses (Progress Update) – TBC
 - Tree Asset Management (Progress Update) – TBC
 - Outdoor Play Provision (Progress Update) – TBC
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Other Information Sources / Updates

- **Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP):** The SSP is the local community safety partnership and works together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) – meeting dates, agendas and minutes can be accessed via <https://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](#). Government is consulting on part two of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Review, with Councils giving input into the Local Government Association's (LGA) response – there is appetite amongst Councils for a more fundamental look at the partnership duty landscape and how CSPs work with Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).
- **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. The Home Office plan to update the guidance to the Serious Violence Duty (SVD) – the LGA will be giving views (Councils have contributed to this).
- **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:** [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. The LGA has established a modern slavery network for council officers leading on work to tackle modern slavery – the network meets quarterly via Teams and aims to share good practice and discuss current issues. In March 2024, the Home Office [published data on the number of potential victims of modern slavery](#) referred into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) or via the Duty to Notify (DtN) process in 2023. 17,004 potential victims of modern slavery were referred to the Home Office in 2023. The number of referrals for females were at their highest on record, as were the number of referrals for child potential victims. The most common nationality referred in 2023 was UK.

COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE Work Programme 2024-2025

- **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 Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman issued a press release in August 2023 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. The [ASB Action Plan](#) has since been updated (March 2024).
- **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. In March 2024, the Government [published a new definition of extremism](#), updating the one in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and to reflect the evolution of extremist ideologies and the social harms they create. The Government also recently published a [progress report one year on from the publication of the Independent Review of Prevent](#). This sets out that 30 of the 34 recommendations are now complete, including updated statutory guidance, training and the assessment framework, the launch of a new [Standards and Compliance Unit \(STaCU\)](#) to handle complaints and provide oversight.
- **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. In March 2024, the LGA wrote to Council chief finance officers on behalf of DEFRA about new burdens funding relating to the XL Bully Ban for 2023-24.

COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE Work Programme 2024-2025

- **Licensing:** [Legislation has been introduced into Parliament to amend the Licensing Act 2003](#) so that it is easier to get changes to licensing hours for special events or occasions, such as significant sporting events, through Parliament. The Bill is more concerned with parliamentary process than the contents of the Licensing Act itself. The Local Government Association (LGA) understands this legislation has Government support, so is likely to complete its parliamentary stages and become law. The British Beer & Pub Association has [produced advice for licensees showing European Championship football matches](#) – this is an update of the previous World Cup guidance.
- **Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs):** The Government announced DHRs will be renamed to Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs) following calls to better recognise deaths from domestic abuse related suicide. The LGA conducted a DHR survey in conjunction with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner (DAC) - results were due to be published during [the LGA Annual Conference](#) (2-4 July 2024), but this has been cancelled due to a clash with the forthcoming General Election. The LGA is in talks with other organisations to form a DHR network for the sharing of best practice. The Home Office have launched [a public consultation](#) (open until 1 July 2024) seeking views on an updated version of the DHR statutory guidance.
- **Float to Live campaign:** The [RNLI's Float to Live campaign](#) took place on 21 May 2024. The '[float to live' message has saved lives](#), and the RNLI is keen for Councils to support the campaign to raise more awareness amongst local communities. It has produced [a free social media toolkit](#) which may be of interest to Council communications team.
- **World Drowning Prevention Day:** The 25 July marks the fourth annual World Drowning Prevention Day. Drowning was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2021 to be a wholly preventable public health problem. This global prevention day is a reminder to all to be vigilant and ensure no one loses their life in the water. It is also an opportunity to remember the impact these tragedies have on families around the world. Here in the UK, we start raising water safety awareness early with [national Drowning Prevention Week](#) (15 to 22 June) recently concluded the tenth annual national effort. This summer, the LGA urges all to take water safety seriously and make swimming a source only for joy.
- **Fires involving e-bikes and e-scooters:** The Office for Product Safety & Standards (OPSS) has written to heads of trading standards, asking that, where resources and prioritisation allow, Trading Standards services identify and inspect bike repair businesses and where possible inform OPSS of their findings.
- **Khan Review:** Dame Sara Khan has published her [independent review into social cohesion and resilience](#). Recommendations include the establishment of a new Office for Social Cohesion and Democratic Resilience (OSCDR), a 5-year Social Cohesion and Democratic Resilience Strategy (SCDR) and Action Plan, and that Government should better engage with Local Authorities over actions that could undermine social cohesion – for example in relation to asylum dispersal.
- **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/>.