

Date: Thursday 24 October 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 26 September 2024. (Pages 9 - 16)
- 5 Scrutiny Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres**
To consider information from the following organisations in relation to this scrutiny topic: (Pages 17 - 46)
 - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Cleveland
 - Cleveland Police
 - Cleveland Fire Brigade (to follow)
- 6 Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP) - Previous Minutes (March, May and July 2024)** (Pages 47 - 58)
- 7 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2024-2025** (Pages 59 - 62)

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 at the front of the Library where a security code will be required to access them. Please ask a Member of Library staff for the security code.

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 26 September 2024.

Present: Cllr Paul Rowling (Chair), Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy (Vice-Chair), Cllr Richard Eglington, Cllr Jason French, Cllr Lynn Hall (sub for Cllr John Coulson), Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Alan Watson

Officers: Sarah Bowman-Abouna, Sharon Cooney, Mandy MacKinnon (A,H&W); Marc Bould, Iain Robinson (R&IG); Gary Woods (CS)

Also in attendance: Oliver Metcalf (CGL)

Apologies: Cllr John Coulson

CSS/18/24 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

CSS/19/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

CSS/20/24 Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Community Safety Select Committee meeting which was held on 11 July 2024 for approval and signature.

AGREED that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 11 July 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CSS/21/24 Scrutiny Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy (Billingham) and Cllr Richard Eglington (Thornaby) wished it to be recorded for transparency purposes only that they were currently members of their respective Town Councils as well as Ward Councillors.

The second evidence-gathering session for the Committee's ongoing review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres featured submissions from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Town Centres Development team and the SBC Public Health team (supported by Change Grow Live (CGL)).

SBC TOWN CENTRES DEVELOPMENT

The SBC Town Centres Development team was identified as a key contributor to this review and were therefore approached for information on plans for / progress on town centre investment and making these spaces welcoming / safe, examples of work undertaken / planned with other SBC directorates / departments to make the

Borough's town centres more welcoming / safe, and feedback on town centre audits in relation to safety.

Led by the SBC Assistant Director – Town Centre Development (who was accompanied by the SBC Town Centres Improvement Manager), a report, supplemented by supporting visuals, was presented which included the following:

- Remit of the Town Centres Development Team (TCDT): The TCDT had responsibility for the development and delivery of a wide range of interventions across the Borough's six town centres. Predominantly under the financial umbrellas of the Levelling-Up Fund, Towns Fund, National Lottery Heritage Fund, and Future High Streets Fund, it oversaw and co-ordinated the development, design and delivery of capital projects. Town centre business engagement and market management was also a focus.

Ultimately, the role of the TCDT was to ensure town centres continued to thrive as a critical part of the Borough through the creation and development of high quality, welcoming and safe spaces that encouraged visitors and supported economic growth. The Council was building on this investment and continued to drive change forward in the six towns across the Borough to adapt to the changing face of retail and town centres in the coming years. A key and intrinsic part of its vision was to create places that were both safe and welcoming.

- Regeneration scheme design: The design of plans and regeneration schemes needed to reflect the ambitions of residents, Elected Members, businesses, and a variety of wider stakeholders. A wide range of inputs were therefore sought from across the Local Authority and through an array of external partners and agencies to ensure that emerging concepts and designs were compliant with relevant policy, guidelines and laws, whilst continuing to meet the needs of the initial brief and end-users.

When developing spaces and places, there were many factors that required consideration to ensure that SBC were in line with legislation and other functions within the Local Authority – these included Planning, Legal, Highways, Community Services, Care for Your Area, Licensing, and Security and Surveillance. Individual workstreams for each element of a project included discussion with key stakeholders (both internal and external) to ensure understanding across all parties – this helped identify who was responsible for areas of delivery and reach collective agreement on mitigation strategies when faced with issues.

A fundamental aspect to the development of schemes was the level of public consultation and engagement. The aim when consulting was to take the public on a journey and inform and update people during the design and development of the project. With regards to the major regeneration schemes being delivered across the Borough, in 2019, the TCDT undertook a consultation about a shared vision for the six town centres across Stockton-on-Tees – this comprised an online survey as well as face-to-face sessions held within central locations (libraries and customer service points). Examples of design concepts and public consultation involving Romano Park, Norton Public Realm, Billingham, and Stockton Waterfront were provided.

- Making town centres welcoming: An instant and obvious barometer for the look and feel of the Borough's town centres was the condition of the public realm and

buildings. Across these spaces, SBC had an extensive programme of street cleaning and cleansing which was done on a cyclical and programmed basis. First impressions really did count and street cleansing, litter collection and other aspects such as horticultural services were critical to providing a strong foundation when presenting the towns in their most welcoming light.

SBC was proactive in its approach to ensuring vacant properties were kept in a presentable condition via a regular audit of buildings – this allowed the Council to monitor them and, where necessary, identify issues with building owners and encourage necessary improvements when required. In addition, SBC also undertook a regular audit inspection of town centre locations, specifically at areas which attracted dumps of waste (both residential and commercial) and fly-tipping. Several examples of improvements and initiatives that helped make the Borough's town centres a welcoming place to live, work and stay were provided.

The report concluded by noting ways in which SBC determined if its interventions were successful and making a difference. Footfall / dwell time (where people were visiting, what people were doing, and where they were coming from) in town centres was continually monitored and helped SBC identify areas which required more focused attention. In the past four years, the TCDT had undertaken over 10 individual public sessions to consult or engage with people on the plans and designs of regeneration schemes – this would continue, and the Council would strive to ensure all residents, visitors and businesses were proud of the town centres and saw them as secure, safe and welcoming places.

Thanking the SBC officers for their submission, the Committee began its response by drawing attention to the referenced smaller scale, 'soft' interventions which contributed significantly to the look and feel of town centre spaces, and asked if these (including dementia-friendly initiatives which had been adopted by local businesses) were being publicised enough. Officers stated that developments such as these were promoted by the Council and through its partners, and that collective publicity was more effective. In terms of dementia, it was recognised that considerations around this condition (including training for staff) needed to be built into the design of spaces, though designated 'quiet hours' in Wellington Square demonstrated efforts to provide a better experience for all.

Stressing the importance of the small details (particularly street cleansing) with regards town centre presentation, the Committee felt that more benches / seats needed to be provided to assist town centre users who were older or less mobile. Members then queried whether there were any plans to cover Stockton's Wellington Square (as had been suggested in the past) given the Castlegate Shopping Centre (which previously offered a dry, warm space for people to visit) had now been knocked down. Officers replied that enclosing a shopping area was complex, involving significant costs to retrofit a large space which can increase service charges for retailers. Whilst a feasibility study had been undertaken some time ago, there were currently no plans to cover Wellington Square. The Committee highlighted the retrofitting of some of Hartlepool's town centre shopping space, with the Chair stating that this discussion for a similar proposal for Wellington Square would be raised with the relevant SBC Cabinet Member.

Clarity was then sought on the thought process of the TCDT when considering ongoing maintenance costs in relation to capital projects. Officers reported that the TCDT was very conscious of future financial requirements (e.g. planting, cutting,

materials, etc.) during the design phase of projects, and that there was also the ability to capitalise a maintenance package within a development. Much was ultimately down to design and quality, with officer experience and professional advice integral to sourcing the most efficient and cost-effective materials. In response to a related Committee query, officers stated that consultation with other SBC departments which may incur increased costs because of a regeneration scheme would take place from the outset (design concept stage). Members emphasised the need to be open about future maintenance responsibilities.

Referencing the insight collected through visitor footfall / dwell time, the Committee asked what was done when any themes were identified. Members were informed that outcomes from such information were yet to be developed, though it was intuitively known which were the busiest days and this was built into considerations around, for example, street cleansing.

The Committee switched its focus onto the recently published masterplans for parts of Stockton-on-Tees and was interested in any discussions relating to one of the Borough's greatest assets, the river (arguably an under-utilised feature). Members heard that the river and its maintenance was not within the TCDT remit, though links with this space had been established through the ongoing Tees Valley Care and Health Innovation Zone initiative. Whilst the need for clarity around who was responsible for what around different parts of the river footprint was acknowledged (the case of the Canal and River Trust removing litter bins in 2023 due to the cost of emptying was highlighted by Members), the Committee felt it was important to continually keep in mind the potential for this natural asset.

Returning to the theme of engagement with relevant stakeholders over town centre design concepts, the Committee stressed that the TCDTs consultation with 'partners' needed to ensure the right SBC departments were also involved in conversations / developments. Members then questioned how transport matters were being factored into design plans and heard that, given these were existing geographical locations, established patterns of travel / connectivity were already in place to facilitate access. Responding to a query on whether there was a need to make it easier to bring more people into town centres, officers felt that the current transport networks / options were reasonable. The Committee, however, expressed concern over the possibility that the west side of Stockton may feel cut-off as a result of the new waterfront development.

Questions concluded with a request for assurance on maintaining a focus on tidying up existing town centre areas which may be giving the impression of a less welcoming and cared for environment. Officers commented that whilst maintenance regimes were not within the remit of the TCDT, there was a desire to improve the identification of areas which required attention through closer working with other SBC departments.

SBC PUBLIC HEALTH / CGL

The SBC Public Health team was also recognised as an important contributor towards this review and was therefore asked to provide details of specific issues identified for each of the Borough's six town centres which may be impacting upon the public's perception of safety, examples of efforts to influence community safety / violence prevention within the Borough's six town centres, and partnership-working (both internally and externally) to support individuals who may be contributing to public perceptions of town centre safety (including any analysis on the effectiveness of interventions).

Led by the SBC Director of Public Health and SBC Strategic Health & Wellbeing Manager, and supported by the CGL Operations Manager, a presentation, supplemented by additional data / narrative provided during the meeting, covered the following:

- Welcoming and safe town centres: What creates them?: Whilst other theories had been developed and promoted, the World Health Organisation (WHO) 'Healthy Cities' model (adopted by Newcastle City Council) emphasised the critical importance of people and the creation of an environment that enabled individuals, services and businesses to flourish. Issues involving town centre spaces were broad, and a range of data and views was needed to inform the local picture and therefore approach. A paper was considered earlier in 2024 by the SBC Cabinet regarding the work of Professor Sir Michael Marmot to address health inequalities, a key focus for the Council.
- Safety and perception of safety: Considerations: Several factors were noted including housing, the built environment, street lighting, nature of business, traffic, community cohesion, and anti-social behaviour (ASB). In relation to the latter, elements which could drive / contribute to ASB / violence included place design, education, and employment opportunity, as well as childhood bonding / attachment, trauma, social networks and support, mental wellbeing, and use of substances.
- Community safety and violence prevention: Public health action: From a strategic perspective, SBC Public Health worked with partners on prevention programmes, was involved in the Council's *Powering Our Future* initiative to add its voice to planning around communities and places, and played its part in a whole systems approach to the provision and delivery of services in relation to substance misuse. With a lead role in the collation of the Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (currently being updated) and the delivery of its associated delivery plan, SBC Public Health was also represented on the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV), Combating Drugs Partnership, Domestic Abuse Steering Group, and Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB), and had provided input towards the masterplans incorporating town centre spaces (including the Tees Valley Care and Health Innovation Zone vision).
- Prevention: Public health roles in relation to prevention included mental health and substance misuse support within the Community Wellbeing Hub, CURV needs assessments, public mental health awareness, the domestic abuse strategy, and targeted work to improve access to services (health checks, employment, Tees Credit Union, etc.).
- Communities and places: SBC Public Health involvement in impacting communities and places included a 'Healthy Streets' pilot (led by SBC Regeneration and Inclusive Growth colleagues), reviewing good practice and research evidence base alongside SBC Planning colleagues, informing licensing applications (it was noted that Stockton town centre was ranked within the highest deprivation scale, had the highest crime levels across the Borough, and had the highest density of off-sale premises selling alcohol – future applications had to balance this data against the need for a healthy, vibrant night-time economy), and improving relationships with, and access to, support working with individuals with

multiple complex needs via a peer advocacy pilot funded by the Integrated Care Board (ICB).

- Substance misuse: Reflecting its significance, a large proportion of the presentation covered the issue of substance misuse (alcohol and drugs). Acknowledging that community cohesion and connectedness were important in safety and perceptions of safety, the local picture was outlined which highlighted that drug use was spread across the Borough but was concentrated in and around Stockton town centre (though networks meant drug-related crime would extend beyond this space). Alcohol misuse, meanwhile, was spread across social groups, and whilst alcohol-related harm was greater in disadvantaged communities, violence linked to alcohol occurred across all socio-economic groups and may be hidden (e.g. domestic abuse). However, there were improving trends, with alcohol-related admissions decreasing and closing the gap with the England average.

Local work around substance misuse was overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board, with the Borough's services taking a holistic approach to individual service-users, building on what was important to them and addressing need. Current ways of working would be strengthened through the SBC *Powering Our Future* early intervention and prevention transformation review, with an additional focus on workforce capacity, support and training to enable brief intervention, advice and support in a range of community settings (e.g. Community Wellbeing Hub, hostels, The Moses Project, Hebron Church Food Bank). The Alcohol Strategic Framework and approach to drug harm minimisation was noted.

Existing services and partnerships in relation to substance misuse were outlined, some of which included various treatment and recovery outreach provision, Public Health-funded pharmacy-based services, overdose pathways, inpatient detox, and individual placement support (IPS) aiming for sustained employment through mainstream, competitive jobs, assisting anyone of working age engaged in structured treatment (104 individuals had been supported in the last year).

Specific attention was drawn to the work of the integrated substance misuse service, Change Grow Live (CGL) which was funded through a public health ring-fenced grant. Contributing to a significant increase in drug and alcohol treatment numbers over the past two years, CGL had introduced a full-time walk-in offer this year with same-day prescribing – this had improved accessibility and reduced waiting times across all substances, and enabled referral processes to other services to begin. CGL's outreach team engaged with individuals who convened within town centre spaces, and whilst its Stockton town centre site was appointment-based, CGL would always try to facilitate access even if an individual's key worker was not present. An important part of the CGL offer was an educational service for people and their families / carers / friends to increase their knowledge about substance misuse and signpost to other support services. CGL was very aware of the issues that service-users could cause and strived to assist in making spaces safe for all (e.g. a sharps team was in place to clear needles left behind in public areas).

- Next steps: Principally through the Health and Wellbeing Board (via the delivery of the Joint Stockton-on-Tees Health and Wellbeing Strategy), SBC Public Health would continue to develop and evaluate work on creating healthy places, continue supporting the licensing process (specifically around the promotion, pricing and availability of alcohol), and develop data and intelligence to inform local

approaches to prevention and support. The ongoing peer advocacy pilot would be monitored and evaluated, with a desire to continue to build on the good outcomes delivered through commissioned services.

Commending SBC officers for the depth of information provided within the submission and thanking CGL for its day-to-day work in supporting vulnerable people, the Committee asked if CGL offered set or bespoke pathways for individuals who were trying to break their addiction. Members were informed that there was a main (core) support structure in place, but that other pathways emanated from this due to the differing issues that each person was experiencing. CGL tried to maintain engagement with individuals for a longer period to avoid problems resurfacing.

The Committee asked if it was possible to monitor any reductions in problem behaviour following interventions from services. SBC officers stated that information on an individuals' outcomes was held and that services were trying to improve how they could demonstrate changes in behaviour as a result of the support they had received (e.g. development of a dashboard prototype). That said, there was known evidence that interventions led to lower crime / anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents.

Reflecting upon the impact of substance misuse, Members felt it was important to recognise that every individual was part of the local community, even if some found it easy to cast them off from mainstream society. As such, the Committee queried if the Council and its partners were doing vulnerable people a disservice by concentrating those with similar issues into one area (particularly when, for example, they left prison). Officers pointed to the shared characteristics of those experiencing drug and / or alcohol challenges which, in effect, made this a community in its own rights – whilst comfort could be found in being in the same location, it was acknowledged that this could also be a destructive environment. Dispersing people with addictions more widely across the Borough would not move these individuals away from what they were going through internally.

Discussion on the facilitation of appropriate environments to allow people to recover from their addiction continued, with officers noting that town centres brought a concentration of issues and that services were therefore positioned where engagement and impact would be maximised. Whilst much was town centre-based, hubs did exist in the wider community that could also be accessed by those seeking support.

Members raised the recently publicised issue of prostitution on Yarm Road, Stockton, and the associated poor impression this created for what was an entrance to the town centre space. Officers gave assurance that a specialist worker engaged with individuals involved in this practice, though pointed to the need to look at this issue from a societal point of view, not just a location one (or else it would simply move to another part of the Borough). The Committee asked if the specialist worker had seen an increase in the cases of prostitution in that specific area, as the perception amongst local people was that this was becoming a bigger problem – officers responded that the situation appeared reasonably stable, though it was hard to be certain as there was a reliance on individuals disclosing their involvement. Again, assurance was given that there were positive examples of people moving away from this behaviour, and that CGL linked into A Way Out (an outreach and prevention charity which aimed to engage, empower and equip vulnerable and excluded women, families and young people to live lives free from harm, abuse and exploitation) to promote better life choices.

AGREED that the information presented be noted.

CSS/22/24 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2024-2025

CHAIRS UPDATE

The Chair drew attention to recent reflections on the current information which the Committee was scrutinising and potential future items which could be added for consideration (in addition to the ongoing in-depth review). Members were encouraged to highlight any community safety-related issues which the Committee may wish to explore further (either within or outside formal meetings) – topics to be forwarded either directly to the Chair or to the Scrutiny Officer supporting the Committee.

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 24 October 2024 where evidence-gathering for the ongoing review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres would continue, with contributions anticipated from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Cleveland Police, and Cleveland Fire Brigade.

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

Community Safety Select Committee

24 October 2024

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF WELCOMING AND SAFE TOWN CENTRES**Summary**

The third evidence-gathering session for the Committee's review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres will consider submissions in relation to this scrutiny topic from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Cleveland, Cleveland Police, and Cleveland Fire Brigade.

Detail

1. Following the review's initial focus on Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) activity regarding its town centre spaces, this session will concentrate on three key partner organisations which have been asked to respond to the following:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Cleveland

- What previous involvement has the OPCC for Cleveland had in improving town centre safety, and what has been the impact of this for the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees?
- What town centre priorities / plans (specifically for the Borough) are in place to make such spaces safer?
- 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?
- Outcomes from any evaluation of ASB hot-spot patrol routes and the 'Making Good' programme (previously referenced at the July 2024 evidence-gathering session).
- What efforts are being made to tackle shoplifting?
- How best can the OPCC and its partners address negative safety perceptions of town centre spaces?

Cleveland Police

- Safety-related issues (real or perceived) being highlighted for each of the Borough's six town centres (including the results of any previous resident / business / visitor engagement regarding this topic).
- Town centre crime / disorder data relevant to the Borough's six town centre spaces (broken down into categories / identified issues (e.g. drug-related) over the last few years).
- Safety initiatives implemented by the force and the impact of these (including working with partners and the effectiveness of this).
- Future initiatives planned by the force to make the Borough's town centres more welcoming / safe (including working with partners).
- How best can Cleveland Police and its partners address negative safety perceptions of town centre spaces (including any learning from outside the force's footprint)?

Cleveland Fire Brigade

- Fire incident data relevant to the Borough's six town centre spaces.
- Safety initiatives implemented by CFB and the impact of these (including working with partners and the effectiveness of this).
- Future initiatives planned by CFB to make the Borough's town centres more welcoming / safe (including working with partners).
- How best can CFB and its partners address negative safety perceptions of town centre spaces (including any learning from outside the CFB footprint)?

Received submissions are included within these meeting papers. Representatives from the three organisations are scheduled to be in attendance to present this information and address Member comments / questions.

2. In advance of the session, Members are again reminded of the link to the latest Town Centre-related developments which can be accessed via <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/regeneration>.
3. A copy of the agreed scope and plan for this review is included for information.

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Scrutiny Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

Matt Storey

Police and Crime Commissioner
for Cleveland



Tackling Shoplifting

- Scrutiny Meeting focusing on retail crime - November 2023 - PCC assured
- Retail Crime Summit - October 2023 - 35 attendees, follow up planned
- Key areas of concern - communication, sentencing, difficulties in passing evidence to police, wider issues such as ASB / addiction
- Scrutiny meeting planned October 2024
- Bi-monthly Police retail crime meeting - attended by OPCC
- Cross Cleveland retail crime action plan developed - identified SPOC in each LA area, PowerBi dashboard showing shops with 6 or more offences, problem solving plans in place for top 5 shops in each LA area, developing use on PNC facial recognition checks

Safer Streets Funding (Round 5)

- £331k funding over 18 months - Home Office and OPCC
- Focus on Stockton Town Centre (Portrack and Tilery area) and Ropner
- Tackling ASB, Neighbourhood Crime and VAWG
- Portrack & Tilery deliverables:
 - 100 target hardening packs distributed to vulnerable residents and repeat victims
 - Kicks rails installed to prevent antisocial use of motorcycles
 - 9 integrated CCTV/lighting columns installed
 - Power of Women project - secondary school, primary schools and mums group - focusing on developing skills, confidence and empowerment
- Ropner - Operation Nightfall - A Way Out and Cleveland Police



ASB Hotspots

- The ASB Hotspot work includes locations in Stockton Town Centre, Billingham Town Centre and Thornaby Town Centre. Funding was made available from the Home Office to pilot an ASB Hotspots program in Cleveland. This was allocated to the four district councils in Cleveland after agreeing a delivery model.
- In Stockton, a total of £135,633 was spent from October 2023 - March 2024 in setting up the scheme and delivering the patrols. An additional £263,000 has been allocated from April 2024 - March 2025.
- The funding has been used to employ an additional 6 Enforcement Officers within Stockton Council for the duration of the project.
- As part of the ASB Hotspots project we are collecting information on engagement and other activity carried out within the hotspots.

ASB Hotspots details

- The purpose of the patrols is to act provide a uniformed presence in the hotspot areas to act as a deterrent to those who may engage in acts of ASB or crime and to provide reassurance to members of the public using these public spaces.
- Summary of hotspot patrols in town centres between August 2023 and June 2024

Hotspot location	Patrol Hours	Number of Patrols	Resident Engagement	Buisness Engagement	Examples of activities
Billingham Central	373:26:00	408	141	399	Information Sharing with partners
Thornaby Town Centre	359:34:00	356	109	325	ASB warning letters issued
Stockton Town Centre	327:26:00	302	178	89	PSPO Enforcement ASB intervention
Totals	1060:26:00	1066	428	813	

ASB Hotspots Outcomes

- Changes in ASB incident reports in the hotspots between July 2022 - June 2023 compared to July 2023 - June 2024 (*Police data only*)

Hotspot location	Police % change
Stockton Town Centre	-22%
Thornaby Town Centre	-45%
Billingham Central	-37%

Overall Outcomes in the hotspot and Safer Streets LSOA

Figures taken from Police.UK dataset from July 2022 and June 2024, this is publicly available data.

Location	Crime / Incident Type	Number of incidents / crimes		Difference	% increase/ decrease	% inc / dec for all stockton
		Jul 22 - Jun 23	Jul 23 - Jun 24			
Billingham Town Centre						
(LSOA 002E)	Antisocial behaviour	134	119	-15	-11%	-3%
	Criminal damage and arson	89	53	-36	-40%	-14%
	Public Order	71	37	-34	-48%	-32%
	Violence and sexual offences	175	117	-58	-33%	-15%
	Burglary	47	9	-38	-81%	-14%
	Shoplifting	111	71	-40	-36%	-5%
	Drugs	9	5	-4	-44%	-3%
	Robbery	7	12	5	71%	-22%
Thornaby Town Centre						
(LSOA 020C)	Antisocial behaviour	211	96	-115	-55%	-3%
	Criminal damage and arson	94	36	-58	-62%	-14%
	Public Order	61	51	-10	-16%	-32%
	Violence and sexual offences	134	126	-8	-6%	-15%
	Burglary	44	13	-31	-70%	-14%
	Shoplifting	72	104	32	44%	-5%
	Drugs	2	9	7	350%	-3%
	Robbery	6	4	-2	-33%	-22%
Stockton Town Centre						
LSOA(025A, 025B, 025C,	Antisocial behaviour	709	629	-80	-11%	-3%
025D, 026A)	Criminal damage and arson	331	361	30	9%	-14%
Old LSOA (014E, 014F, 014G)	Public Order	565	392	-173	-31%	-32%
	Violence and sexual offences	1626	1466	-160	-10%	-15%
	Burglary	212	186	-26	-12%	-14%
	Shoplifting	372	411	39	10%	-5%
	Drugs	196	184	-12	-6%	-3%
	Robbery	70	63	-7	-10%	-22%

NTE Action Plan

- NTE Funding 2022-23 - Stockton awarded over £40,000 to fund:
 - Ask for Angela Training, metal detector wands, bleed kits and anti-spiking resources for licensed premises.
 - Additional CCTV operator for peak NTE times to improve incident detection and management.
- Serious Violence Duty- NTE Action Plan was coproduced with partners from across Cleveland. Stockton allocated over £20,000 to fund:
 - Distribution of bleed cabinets across the three district areas.
 - Set up of Stockton Street Angels.
 - CSE Training to hotel staff.
 - Scannet.
 - Radios to licensed premises.

Next Steps

- Expansion of radio systems to increase coverage in Yarm.
- Training in use of bleed kits/cabinets.
- Media Campaign focused on perpetrator behaviour.

Areas of concern

- Sustainability of NTE resources. Lack of clarity around the future of violence reduction units and whether serious violence duty will be continued.
- Reliance on licensed premises committing to maintain.

How can OPCC and partners address negative perceptions of town centre spaces?

- Promote success around joint operations – work with the local media for positive stories.
- Effective use of enforcement tools, such as Public Space Protection Orders. (ASB Summit in November will cover enforcement powers and who can use them).
- Identify public perception of what makes them feel unsafe – e.g. the Safety of Women and Girls survey identified areas that people perceived to be unsafe but showed very few incidents in the crime data.

Questions

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF WELCOMING AND SAFE TOWN CENTRES

CLEVELAND POLICE

Safety-related issues (real or perceived) being highlighted for each of the Borough's six town centres (including the results of any previous resident / business / visitor engagement regarding this topic).

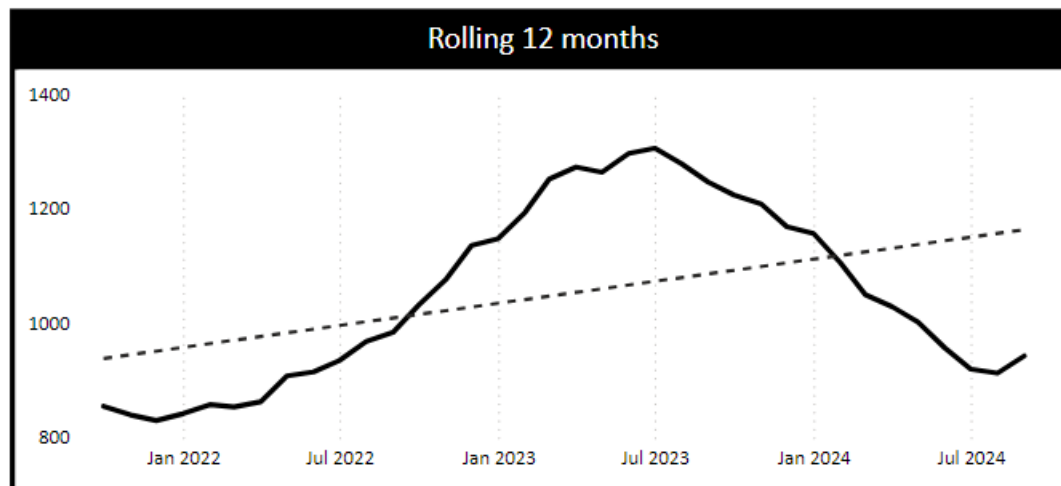
- From consultation, including with stakeholders, Microsoft surveys and general feedback identify ASB, off road bikes and drugs being the biggest priority areas for the local community. There are more visible to the community and greater harm caused in the local community, which the police have to tackle is often less visible. This is a challenge.
- We know shop theft is a continued focus for retailers in the town centre. Whilst people are arrested and charged, breaking the cycle of offending, often driven by substance addiction, is a challenge for the full CJ system.
- Night-time Economy related violence and disorder is a challenge and it occurs in periods of wider peak demand.
- As a partnership there is significant investment in the CURV to support their work.

Town centre crime / disorder data relevant to the Borough’s six town centre spaces (broken down into categories / identified issues (e.g. drug-related) over the last few years).

Billingham Central

Crime	Selected Month			Last 6 Months			Last 12 Months		
	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff
Victim Based Crime	84	22	35.5%	399	-87	-17.9%	808	-241	-23.0%
Non victim based	17	8	88.9%	68	-20	-22.7%	133	-63	-32.1%
Total	101	30	42.3%	467	-107	-18.6%	941	-304	-24.4%

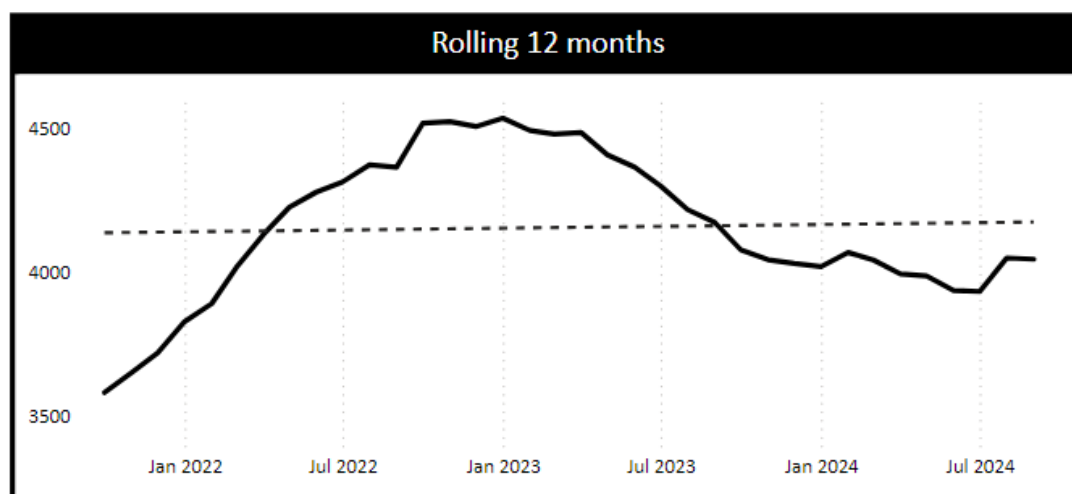
	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff
Victim Based Crime	84	22	35.5%	399	-87	-17.9%	808	-241	-23.0%
Violence	41	19	86.4%	171	-32	-15.8%	334	-123	-26.9%
Violence Without Injury	18	10	125.0%	69	-10	-12.7%	128	-27	-17.4%
Stalking and Harassment	15	6	66.7%	64	-14	-17.9%	129	-62	-32.5%
Violence With Injury	8	3	60.0%	38	-7	-15.6%	77	-32	-29.4%
Death or serious injury caused by illegal driving							-1	-100.0%	
Homicide					-1	-100.0%	-1	-100.0%	
Theft Offences	28	2	7.7%	141	-22	-13.5%	275	-52	-15.9%
Vehicle Offences	15	10	200.0%	41	10	32.3%	63	-5	-7.4%
Shoplifting	6	1	20.0%	35	3	9.4%	82	-4	-4.7%
All Other Theft Offences	2	-4	-66.7%	27	-6	-18.2%	53	-13	-19.7%
Burglary Residential	3	-3	-50.0%	27	-13	-32.5%	56	-8	-12.5%
Burglary Business and Community	1	0	0.0%	8	-4	-33.3%	10	-8	-44.4%
Bicycle Theft	1	-2	-66.7%	3	-11	-78.6%	9	-11	-55.0%
Theft From The Person					-1	-100.0%	2	-3	-60.0%
Criminal Damage & Arson	11	5	83.3%	55	-30	-35.3%	141	-63	-30.9%
Criminal Damage	11	5	83.3%	50	-29	-36.7%	134	-59	-30.6%
Arson				5	-1	-16.7%	7	-4	-36.4%
Sexual Offences	4	0	0.0%	28	8	40.0%	47	7	17.5%
Robbery		-4	-100.0%	4	-11	-73.3%	11	-10	-47.6%
Non victim based	17	8	88.9%	68	-20	-22.7%	133	-63	-32.1%
Public Order Offences	11	5	83.3%	41	-19	-31.7%	84	-57	-40.4%
Misc Crimes Against Society	3	3	Infinity	16	-1	-5.9%	29	0	0.0%
Drug Offences	2	1	100.0%	10	7	233.3%	15	1	7.1%
Weapons Possession Offences	1	-1	-50.0%	1	-7	-87.5%	5	-7	-58.3%
Total	101	30	42.3%	467	-107	-18.6%	941	-304	-24.4%



Stockton Town Centre

Crime	Selected Month			Last 6 Months			Last 12 Months		
	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff
Victim Based Crime	271	-7	-2.5%	1669	-3	-0.2%	3252	-21	-0.6%
Non victim based	74	3	4.2%	404	6	1.5%	791	-105	-11.7%
Unknown								-1	-100.0%
Total	345	-4	-1.1%	2073	3	0.1%	4043	-127	-3.0%

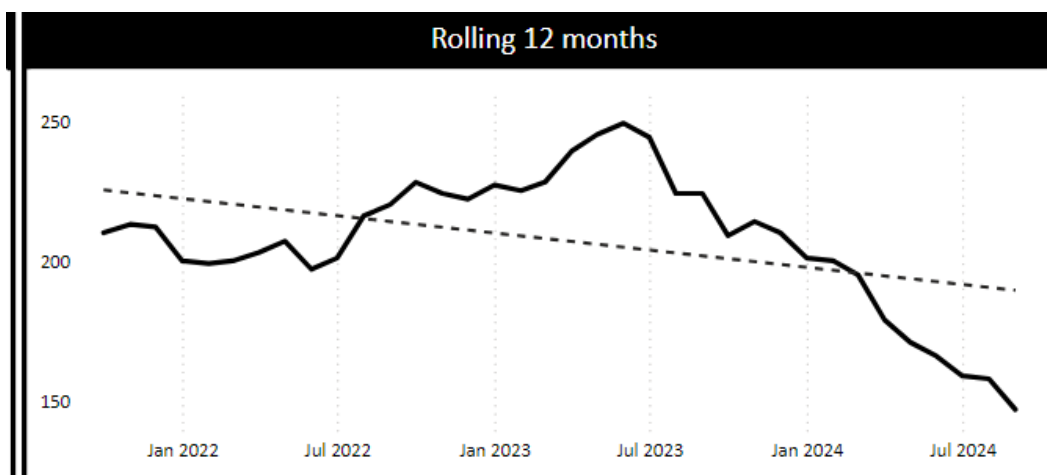
	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff
Victim Based Crime	271	-7	-2.5%	1669	-3	-0.2%	3252	-21	-0.6%
Violence	134	14	11.7%	737	-40	-5.1%	1421	-79	-5.3%
Violence Without Injury	67	18	36.7%	354	17	5.0%	676	23	3.5%
Violence With Injury	39	-2	-4.9%	237	1	0.4%	430	-35	-7.5%
Stalking and Harassment	27	-2	-6.9%	144	-59	-29.1%	312	-69	-18.1%
Death or serious injury caused by illegal driving				1	1	Infinity	2	2	Infinity
Homicide	1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%
Theft Offences	85	-23	-21.3%	632	40	6.8%	1249	73	6.2%
Shoplifting	26	-4	-13.3%	219	24	12.3%	440	25	6.0%
All Other Theft Offences	20	-17	-45.9%	156	12	8.3%	310	39	14.4%
Vehicle Offences	13	-8	-38.1%	113	11	10.8%	214	31	16.9%
Burglary Residential	10	2	25.0%	60	2	3.4%	109	-13	-10.7%
Burglary Business and Community	4	-4	-50.0%	31	-8	-20.5%	83	6	7.8%
Theft From The Person	4	3	300.0%	27	1	3.8%	45	-13	-22.4%
Bicycle Theft	8	5	166.7%	26	-2	-7.1%	48	-2	-4.0%
Criminal Damage & Arson	35	1	2.9%	193	9	4.9%	380	21	5.8%
Criminal Damage	35	2	6.1%	184	10	5.7%	368	28	8.2%
Arson		-1	-100.0%	9	-1	-10.0%	12	-7	-36.8%
Sexual Offences	15	1	7.1%	68	-19	-21.8%	134	-43	-24.3%
Robbery	2	0	0.0%	39	7	21.9%	68	7	11.5%
Non victim based	74	3	4.2%	404	6	1.5%	791	-105	-11.7%
Public Order Offences	32	-12	-27.3%	207	-37	-15.2%	411	-145	-26.1%
Drug Offences	24	9	60.0%	103	14	15.7%	208	16	8.3%
Misc Crimes Against Society	15	6	66.7%	61	27	79.4%	113	32	39.5%
Weapons Possession Offences	3	0	0.0%	33	2	6.5%	59	-8	-11.9%
Unknown								-1	-100.0%
Total	345	-4	-1.1%	2073	3	0.1%	4043	-127	-3.0%



Norton Central

Crime	Selected Month			Last 6 Months			Last 12 Months		
	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff
-									
Victim Based Crime	10	-7	-41.2%	57	-33	-36.7%	124	-55	-30.7%
Non victim based	2	-4	-66.7%	12	-15	-55.6%	23	-22	-48.9%
Total	12	-11	-47.8%	69	-48	-41.0%	147	-77	-34.4%

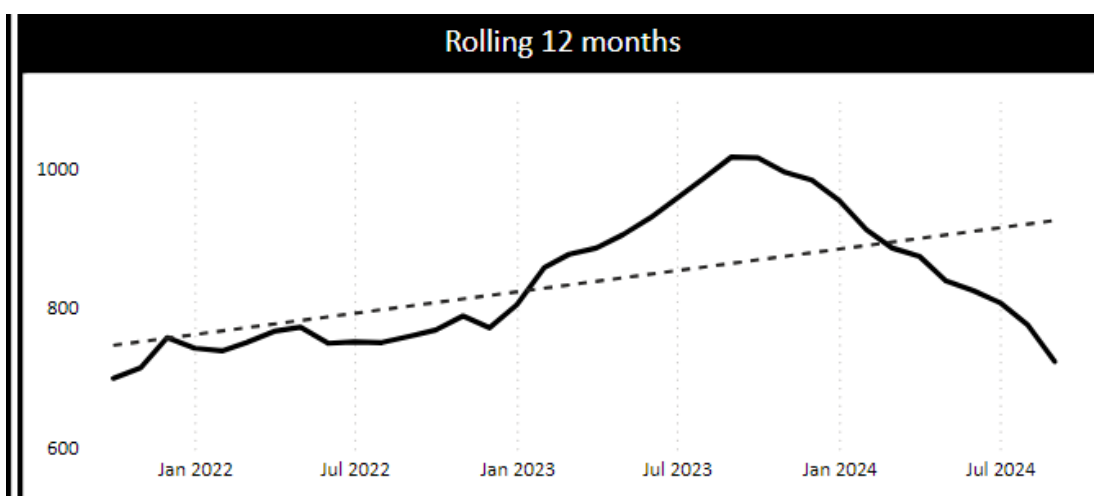
	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff
-									
Victim Based Crime	10	-7	-41.2%	57	-33	-36.7%	124	-55	-30.7%
Theft Offences	8	4	100.0%	21	-14	-40.0%	42	-34	-44.7%
Vehicle Offences	6	4	200.0%	10	-3	-23.1%	20	0	0.0%
All Other Theft Offences	1	-1	-50.0%	5	-4	-44.4%	7	-8	-53.3%
Shoplifting	1	1	Infinity	4	-2	-33.3%	6	-15	-71.4%
Burglary Business and Community				1	1	Infinity	2	0	0.0%
Burglary Residential				1	-4	-80.0%	6	-8	-57.1%
Bicycle Theft					-1	-100.0%	1	-1	-50.0%
Theft From The Person					-1	-100.0%		-2	-100.0%
Violence	1	-9	-90.0%	21	-17	-44.7%	52	-23	-30.7%
Stalking and Harassment	1	-6	-85.7%	14	-7	-33.3%	33	-7	-17.5%
Violence Without Injury		-2	-100.0%	7	-2	-22.2%	14	-6	-30.0%
Death or serious injury caused by illegal driving					-1	-100.0%	1	0	0.0%
Violence With Injury		-1	-100.0%		-7	-100.0%	4	-10	-71.4%
Criminal Damage & Arson	1	-2	-66.7%	10	-4	-28.6%	18	-1	-5.3%
Criminal Damage	1	-2	-66.7%	10	-4	-28.6%	17	-2	-10.5%
Arson							1	1	Infinity
Sexual Offences				3	0	0.0%	10	2	25.0%
Robbery				2	2	Infinity	2	1	100.0%
Non victim based	2	-4	-66.7%	12	-15	-55.6%	23	-22	-48.9%
Public Order Offences	1	-4	-80.0%	6	-12	-66.7%	12	-21	-63.6%
Misc Crimes Against Society	1	1	Infinity	4	1	33.3%	6	1	20.0%
Drug Offences		-1	-100.0%	1	-3	-75.0%	3	-2	-40.0%
Weapons Possession Offences				1	-1	-50.0%	2	0	0.0%
Total	12	-11	-47.8%	69	-48	-41.0%	147	-77	-34.4%



Thornaby Town Centre (Stainsby Hill)

Crime	Selected Month			Last 6 Months			Last 12 Months		
	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff
Victim Based Crime	36	-44	-55.0%	292	-137	-31.9%	604	-239	-28.4%
Non victim based	6	-9	-60.0%	62	-25	-28.7%	119	-51	-30.0%
Unknown								-2	-100.0%
Total	42	-53	-55.8%	354	-162	-31.4%	723	-292	-28.8%

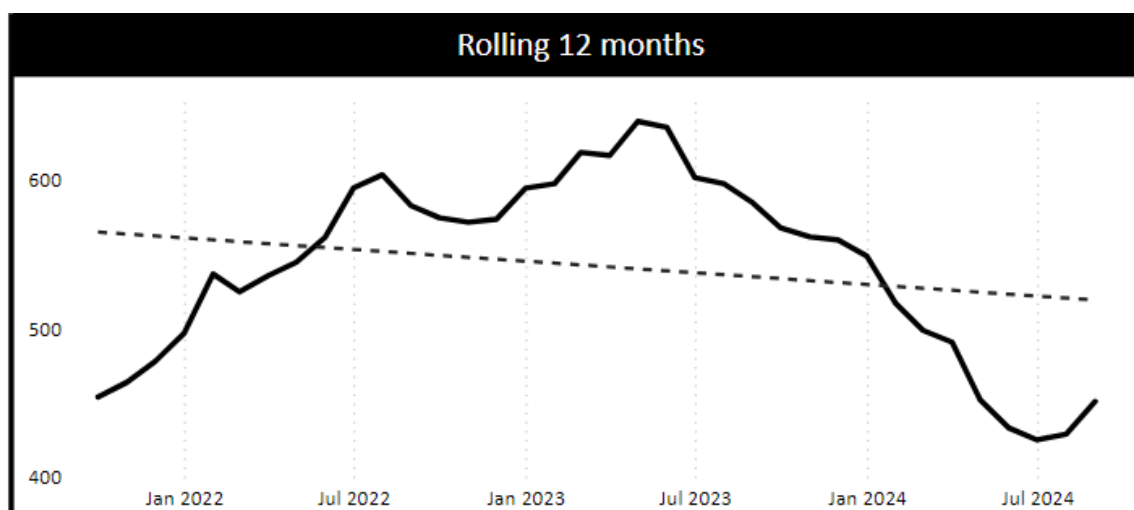
	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff
Victim Based Crime	36	-44	-55.0%	292	-137	-31.9%	604	-239	-28.4%
Violence	20	-6	-23.1%	131	-50	-27.6%	281	-55	-16.4%
Death or serious injury caused by illegal driving				1	1	Infinity	1	1	Infinity
Violence With Injury	3	-1	-25.0%	38	-1	-2.6%	73	5	7.4%
Violence Without Injury	8	-2	-20.0%	50	-12	-19.4%	100	-21	-17.4%
Stalking and Harassment	9	-3	-25.0%	42	-38	-47.5%	107	-40	-27.2%
Theft Offences	9	-32	-78.0%	113	-39	-25.7%	234	-53	-18.5%
Theft From The Person				2	2	Infinity	2	1	100.0%
Shoplifting	3	-11	-78.6%	46	-9	-16.4%	100	2	2.0%
Vehicle Offences	3	-11	-78.6%	26	-3	-10.3%	56	-7	-11.1%
Burglary Business and Community				5	0	0.0%	9	-2	-18.2%
Burglary Residential	1	-3	-75.0%	10	-4	-28.6%	25	-8	-24.2%
All Other Theft Offences	2	-7	-77.8%	22	-19	-46.3%	39	-29	-42.6%
Bicycle Theft				2	-6	-75.0%	3	-10	-76.9%
Robbery	1	0	0.0%	6	-1	-14.3%	10	-4	-28.6%
Sexual Offences	1	-4	-80.0%	6	-11	-64.7%	10	-16	-61.5%
Criminal Damage & Arson	5	-2	-28.6%	36	-36	-50.0%	69	-111	-61.7%
Arson	1	0	0.0%	5	0	0.0%	9	-4	-30.8%
Criminal Damage	4	-2	-33.3%	31	-36	-53.7%	60	-107	-64.1%
Non victim based	6	-9	-60.0%	62	-25	-28.7%	119	-51	-30.0%
Drug Offences				7	0	0.0%	13	-3	-18.8%
Public Order Offences	5	-8	-61.5%	46	-20	-30.3%	87	-36	-29.3%
Weapons Possession Offences		-1	-100.0%	3	0	0.0%	6	-3	-33.3%
Misc Crimes Against Society	1	0	0.0%	6	-5	-45.5%	13	-9	-40.9%
Unknown								-2	-100.0%
Total	42	-53	-55.8%	354	-162	-31.4%	723	-292	-28.8%



Ingleby Berwick Town Centre (Ingleby Barwick West)

Crime	Selected Month			Last 6 Months			Last 12 Months		
	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff
☐ Victim Based Crime	41	23	127.8%	209	-21	-9.1%	407	-83	-16.9%
☐ Non victim based	4	-1	-20.0%	20	-27	-57.4%	43	-51	-54.3%
Total	45	22	95.7%	229	-48	-17.3%	450	-134	-22.9%

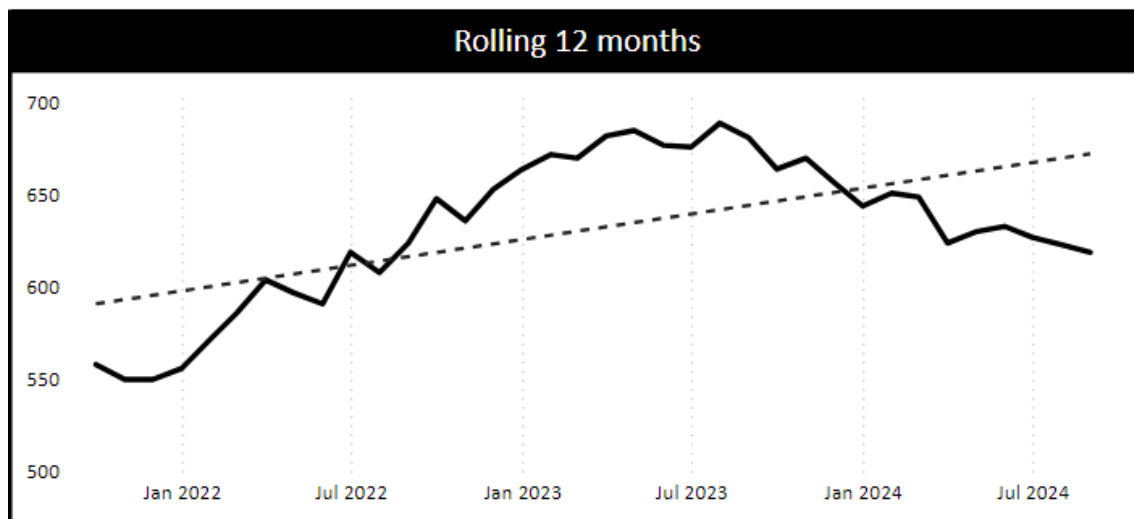
	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff
☐ Victim Based Crime	41	23	127.8%	209	-21	-9.1%	407	-83	-16.9%
☐ Sexual Offences	3	3	Infinity	13	3	30.0%	23	4	21.1%
☐ Theft Offences	17	8	88.9%	78	-24	-23.5%	175	-24	-12.1%
☐ All Other Theft Offences	1	0	0.0%	15	4	36.4%	29	3	11.5%
☐ Burglary Residential	2	2	Infinity	5	0	0.0%	15	0	0.0%
☐ Shoplifting	11	5	83.3%	46	-20	-30.3%	106	-11	-9.4%
☐ Bicycle Theft	1	1	Infinity	4	2	100.0%	7	-3	-30.0%
☐ Vehicle Offences	2	1	100.0%	8	-8	-50.0%	17	-10	-37.0%
☐ Burglary Business and Community		-1	-100.0%		-2	-100.0%	1	-2	-66.7%
☐ Theft From The Person								-1	-100.0%
☐ Violence	19	13	216.7%	102	6	6.3%	174	-39	-18.3%
☐ Homicide							1	1	Infinity
☐ Violence With Injury	6	4	200.0%	27	11	68.8%	44	4	10.0%
☐ Violence Without Injury	9	8	800.0%	32	5	18.5%	45	-13	-22.4%
☐ Stalking and Harassment	4	1	33.3%	43	-10	-18.9%	84	-31	-27.0%
☐ Criminal Damage & Arson	2	-1	-33.3%	15	-7	-31.8%	33	-20	-37.7%
☐ Arson		-1	-100.0%	1	0	0.0%	4	2	100.0%
☐ Criminal Damage	2	0	0.0%	14	-7	-33.3%	29	-22	-43.1%
☐ Robbery				1	1	Infinity	2	-4	-66.7%
☐ Non victim based	4	-1	-20.0%	20	-27	-57.4%	43	-51	-54.3%
Total	45	22	95.7%	229	-48	-17.3%	450	-134	-22.9%



Yarm Town Centre

Crime	Selected Month			Last 6 Months			Last 12 Months		
	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff
☐ Victim Based Crime	44	1	2.3%	265	-19	-6.7%	521	-37	-6.6%
☐ Non victim based	2	-5	-71.4%	55	-11	-16.7%	97	-25	-20.5%
Total	46	-4	-8.0%	320	-30	-8.6%	618	-62	-9.1%

	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff
☐ Victim Based Crime	44	1	2.3%	265	-19	-6.7%	521	-37	-6.6%
☐ Theft Offences	13	-7	-35.0%	93	-6	-6.1%	190	2	1.1%
☐ Theft From The Person				1	1	Infinity	3	3	Infinity
☐ Vehicle Offences	3	2	200.0%	16	4	33.3%	45	17	60.7%
☐ All Other Theft Offences	5	-3	-37.5%	36	13	56.5%	64	19	42.2%
☐ Shoplifting	5	2	66.7%	28	4	16.7%	47	-13	-21.7%
☐ Bicycle Theft		-1	-100.0%	1	0	0.0%	2	-1	-33.3%
☐ Burglary Residential		-6	-100.0%	9	-26	-74.3%	24	-19	-44.2%
☐ Burglary Business and Community		-1	-100.0%	2	-2	-50.0%	5	-4	-44.4%
☐ Violence	19	2	11.8%	130	-3	-2.3%	271	-5	-1.8%
☐ Violence With Injury	4	-3	-42.9%	42	-6	-12.5%	97	2	2.1%
☐ Violence Without Injury	8	5	166.7%	36	1	2.9%	81	-3	-3.6%
☐ Stalking and Harassment	7	0	0.0%	52	2	4.0%	93	-4	-4.1%
☐ Criminal Damage & Arson	10	7	233.3%	27	-4	-12.9%	42	-16	-27.6%
☐ Criminal Damage	10	7	233.3%	27	-3	-10.0%	41	-14	-25.5%
☐ Arson					-1	-100.0%	1	-2	-66.7%
☐ Sexual Offences	2	-1	-33.3%	15	-3	-16.7%	18	-14	-43.8%
☐ Robbery					-3	-100.0%		-4	-100.0%
☐ Non victim based	2	-5	-71.4%	55	-11	-16.7%	97	-25	-20.5%
Total	46	-4	-8.0%	320	-30	-8.6%	618	-62	-9.1%



Safety initiatives implemented by the force and the impact of these (including working with partners and the effectiveness of this).

- Operation Artemis
- CHB / Operation harmony
- Operation Nightfall
- Knife Crime initiative
- NTE – Xmas patrols / PSP
- Serious violence hot spot patrols (Op Deterrence)

Future initiatives planned by the force to make the Borough's town centres more welcoming / safe (including working with partners).

- Our deployment and targeted proactivity is guided by local TCG to a large extent – we cannot service each area to the same degree and prioritise areas of greatest harm
- Op Deterrence is an example of this with targeted proactive visible patrols in key areas at key times based on careful analysis – this includes Norton and Stockton Town Centre as our hotspots
- Stockton Town Centre often features in the district TCG and areas of activity include
 - 1) A dedicated PC for Stockton Town Centre [in addition to the two PCSO's already there]
 - 2) We have access to the Discovery shop as a police base meaning staff do not have to leave the Town Centre for toilets etc during market day patrols
 - 3) Continuance of Market Day Patrols with Local Authority
 - 4) Sentry SIS – my team are trained up and have a SPOC.
This is a trial into a shop intelligence system which is governed and operated by businesses. Police pass out key messages and engage with the system.
 - 5) We now have the proactive Team of one sergeant and 6 Pc's to support retail patrols – they have already made some key arrests in the town centre.
 - 6) A change I have negotiated is with my response colleagues. Response officers are now assigned our top shops who are seeing the highest thefts and they will be required to work with the shop and problem solve around it.
What this does is emphasises that shoplifting is not just a neighbourhood police issue and it mandates response officers to have a vested interest in shoplifting in the town centre – more eyes in the centre.
 - 7) We have purchased some life sized cardboard cut out police officers which are put in to some shops in the centre to see the reaction.
This demonstrates wider thinking and exploration of other tactics.

- 8) Stockton BID hold regular retail crime/operation meetings with businesses – police are part of this process
- 9) We are signed up to the Wellington Square information sharing document which highlight top offenders and risk
- 10) My PCSO's do a town centre coffee drop in.
- 11) We remain dedicated to specific operations where possible – Operation Prostock, Operation Artemus to name two.
- 12) We remain committed to supporting the implementation of 'street pastors'. Police are a partner in the early concept.
- 13) NTE problem solving.

How best can Cleveland Police and its partners address negative safety perceptions of town centre spaces (including any learning from outside the force's footprint)?

Context and reality

- Although crime is falling, the perception of crime remains high.
- Crime is actually still comparatively high
- Crime is generally a symptom of wider socio-economic factors
- We know Stockton District has high levels of negative socio-economic factors

Solutions to consider

- Drive through SSP
- Improved positive messaging through varied channels and partners in a layered and consistent approach maximising use of social media and other widely access communication channels

*Cleveland Police
October 2024*

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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	11.07.24	Select Committee
	SBC Town Centres Dev. SBC Public Health CGL	26.09.24	
	Office of the PCC Cleveland Police Cleveland Fire Brigade	24.10.24	
	TBC	28.11.24	
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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SAFER STOCKTON PARTNERSHIP

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Thursday 28 March 2024.

Present: Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (Chair), John Wrintmore (Police, Vice Chair), Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Pauline Beall, Sharon Cooney, Richard Brown (Fire Brigade), Anna Waddington (Curve), Marc Stephenson, Gary Knight, Jon Carling, Angela Corner, Sarah Wilson, Sarah Bowman-Abuna, Dan Herring (Police).

Officers: John Devine.

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Ann McCoy, Mandie Rowlands, Kay Nicolson, Ann Powell, Eddie Huntington, David Willingham, Leanne Maloney-Kelly..

SSP/38/23 Evacuation Procedure

The Evacuation Procedure was noted by members.

SSP/39/23 Apologies for Absence

Introductions and apologies for absence were given.

SSP/40/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

SSP/41/23 Op Harmony Update

This agenda item was an accidental duplication of the following item, therefore Officers gave the update on the below item.

SSP/42/23 Ropner/Town Centre (Op Harmony) Update

The first meeting coms surgery had been held at the Family Hub in Ropner, and would be held once a month on a Thursday with representatives from a number of partners such as the Police and Fire Brigade etc.

The event was well attended by members of the community with questions around Social Care provision and the Holidays Are Fun programme. Through the survey it was noted that a large number of the public wanted to be involved in keeping their community spaces safe and clean.

Members AGREED to note the update.

SSP/43/23 Police Update

Members were informed that the first Communication Surgery had taken place at the Family Hub in Ropner. Reported Crimes dropped by 8% from October 2023, Officers praised the community working between the Public and partner organisations.

It was highlighted during the update that truancy levels for the Stockton Borough was 170% above the national average, which Police acknowledged as a significant challenge which would be tackled. The impact on lowering truancy levels was discussed and the benefits of reaching those children who were more likely to be drawn into crime. A working group had been formed and one of its objectives would be to prevent the progression from truancy to organised crime.

A task and finish group had been set up to review the results of the recent survey of the public, one of the outcomes which Officers could share was the request for more Family Hub Sessions which would be actioned when possible.

Members asked if there had been a migration of crime detected, which Officers were able to state that no increased levels of crime in the surrounding areas had been reported. But it would be closely monitored.

The approach which was being used in the Ropner Ward was seen as a proof of concept and would be rolled out to other wards in the future. Officers would bring back further details in the future.

Members expressed their satisfaction with the clear community engagement work which had been done. And the joint work which had been done by all partners.

Members AGREED to note the report.

SSP/44/23 Recorded Crime & Disorder Report

The Police presented the Recorded Crime & Disorder Report to members of the partnership, highlighting some of the following sections of the report.

- Reported public order offenses had decreased by 18.8%.
- Theft from person had the largest percentage drop of the report with a 41.6% drop.
- Police generated crime had also seen a reduction of 13%.
- Residential Burglary had increased by 18.5%.

Offices also highlighted operation Nightfall which is the Polices approach to Sex Workers, and Officers had completed a 7-week review which showed that Police were using the correct balance between enforcement and not pushing those vulnerable into more dangerous areas. The overall aim of operation Nightfall is to ensure the safeguarding of Sex Workers and members of the public through joint partnership work.

A brief discussion was had around the use of off-road bikes, with what national and local plans/policy were in place. Police informed members that they would be looking

at increasing the use of DNA sprays and stingers, but the issue of injuries from the use of stinger could not be ignored.

Members AGREED to Note the report.

SSP/45/23 Prevent Strategy Update

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

SSP/46/23 Any Other Business

Members of the Partnership highlighted an initiative which had been in place in years gone by know as 'Street Pastors'. A board was in the process of being put together to secure funds and manage it's a revival. The structure of the programme and how it would be run were also being looked at.

Some concern over the religious nature of the programmes name was discussed with some members wanting reassurances that other faiths were not excluded from the volunteering process.

There was no other business brought to the attention of members.

Members AGREED to note the update.

SSP/47/23 Restricted - iQuanta Report

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an overview on crime comparisons against other similar CSPs utilising iQuanta.

This report was a restricted document due to the statistical information only made available as an intelligence tool for partnerships until released by the Home Office.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP/48/23 Prevent Update

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an update on the Prevent Counter Terrorism Policing Programme. Due to the nature of the update and the possible connection to ongoing investigations this item was restricted.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP/49/23 Serious and Organised Crime Update

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an update on the Prevent Counter Terrorism Policing Programme. Due to the nature of the update and the connection to possible ongoing investigations this item was restricted.

AGREED that the report be noted.

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SAFER STOCKTON PARTNERSHIP

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Thursday 30 May 2024.

Present: Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (Chair), Cllr Steve Nelson (), Cllr Pauline Beall (), Majella McCarthy, Dan Heron, Sarah Wilson, Anna Waddington, Sharon Cooney, Miriam Sigsworth, Dawn Tyerman, Marc Stephenson, Mandie Rowlands, Tanja Braun, Richard Brooford, Jon Carling, Lucy Owens.

Officers: John Devine.

Also in attendance:

Apologies: John Wrintmore (Vice Chair), Ann Powell, Victoria Cotter, Leane Maloney-Kelly, Kay Nicolson, Angela Corner, Sarah Bowman-Abouna.

SSP/1/24 Evacuation Procedure

The Evacuation Procedure was noted.

SSP/2/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interests.

SSP/3/24 Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held 30th May 2024. Agreed that the minutes be approved.

SSP/4/24 VCAS Update

Members of the Partnership heard from representatives of the Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS), which had been commissioned by the Police & Crime Commissioners (PCC) Office to support victims of serious crimes other than Domestic Abuse and Serious Sexual Crimes.

The briefing outlined who VCAS defined as a victim, with the example if a person's house is burgled then all those living there are victims. Another example given to members was if a child is the victim of a crime the parents would be impacted.

VCAS explained that they are able to support victims in a variety of ways, such as assisting victims to attend court and supporting them through those process. The Service is not limited by the amount of time that they are able to support victims, with an example of this being given as support for a victim of the Manchester Arena Bombings 2017.

Officers explained to members that they operate through a face-to-face basis usually at the victim's home or a coffee shop, but in lockdown it was found that a simple walk and talk was equally as affective.

How easy it is to refer a potential victim to the service was also discussed, Officers explained that most referrals come through from the Police, but anyone can refer themselves or others to VCAS and Officers would rarely say no.

Following the report Members and Officers discussed the following:

- That there were three full time members of staff who take any calls and triage those victims. With six victims care officers which are based around the local area.
- Officers extended an invite to Members of the partnership to shadow one of the Victim Care Officers.

Members agreed to note the report.

SSP/5/24 Serious Violence Duty

Officers spoke about when the Serious Violence Duty was first introduced a strategic needs assessment was carried out, which identified that it would mostly affect the nighttime economy. An action plan was drawn up with some of the points highlighted below:

- The change in behaviours of those using the night-time economy due to coming of age during or post Covid.
- That Redcar would be the last area run a Street Angel programme, but it was being looked into setting one up.
- Testing of seized drugs and highlighting the content of the drugs to the public to raise awareness.

Members and Officer discussed the following:

In relation to drug use is there any training that could be offered to licensed premises in regard to drug overdoses. The Catalyst representative informed members that they could provide training which can be covered in a ten minute course for those interested.

The organisation of the Street Angels programme was also discussed, some members expressed concern of the possible religious connection to the programme which hindered its development in the past. Officers explained that the programme would be run non-denominationally with all people of all faiths and practices being welcome to volunteer.

Members noted the report.

SSP/6/24 Operation Harmony

Officers attend the national Clear Hold Build conference recently, it was well attended by all Authorities. Officers were reassured in the terms of crime reduction stats with a 30% reduction in the clear hold build areas.

The funding for the operation would be looked at to ensure the longevity and sustainability of the operation. The feedback from the Community engagement felt that without adequate funding the operation will flounder in the months following. Worked had been undertaken to identify other possible funding schemes.

Regular drop-in surgeries were held on Thursdays for the community, with a case of serious bullying being reported at the last session. This encouraged members as it showed the community were using these sessions to report issues.

It was also highlighted that community groups would be receiving seeding funds for their own projects for the area as well.

A report would soon be released following Operation Nightfall and interviews with the community. Positive work had been done with community members, Ward Councillors and Sex Workers to find a solution going forward.

Partners would look at plans to roll out similar operations to operation Harmony in other wards, trying to learn from what has worked best in Ropner and how to use any funding most affectively. But it was cautioned that with the use of preexisting resources and funds it would be unlikely that Officers and Partners would be able to facilitate effective schemes across multiple wards simultaneously.

The move to another ward would have to be motivated by the data of which is in the most need. Officers were hopeful that those groups formed in Ropner could be utilised to set up similar strategies in the next wards in the future.

Members agreed to note the report.

SSP/7/24 Recorded Crime and Disorder Report

Officers presented the Recorded Crime and Disorder Report with Members, they noted several sections of the report for members. These were as follows:

- A large reduction in the number of reported cases in the theft from person.
- There had been an increase in the number of cases of anti-social behaviour.
- In the report burglary was down in the month-to-month comparison but it was up in the year-to-year comparisons.
- A spike in incidents involving off road bikes had increased, resources had been allocated to tackle the increase.
- Reported shop lifting has decreased by 25%, which Officers explained was due to increased allocation to Town Centres. But noted that the increased allocation could not be maintained forever.

Members AGREED to note the report.

SSP/8/24 Any Other Business

Officers presented a report on the Serious Youth Violence Project and discussed the following. That a snapshot was taken of children arrested in August 2023, of those children there were some common themes. The children in the snapshot were all Male, with most already being know to Police. They were also often already known to other services such as Childrens Services. Most of the incidents were committed as groups not individuals.

The report had already been presented to the Youth Justice Management Board which had suggested that they take a lead on this issue. They have agreed to set up an outline which was presented to members. Stage one of the project had already

begun, and Officers asked members of the partnership to support the endeavour with a request that any who are able to join the working group being set up.

Members expressed their support for the project and suggested that an update be added as a regular item for the partnership agenda.

Members Agreed to note the report.

SSP/9/24 Restricted - iQuanta Report

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an overview on crime comparisons against other similar CSPs utilising iQuanta.

This report was a restricted document due to the statistical information only made available as an intelligence tool for partnerships until released by the Home Office.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP/10/24 Prevent Update

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an update on the Prevent Counter Terrorism Policing Programme.

Due to the nature of the update and the possible connection to ongoing investigations this item was restricted.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP/11/24 Serious and Organised Crime Update

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an update on the Prevent Counter Terrorism Policing Programme.

Due to the nature of the update and the connection to possible ongoing investigations this item was restricted.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SAFER STOCKTON PARTNERSHIP

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Wednesday 17 July 2024.

Present: Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (Chair), John Wrintmore (Vice), Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Steve Nelson, Sharon Cooney, Dan Heron, Anna Waddington, Gary Knight, Mandie Rowlands, Mandy Mackinnon, Richard Brown, Sarah Willson, Matty Storey, Dave Connor, Ann Powell and Michelle Hill.

Officers: John Devine.

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Leanne Maloney-Kelly, Karen Hawkins .

SSP/1224 Evacuation Procedure

The Evacuation Procedure was noted by Members.

SSP/1324 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

SSP/1424 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 30th May 2024 were agreed as a true record.

SSP/1524 Knife Crime Prevention

Members agreed that due to Officers being unable to attend the meeting that the Knife Crime Prevention report be deferred to another meeting.

SSP/1624 PCC Presentation

The Partnership was presented with a Presentation by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), in the presentation the six key aims of the PCC were outlined. Members discussed each of the sections highlighted in the presentation.

Deliver More Visible & Effective Policing.

Members expressed their support for more visible and effective policing but questioned if funding would be available for more Police. Officers explained that following the Annual General Meeting for PCCs a comprehensive spending review would be taking place, it was hoped following the review greater funding would be allocated. Officers from the PCCs office stated they were committed to making sure that Cleveland got its fair share of any funding.

Members committed to working alongside the Police, with the Councils Community Safety Teams to help plug the gap until more Police were available.

Reduce Crime, Antisocial Behaviour and Harm.

The Issue of Off-Road Bikes and E Scooters were the most common talking points in this section, with Members noting that these issues are often amplified by social media complaints.

Officers noted the concerns of members and highlighted the work being done by Police to tackle these issues. The difficulties that the Police face in tackling the use of Off-Road Bikes was discussed, stopping and seizing a bike while in use is the most dangerous course of action for all involved. Police had been working to promote the various ways the public can report information on the location of where the bikes are stored. And ensure that there would be a confidential way to pass the information on to the Police as well.

It was acknowledged that in real terms Anti-Social Behaviour had reduced but that the public perception was that it was increasing. Officers and members suggested that this could be tackled by more positive messaging through social media, highlighting good work being done in the local area.

Improve Safety for Women and Girls.

The PCCs Office had spoken to local partners who had felt they hadn't been fully utilised in the past. The local partners were keen to expand their input into these issues and be more effective.

Members expressed their opinion that the local area had excellent partners that provide excellent services and supported them being utilised more. Members were also keen that any domestic abuse work done would be gender neutral, as Stockton Councils own strategies were. It was acknowledged that women make up the majority of reported cases of domestic abuse, but members did not want to minimise the impact on male victims.

Build Trust & Confidence in Policing & the Criminal Justice System.

To build trust and confidence work had already been undertaken to promote through social media the good work being done around the local area. Promoting stories of successful work done and positive case handling done by the Police were also suggested. Letting members of the public know about Cleveland Police practices being used as examples of best practise by other areas, for example the Custody Navigator scheme ran by Cleveland Police being studied by other forces.

Ensure the Right Support for Victims & Vulnerable People.

Members discussed with Officers the second bullet point of the section, as those experiencing homelessness, substance misuse and mental health issues had historically experienced stigma. And all partners were committed to ensuring that wouldn't be repeated with this aim.

Tackle Offending & Re-Offending.

Members were agreed on the importance of tackling offending and re offending, the PCC had already undertaken a number of out reach programmes and provided funding to other programmes aimed at early intervention.

Members AGREED to note the update.

SSP/1724 Recorded Crime & Disorder Report

Officers presented the Recorded Crime and Disorder Report with Members, they noted several sections of the report for members. These were as follows:

- The Road Safety Team were focusing on an increase in the numbers of death due to driving.
- Weapon offences had decreased by 18.5%
- A ward survey had taken place with over 800 responders which identified three main areas of concerns. Anti-Social Behaviour, Drugs and Burglary.
- A engagement day had been held in Stockton for Operation Artemis with the reporting of arrest figures in real time being discussed.
- There had been a 3% reduction in residential burglary in the year-to-year statistics.

Members of the partnership were pleased by the high number of people who had responded to the ward surveys. Also discussed was the use of social media and how Police would be utilising it to promote the work that Police had done.

Members Agreed to note the report.

SSP/1824 Performance Monitoring

This section of the agenda was covered in the subheadings below this item.

SSP/1924 Operation Harmony Update

A report on Operation Harmony would be available to members for the next meeting of the partnership. However, Officers were able to point out several key points that would be covered in more depth in the report.

Residents were more confident that they were being listened to by authorities.

There has been a noted increase in the levels of trust between sex workers and the Police. Officers describe seeing the green shoots of a stronger community coming through but acknowledges residents' fears of a regression following if Operation Harmony was stopped too soon.

Members AGREED to note the update.

SSP/2024 Safer Streets 5 Update

Members were made aware that some funding had been made available for further lighting in the Councils town centres.

Members agreed to note the update.

SSP/2124 Prevent (CT) Update

Officers gave members a brief update of an event held in Liverpool which aimed to introduce ways to help divert people away from extremism, through guidance for young people.

Members agreed to not the update.

SSP/2224 Any Other Business

Members updated other Partners that a board and constitution had now been put in place for the Street Angels organisation. But they were waiting until the organisation had been fully registered before calling for volunteers.

Members noted the update.

SSP/2324 iQuanta Report

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an overview on crime comparisons against other similar CSPs utilising iQuanta.

This report was a restricted document due to the statistical information only made available as an intelligence tool for partnerships until released by the Home Office.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP/2424 Bleed Cabinet Discussion

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an update on the discussion on the Bleed Cabinet item.

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 / Leanne Maloney-Kelly
26 September	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBC Town Centres Development • SBC Public Health / CGL 	Iain Robinson / Marc Bould Sarah Bowman-Abouna / Mandy MacKinnon / Oliver Metcalf
24 October	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland • Cleveland Police • Cleveland Fire Brigade Minutes of the Safer Stockton Partnership (March, May & July 2024)	Matt Storey John Wrintmore / Dan Heron Richard Brown
28 November	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC Minutes of the Stockton Home Safety Association (March & June 2024)	
19 December	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC 	
23 January	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC 	
27 February	Overview Report: Adults, Health and Wellbeing (TBC) Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC 	

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Date (4.30pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
27 March	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC 	

2024-2025 Scrutiny Reviews

- Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

Monitoring Items (scheduled / to be scheduled)

- Fly-Grazed Horses (Progress Update) – TBC
- Tree Asset Management (Progress Update) – TBC (late-2024)
- Outdoor Play Provision (Progress Update) – TBC (mid-2025)

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.

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- **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.
- **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>.

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- **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.
- **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 LGA and DAC conducted a survey regarding DHRs - [the results can be found on the LGA website](#). The LGA, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and Domestic Abuse Commissioner (DAC) have established a forum to share best practice and act as a platform for government changes in relation to domestic and related death homicide. So far there has been one meeting and 132 people have volunteered to take part.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Taxi Licensing:** A [HMRC consultation](#) ended on 8 August 2024 on the VAT implications of court judgements that proposes abolishing the current licensing system, which differentiates between Taxis and PHVs, and moving to a single-tier system. The LGA will respond.
- **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/>.