

Date:

Thursday 30 April 2026 at 4.30pm

Venue:Council Chamber, Dunedin House, Columbia Drive, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees
TS17 6BJ**Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy (Chair)****Cllr Katie Weston (Vice-Chair)**Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Jason French, Cllr Ray Godwin,
Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Alan Watson**Agenda****1. Livestreaming**

This meeting will be filmed for live and / or subsequent broadcast on the Council's website. The whole of the meeting will be filmed, except where there are confidential or exempt items, and the footage will be on the website for 12 months. A copy of it will also be retained in accordance with the Council's data retention policy.

If you attend and make a representation to the meeting, you will be deemed to have consented to being filmed. When admitted to the Council Chamber you are also consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for livestreaming and / or training purposes. If you do not wish to have your image captured, please contact Democratic Services prior to attending the meeting.

If there are any technical difficulties with the livestreaming, the meeting will still proceed.

- 2. Evacuation Procedure** (Pages 7 - 10)
- 3. Apologies for Absence**
- 4. Declarations of Interest**
- 5. Minutes** (Pages 11 - 14)

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 26 March 2026.

**6. Overview Report: SBC Adults, Health & Wellbeing
(Community Safety & Regulated Services:
Environmental Health and Licensing)** (Pages 15 - 32)

**7. Scrutiny Review of Community Participation Budget
and Ward Transport Budget** (Pages 33 - 68)

To consider information in relation to this scrutiny topic from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Community Services, Environment and Culture directorate.

**8. Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme
2026-2027** (Pages 69 - 78)

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

Council Chamber, Dunedin House Evacuation Procedure & Housekeeping

Entry

Entry to the Council Chamber is via the South Entrance, indicated on the map below.



In the event of an emergency alarm activation, everyone should immediately start to leave their workspace by the nearest available signed Exit route.

The emergency exits are located via the doors on either side of the raised seating area at the front of the Council Chamber.

Fires, explosions, and bomb threats are among the occurrences that may require the emergency evacuation of Dunedin House. Continuous sounding and flashing of the Fire Alarm is the signal to evacuate the building or upon instruction from a Fire Warden or a Manager.

The Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point is in the overflow car park located across the road from Dunedin House.

The allocated assembly point for the Council Chamber is: D2

Map of the Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point - the overflow car park:



All occupants must respond to the alarm signal by immediately initiating the evacuation procedure.

When the Alarm sounds:

1. **stop all activities immediately.** Even if you believe it is a false alarm or practice drill, you **MUST** follow procedures to evacuate the building fully.
2. **follow directional EXIT signs** to evacuate via the nearest safe exit in a calm and orderly manner.
 - do not stop to collect your belongings
 - close all doors as you leave
3. **steer clear of hazards.** If evacuation becomes difficult via a chosen route because of smoke, flames or a blockage, re-enter the Chamber (if safe to do so). Continue the evacuation via the nearest safe exit route.
4. **proceed to the Evacuation Assembly Point.** Move away from the building. Once you have exited the building, proceed to the main Evacuation Assembly Point **immediately** - located in the **East Overflow Car Park**.
 - do not assemble directly outside the building or on any main roadway, to ensure access for Emergency Services.

5. await further instructions.

- **do not re-enter the building under any circumstances without an “all clear”** which should only be given by the Incident Control Officer/Chief Fire Warden, Fire Warden or Manager.
- do not leave the area without permission.
- ensure all colleagues and visitors are accounted for. Notify a Fire Warden or Manager immediately if you have any concerns

Toilets

Toilets are located immediately outside the Council Chamber, accessed via the door at the back of the Chamber.

Water Cooler

A water cooler is available at the rear of the Council Chamber.

Microphones

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

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Community Safety Select Committee

A meeting of the Community Safety Select Committee was held on Thursday 26 March 2026.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy (Chair), Cllr Katie Weston (Vice-Chair), Cllr Bob Cook, Cllr Ray Godwin, Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Alan Watson

Officers: Sarah Bowman-Abouna, Mandy MacKinnon (A,H&W); Louise Hollick (ChS); Phil Hardie, Simon Milner (CS,E&C); Gary Woods (CS)

Also in attendance: Cllr Clare Besford (SBC Cabinet Member for Children and Young People), Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (SBC Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety)

Apologies: Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Jason French

CSS/48/25 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

CSS/49/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

CSS/50/25 Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Community Safety Select Committee meeting which was held on 22 January 2026 for approval and signature.

AGREED that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 22 January 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CSS/51/25 Scrutiny Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse

Consideration was given to the draft final report for the Committee's Scrutiny Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse. Specific attention was drawn to the following:

- Conclusion & Recommendations: Commentary on the feedback received from early years providers had been added to this section of the report (paragraph 5.9).

The recommendation regarding domestic abuse-related training (recommendation 5) now had multiple elements to reflect discussions at the Committee's informal 'summary of evidence' session in February 2026 and the subsequent end-of-review tri-partite meeting held in early-March 2026. In addition, recommendation 9 had been added following the Committee's desire for future focus around the voice of the child.

SBC officers proposed some minor amendments / clarifications to the draft report as follows:

- Findings (paragraph 4.37): The reference to the Young Person's (YP) Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) being '*commissioned by PCC*' (Police and Crime Commissioner) was incorrect as the role was part of the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) contract with Harbour.
- Conclusion & Recommendations (paragraph 5.4): The final sentence should begin, '*Although future funding for hospital IDVAs is uncertain*' (not 'IDVAs' in general) as the GP IDVA was part of the core contract with SBC and was not at risk.
- Conclusion & Recommendations (paragraph 5.5): The reference to three of the four Primary Care Networks (PCNs) within the Borough being unaware of the local GP IDVA arrangement should be accompanied by a line noting that this was not reflected in the referrals from individual GP practices, which had increased dramatically since the role was introduced (as reflected within paragraph 4.68).

From an executive perspective, the SBC Cabinet Member for Children and Young People thanked the Committee for its efforts in tackling this difficult topic and felt the number of recommendations reflected the depth of work undertaken. Recognition around the value of the IDVA role was particularly welcomed, as was evidence of positive partnership-working across the Borough in relation to domestic abuse. Members were also commended for linking several recommendations to the local Domestic Abuse Steering Group, emphasising the need for organisations to improve their recording of details (including a child's age) of domestic abuse-related referrals, and acknowledging the importance of Elected Members (as well as SBC staff) receiving appropriate training to help identify this form of abuse and how / where to report it.

Reflecting on the content of the draft report, and the review in general, the Committee thought that a high number of recommendations was always likely given the complexity of this scrutiny topic. Members felt the report would raise the profile of this type of abuse and support the large amount of work going on, with the review hopefully making a difference to the Borough's children and young people. A lot of good practice had been brought to the Committee's attention, and it was important that this was recognised and built upon moving forward.

The Committee approved the content of the draft final report, subject to the identified minor amendments / clarifications, and was informed that the agreed version would be presented to Cabinet in April 2026.

AGREED that the Children affected by Domestic Abuse final report be approved for submission to Cabinet.

CSS/52/25 Scrutiny Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget

Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy (Billingham) and Cllr Ray Godwin (Thornaby) wished it to be recorded for transparency purposes only that, as well as a Ward Councillor, they were currently a member of their respective Town Councils.

Consideration was given to the draft scope and project plan for the Scrutiny Review of Community Participation Budget (CPB) and Ward Transport Budget (WTB), the proposed aims of which would be to:

- understand the scope of interventions that are eligible through these two budget schemes, the processes for determining the priorities for use of the funds, and the management of the projects that are funded through CPB and WTB.
- establish the effectiveness of these two budgets and whether projects funded through the CPB / WTB have had genuine and sustained impact.
- ascertain the communication of the CPB and WTB to Ward Councillors and wider public awareness of these two funding streams.
- consider the value of CPB and WTB in the context of significant ongoing budget pressures for the Council as a whole.

Given this scrutiny topic was largely Council-focused, relevant Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) officers involved with these initiatives and Ward Councillors themselves would be the predominant contributors to the review. However, it was also proposed that the review established the extent to which residents were aware of these budget schemes, the involvement of local Town and Parish Councils in CPB / WTB-related work, and whether any learning could be found within other Local Authorities which operated similar funding arrangements involving its Elected Members. It was anticipated that the Committee's findings and recommendations would be reported to Cabinet in October 2026.

Regarding the contribution from Ward Councillors, a set of potential survey questions was tabled for information – these would be circulated for comment after this meeting, with a view to agreeing a final list at the next meeting in April 2026.

Noting the varying challenges / needs within different Wards across the Borough (which influenced how funds were spent / which projects were proposed), the Committee looked forward to undertaking this review, particularly in light of the ongoing financial situation which SBC was experiencing. It was expected that many issues relating to these budget schemes would be raised, including planning-related concerns, and questions on the ability to even spend any allocated funding given limitations on resources to support the implementation of an approved project.

AGREED that the draft scope and project plan for the Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget review be approved.

CSS/53/25 Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP) – Previous Minutes (November 2025)

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP) meeting which took place in November 2025. Attention was drawn to the following:

- Operation Shield Update: The Committee's previous review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres was noted as part of this update. Developments in relation to Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) was also referenced – another topic the Committee had previously looked at and made recommendations on as part of the initial introduction of such orders within the Borough.

AGREED that the minutes of the Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP) meeting which took place in November 2025 be noted.

CSS/54/25 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programmes 2025-2026 & 2026-2027

CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair had no further updates.

WORK PROGRAMMES 2025-2026 & 2026-2027

Consideration was given to the Committee's current work programme, as well as the initial version for 2026-2027. The next meeting was due to take place on 30 April 2026 where the first evidence-gathering session would be held for the Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget review. In addition, an overview report in relation to the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Community Safety and Regulated Services department (within the SBC Adults, Health and Wellbeing directorate) would be presented, highlighting key achievements, challenges, and emerging issues (it was noted that the anticipated 'performance' element of this report would not be available until the October 2026 meeting).

Members were also notified of the recent allocation of scrutiny topics to the Council's five Select Committees by the SBC Executive Scrutiny Committee. The Community Safety Select Committee would be reviewing Alley Gates as its final topic for the current four-year Council term (this would be initiated at the conclusion of the Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget review).

AGREED that the Chair's Update and Community Safety Select Committee Work Programmes 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 be noted.

Chair:

Overview Report: SBC Adults, Health and Wellbeing (Community Safety and Regulated Services: Environmental Health and Licensing)

Summary

The Committee will receive an overview report from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Adults, Health and Wellbeing directorate which provides details of key achievements and challenges in 2025-2026 for the Community Safety and Regulated Services department (with specific focus on Environmental Health and Licensing), as well as any emerging issues within these areas of Council activity.

Detail

1. In 2025, to facilitate the important overview function of scrutiny committees and provide the opportunity to hold SBC Cabinet Members and services to account, a decision was made to resume overview and performance reporting to the Council's Select Committees. It was agreed that this should take place twice-yearly.
2. The reporting of performance measures will not commence until September / October 2026, therefore this initial overview-only update will focus on key achievements and challenges for Council services during 2025-2026, along with any emerging issues that relevant scrutiny committees need to be aware of.
3. A report has been provided in advance and is included within these meeting papers. The SBC Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety, the SBC Director for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, and the SBC Assistant Director – Regulated Services and Transformation are scheduled to be in attendance to provide a summary and address any Member comments / questions.
4. At this meeting, officers from the SBC Strategic Planning Team are also due to provide an update on how the performance information will be presented from the September / October 2026 cycle onward.

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REPORT TO COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE

30TH APRIL 2026

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Community Safety and Regulated Services (Environmental Health and Licensing) Overview Report

Summary

The Community Safety and Regulatory Services portfolio is made up of a range of services, focused on protecting our communities and local businesses. This includes Civic Enforcement, CCTV and community safety alongside Trading Standards, Environmental Health and our Licensing Service. Included in this group of services is both Emergency Planning (including the major incident plan) and organisational business continuity.

This report looks to provide assurance to Members on how Environmental Health and Licensing activity is contributing to the delivery of our strategic aims and objectives as a Council. It sets out how statutory regulatory functions are being discharged effectively, lawfully and in line with Council priorities, with a clear emphasis on prevention, safeguarding and proportionate enforcement. The report demonstrates how services are managing risk, protecting vulnerable residents, supporting safe and compliant businesses and working in partnership to address crime, disorder and environmental harm.

The report also highlights how resources are being targeted using data and intelligence, how performance is monitored, and how workforce and financial challenges are being actively managed, providing Members with confidence that services are delivering their responsibilities while supporting the Council's wider ambitions for healthy, safe and resilient communities.

Environmental Health Service

Key Achievements

1. The Environmental Health Services in Stockton-on-Tees are split into three main operational areas. These are Commercial Environmental Health, Animal Welfare and Pest Control and Environmental Protection & Nuisance.
2. Environmental Health is a branch of public health, that examines how various environmental factors can affect human health and wellbeing. This includes issues such as air and water quality, food safety, housing condition, waste management, pollution, noise and hazardous substances for example. By prioritising a preventative approach to

these risks, the service helps reduce illness and injury by tackling issues before they can cause harm to our communities.



Commercial Environmental Health

3. The Food Safety Service operates within the Environmental Health Unit and is delivered by the Commercial Team in accordance with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) Framework Agreement on food law enforcement. The team is made up of one team manager and six officers. The service is responsible for ensuring that food produced, sold, or consumed within the Borough is safe, compliant with legislation, and accurately described. As of April, there were 1,519 registered food businesses, mainly within the catering and retail sectors, ranging from small independents to large manufacturers and approved premises handling products of animal origin.
4. During 2024/25, service performance was robust. One hundred per cent of all food premises due for inspection received a full inspection, with no outstanding general inspections at the end of the year. This demonstrates full compliance with national guidance and reflects effective recovery from previous service pressures. Officers also undertook extensive reactive and preventative work, including food sampling, complaint investigations, and infectious disease control. A total of 801 service requests were received, mostly relating to food hygiene concerns, and the service responded to national food alerts, including a significant Listeria incident affecting healthcare and care settings.
5. Looking ahead to 2026/27, priorities include maintaining high compliance, responding to emerging risks, and supporting national initiatives. Challenges include business growth, rising public expectations, increasing regulatory demands, and adapting to future system and legislative changes. Overall, the service remains well-placed to protect public health and support local businesses effectively.



Animal Welfare and Pest Control

6. Animal welfare and pest control are important environmental health functions that protect public health, support community wellbeing, and ensure that animals are treated humanely. Together, they help manage risks where animals and people interact, particularly in urban and residential environments.
7. Animal welfare focuses on the protection of domesticated and captive animals, ensuring they are kept in safe, healthy, and humane conditions. This includes responding to reports of cruelty, neglect, poor living conditions, or abandonment, as well as enforcing legislation that sets standards for animal care. Animal welfare work also involves education and advice to owners, promoting responsible ownership and preventing harm before it occurs. Safeguarding animal welfare is important not only for ethical reasons, but also because poor welfare can pose risks to human health through disease transmission or unsafe environments.
8. Pest control aims to manage and reduce infestations of rodents, insects, and other pests that can spread disease, damage property, and harm quality of life. A preventative, risk-based approach is central, focusing on good hygiene, waste management, proofing of buildings, and public awareness. Where necessary, control measures are used proportionately and safely, minimising harm to nontarget species and the wider environment.
9. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Animal Welfare Team has received the RSPCA *PawPrints* Platinum Award 2025 for stray dogs, the highest accolade available. The award recognises exceptional, long-term commitment to protecting stray dogs, achieved after 17 consecutive years at Gold standard and five years at the highest level.



Environmental Protection & Nuisance

10. The Environmental Protection Team, consisting of a team manager and 4 officers, address a wide variety of work. This includes complaint work in terms of noise and other environmental stressors, land contamination including the Council's Contaminated Land Strategy, planning and licensing consultation as statutory consultees and continue to maintain all three of the closed landfill sites which we manage. One of the major areas of work in the last year has been concerning air quality alongside all other duties.
11. Overall, air quality across the Borough remains good and fully compliant with all national air quality objectives. Monitoring data for 2024 confirms that no statutory limits were exceeded for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), particulate matter (PM₁₀), or fine particulates (PM_{2.5}), and there is no requirement to declare an Air Quality Management Area. The Council operates two continuous monitoring stations, supported by a boroughwide diffusion tube network, which show sustained low pollutant levels. PM_{2.5} concentrations are among the lowest ever recorded locally.
12. Despite this strong position, air pollution nationally continues to present a public health risk, particularly for children, older residents, and people with existing heart or lung conditions. Maintaining low pollution levels therefore remains important for improving life expectancy, reducing health inequalities, and easing pressure on health services.
13. The Air Quality Strategy 2025–2030 is the Council's first standalone air quality strategy and adopts a proportionate, preventative approach focused on maintaining compliance and addressing local pollution sources. It aligns with wider Council priorities on public health, sustainability, and carbon reduction. Key priorities include monitoring and awareness, reducing vehicle emissions, leading by example through Council operations, tackling domestic and industrial pollution, and strengthening planning controls.
14. Significant progress has already been made, including air quality education for over 2,400 primary school pupils, anti-idling patrols and signage outside schools, expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and improvements to fleet emissions.

Members are encouraged to support behaviour change initiatives and reassure residents that air quality in the Borough is well managed and continuing to improve.



Challenges

15. The most significant challenge facing the service continues to be workforce sustainability, particularly the recruitment, training and retention of Environmental Health Officers within a profession that is experiencing an ageing workforce profile. While training and trainee roles remain a key part of future workforce planning, the number of student, apprenticeship and trainee posts has reduced slightly year on year.
16. The age profile of the workforce continues to shift, with around a quarter of Environmental Health Officers now aged over 54 and a growing number approaching retirement. It is anticipated that several officers will retire in the next two years, and current trainee capacity is likely to be absorbed by existing vacancies rather than contributing to overall growth.
17. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council has responded proactively, with four Environmental Health trainees employed since 2022. However, the wider regional context demonstrates that sustained focus will be required to ensure the service remains resilient, skilled and well-placed to meet future demands.

Licensing Service

Key Achievements

18. With a team of 11 officers, the licensing service administers, inspects and enforces more than 50 legislative regimes, including but not limited to alcohol and regulated entertainment, taxi and private hire, animal activities, street trading and pavement licensing. During 2025–2026, the licensing service supported the Council's strategic priorities and continued to deliver a comprehensive statutory regulatory function, ensuring licensed activities across Stockton-on-Tees were carried out lawfully, safely and responsibly with the aim of protecting our residents. Activity included compliance inspections, complaint investigations, enforcement action where necessary and governance support to both the General and Statutory Licensing Committees. The team has a strong emphasis on intelligence led regulation, partnership working and early

intervention which enable risks to be managed proportionately while supporting compliant businesses.



19. Safe communities remained a core focus throughout the year. The licensing service carried out five underage sales test purchasing operations across 28 premises involving age restricted products, such as alcohol, vapes and fireworks with enforcement action taken and follow up compliance work completed. These operations were targeted using intelligence and were supported by proactive engagement with licence holders to improve standards and understanding.
20. Also during this period taxi and private hire licensing continued to play a significant role in safeguarding. During 2025-2026, the service licensed 906 drivers (up 25% since 2023), 638 vehicles (up 31%) and 49 (up 133 %) private hire operators. Robust controls remained in place, including enhanced DBS checks, assessment against DVLA Group 2 medical standards and mandatory safeguarding training.
21. Compliance activity included private hire operator and rank checks, school transport vehicle checks carried out at local schools, some jointly with the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency and four joint operations were carried out with Cleveland Police Matrix Team, during which 68 vehicles were stopped and inspected. As a result, 21 compliance notices were issued for minor defects, two suspension notices were served, and verbal advice was provided where appropriate.
22. Random drug testing of licensed drivers continued, with 50 tests conducted during the year and two confirmed positive results, down on previous years, appropriate enforcement action followed in each case to protect passenger safety.
23. The service remained actively engaged in multiagency safeguarding arrangements including the Harm outside the Home (HOtH) process, Joint Action Groups (JAG) and MARSOC. This partnership working enabled effective intelligence sharing and disruption

of activity linked to organised crime, drug-related offending and exploitation, including cases involving licensed drivers and vehicles.

24. A key initiative during the year was the introduction of the voluntary Reducing the Strength Scheme in September 2025. The scheme encouraged retailers within Stockton Town Centre not to sell beers, lagers and ciders above 6.5% alcohol by volume. The scheme launched with 9 out of the 13 premises in the target area participating and increased to 11 premises by year end. Early outcomes demonstrated a reduction in alcohol related incidents, reducing from 31 incidents in July 2025 to three incidents by December 2025.
25. During the year, the service regulated 570 premises licensed under the Licensing Act 2003, the service delivered 531 service requests including inspections, investigations and advisory visits in this area. While enforcement action was required for a small number of problem premises, many businesses remained compliant, allowing officers to focus on prevention and relationship building.
26. A total of 202 Temporary Event Notices were processed, supporting community events, charity fundraising and local business activity, the service also supported the safe delivery of events across the borough. Evening and weekend operations were carried out at events such as SIRF, Stockton Calling, Yarm Fair and Stockton Sparkles. In total, 21 night-time working operations were supported, including general premises checks, joint operations with the Road Policing Unit and intelligence led visits.
27. Licensing of businesses that provide animal activities licensing continued to increase, this year, the service licensed over 82 animal activity premises and carried out 133 inspections, investigations and advisory visits during the year. Enforcement outcomes included issuing of cautions for illegal dog breeding where appropriate, alongside ongoing efforts to disrupt activity linked to organised criminal activity.



Challenges

28. The licensing service continued to operate as a self-funding service, licence fees are reviewed annually to maintain financial sustainability but are reliant on applications and renewals. Licensing services is a small team managing high volumes of reactive work alongside proactive crime prevention activity. Increasing demand, complex cases and the need for out of hours work can stretch capacity and can limit the ability to undertake long-term problem-solving work.
29. Economic pressures on licensed businesses can contribute to non-compliance and increased crime and disorder risks. Licensing services must support businesses to remain viable and compliant while maintaining firm standards on issues such as irresponsible alcohol sales, poor management practices and failure to control disorder on or near premises.

Emerging Issues

30. Workforce development remains a priority, with officers 2 officers completing apprenticeships in team leading and 3 officers continuing to study for regulatory apprenticeships. The recent merger of trading standards and licensing services will drive improvements, efficiencies and produce a robust and resilient service.
31. The introduction of the Tobacco and Vapes legislation will have a significant impact on both Licensing and Trading Standards teams, increasing demand for advice, compliance checks and enforcement activity as new age-of-sale, product and retail requirements are introduced. The legislation is likely to require closer joint working between services and with partners, alongside additional officer time to support education, intelligence-led enforcement and transition for businesses adapting to the new regulatory framework.

Conclusion

32. In summary, this report demonstrates the significant contribution that Environmental Health and Licensing services continue to make in safeguarding residents, supporting responsible economic activity and maintaining high standards across the Borough. Building on strong performance and effective partnership working, services are well positioned to meet emerging challenges, respond to legislative change and further strengthen their preventative and intelligence-led approaches.

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Overview and Scrutiny



Overview Role

- In contrast to deep dive in-depth scrutiny reviews, Scrutiny Select Committees needs an element of oversight or overview
- Proposal to introduce regular performance reporting to Scrutiny Select Committees, aligned to Council & Service priorities linked to the Stockton-on-Tees Plan
- This will support Statutory Guidance on the types of information that might be shared to enable overview and Scrutiny Select Committees to discharge their roles effectively

Stockton-on-Tees Plan

Measuring Progress

STOCKTON
ON
TEES



POWERING OUR FUTURE
**THE STOCKTON-
ON-TEES PLAN**
2024-2028



OUR VISION

Stockton-on-Tees is home. It's a warm and friendly place where we welcome others and come together as a single community. We are a diverse and inspiring Borough, culturally rich and with confidence in a future that we can all share and be proud of. At the economic heart of the Tees Valley, we are a dynamic, safe and healthy place where everyone can grow and succeed. We will continue to work together to reduce inequalities and barriers to opportunity. We are Team Stockton-on-Tees.

Read the
full plan



1

THE BEST START IN LIFE TO ACHIEVE BIG AMBITIONS

A safe and inclusive community where everyone can thrive. Working hard to prevent the impact of poverty, creating a bright and healthy future with a shared sense of belonging. Supporting children in our care and creating equality of opportunity

2

HEALTHY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Building happy and healthy lives, supporting those who are experiencing poverty. Ensuring that our residents are resilient, independent

3

A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT

A vibrant and diverse place with an environment that is well looked after and outdoor spaces to enjoy that residents can be proud of



4

AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY



Growing the local economy and cementing our role as the well-connected, economic heart of Tees Valley. Ensuring that all residents can benefit from secure and sustainable jobs

5

SUSTAINABLE COUNCIL

A well-run financially sustainable Council that improves outcomes for communities





**Community Safety Plan:
Stockton-on-Tees
2025 - 2027**



**Environmental Sustainability and
Carbon Reduction Strategy
2022 - 2032**




**Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Adult Social Care Strategy 2021 - 2025**



**Stockton-on-Tees
Employment & Training Hub**


**Inclusive Growth Strategy
2025-2028**

ALL IN LOVE WITH THE
PROCESS OF BECOMING
THE VERY BEST VERSION
OF YOURSELF

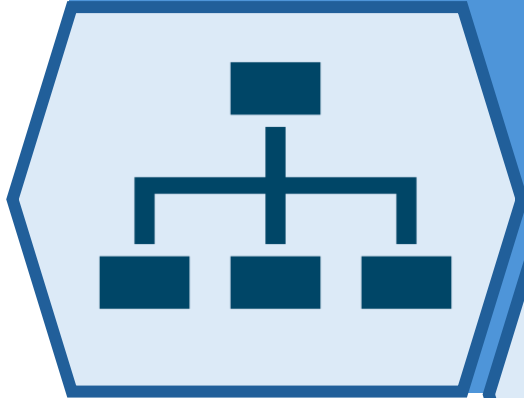


**Stockton-on-Tees
Joint Health and
Wellbeing Strategy
2025 - 2030**

Strengthening the building blocks
of health and wellbeing together



Bi-Annually



Cabinet

- Tier 1 (Council outcomes)



Select Committees

- Tier 2 (service outcomes & progress update)

Annually



Exec Scrutiny

- Tier 1 (Council outcomes)



Full Council

- Tier 1 (Council outcomes)

PRIORITIES

- List of priorities that the specific service is currently working on:
- *Priority 1*
- *Priority 2*
- *Etc.*

- List of indicators (outcomes) that measures the progress of all the PRIORITIES:
- *Indicator 1*
- *Indicator 2*
- *Etc.*

INDICATORS

WHATS BEEN DONE

- List of actions that have been undertaken to try and improve the INDICATORS
- *Action 1*
- *Action 2*
- *Etc.*

- List of actions that have been proposed to try and improve the INDICATORS. These will be moved into WHATS BEEN DONE once complete.
- *Planned 1*
- *Planned 2*
- *Etc.*

**PLANNED
ACTIVITY**

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Scrutiny Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget

Summary

The first evidence-gathering session for the Committee's review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget will consider an initial submission from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Community Safety, Environment and Culture directorate.

Detail

1. Following approval of the scope and plan for this review at the previous Committee meeting in March 2026, this opening evidence session will address several of the key lines of enquiry outlined within the agreed scoping document.
2. A presentation has been prepared and is included within these meeting papers. Relevant officers from the SBC Community Safety, Environment and Culture directorate are scheduled to be in attendance to give a summary of this submission and address any subsequent Committee comments / questions.
3. In advance of this session, Members may wish to familiarise themselves with some relevant background material in relation to this scrutiny topic:
 - SBC People Select Committee: Community Participation Budget Update, including CPB Guidance (2017-2018)) (Dec 17)
[https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/Data/People%20Select%20Committee/201712181330/Agenda/\\$att32431.docx.pdf](https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/Data/People%20Select%20Committee/201712181330/Agenda/$att32431.docx.pdf)
 - SBC Place Select Committee: Scrutiny Review of Area Transport Strategy (Dec 19)
<https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet/202001231630/Agenda/att37948.pdf>
 - SBC Ward Transport Budget Guidance (2020-2021): Ward Transport Budget Guidance
<https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/Data/Place%20Select%20Committee/202007201400/Agenda/att38750.pdf>
4. A copy of the agreed scope and plan for this review is included for information.

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CPB & WTB Overview

Processes, Impact & Key Issues

Purpose & Scrutiny Review

Context

What this review clarifies

- Objectives of CPB and WTB, including key differences and how they link.
- Roles of Members and Officers in shaping, approving and delivering schemes.

Recurring areas of concern

- Eligibility, delivery timescales, underspend, and communication issues.
- Sustainability and long-term maintenance of funded projects.

Relationship to core Council services

- How CPB/WTB relate to evidence-led highway and road-safety programmes.
- Why some concerns cannot be addressed via core budgets, and how value for money must be assessed under financial pressures.

Origins & Evolution (CPB)

Aims, Eligibility & Funding

- Introduced in 2007/08 as the *Small Environmental Improvements Budget*
- Designed to fund local works not prioritised through core budgets
- Later renamed to reflect stronger community and Member input
- Historically c. £400k borough-wide, allocated by population (revenue funded)
- Eligibility tightened post-2019 due to financial and maintenance pressures

Origins & Evolution (WTB)

Aims, Eligibility & Funding

Origins & Purpose

- Introduced following the 2019 scrutiny review of the Area Transport Strategy
- Designed to give Ward Councillors greater influence over local transport priorities

How it operates

- Launched in April 2020 with ward-based allocations by population
- £200k per year, ring-fenced for transport and road safety issues

Governance

- Operates through a structured, evidence-led process
- Members shape priorities; officers assess, design and deliver schemes

CPB vs. WTB

Key Differences

Purpose

- CPB: community amenity and small local improvements
- WTB: transport, road safety and statutory highway interventions

Links

- CPB may match-fund WTB schemes
- WTB cannot fund amenity works

Governance

- WTB: evidence-led, statutory safety duties
- CPB: flexible but constrained by sustainability
- **Both are Council funds**

Core Funding Criteria

Highway & Road Safety Budgets

- The Council's core highway budgets are limited and must be prioritised towards statutory duties maintaining existing infrastructure and addressing locations with proven road safety issues resulting in recorded casualties.
- We receive many concerns and requests across the Borough, and we must prioritise limited funding at locations where the evidence shows the greatest need.
- We use an evidence-based approach, drawing on Cleveland Police's road casualty data to identify where engineering interventions are most justified.
- The DfT assess how Council's spend money and if this is judged not to be spent wisely funding can be withheld.
- Member budgets operate differently, allowing Members to respond to wider community concerns that may not meet the evidence thresholds required for core highway spending.

CPB – Eligibility

Why can some proposals not be funded?

- CPB funds works, not ongoing services
- Some schemes create long-term maintenance or monitoring costs
- Revenue pressures limit eligibility to avoid unfunded liabilities
- Some projects are only eligible with third-party maintenance
- Other proposals fall outside CPB scope or corporate funding principles

WTB - Eligibility

Why can some proposals not be funded?

- WTB operates within a strict eligibility framework
- Focused on transport, safety and accessibility issues
- Schemes must be justified through evidence and assessment
- Projects with ongoing revenue costs or amenity scope are excluded

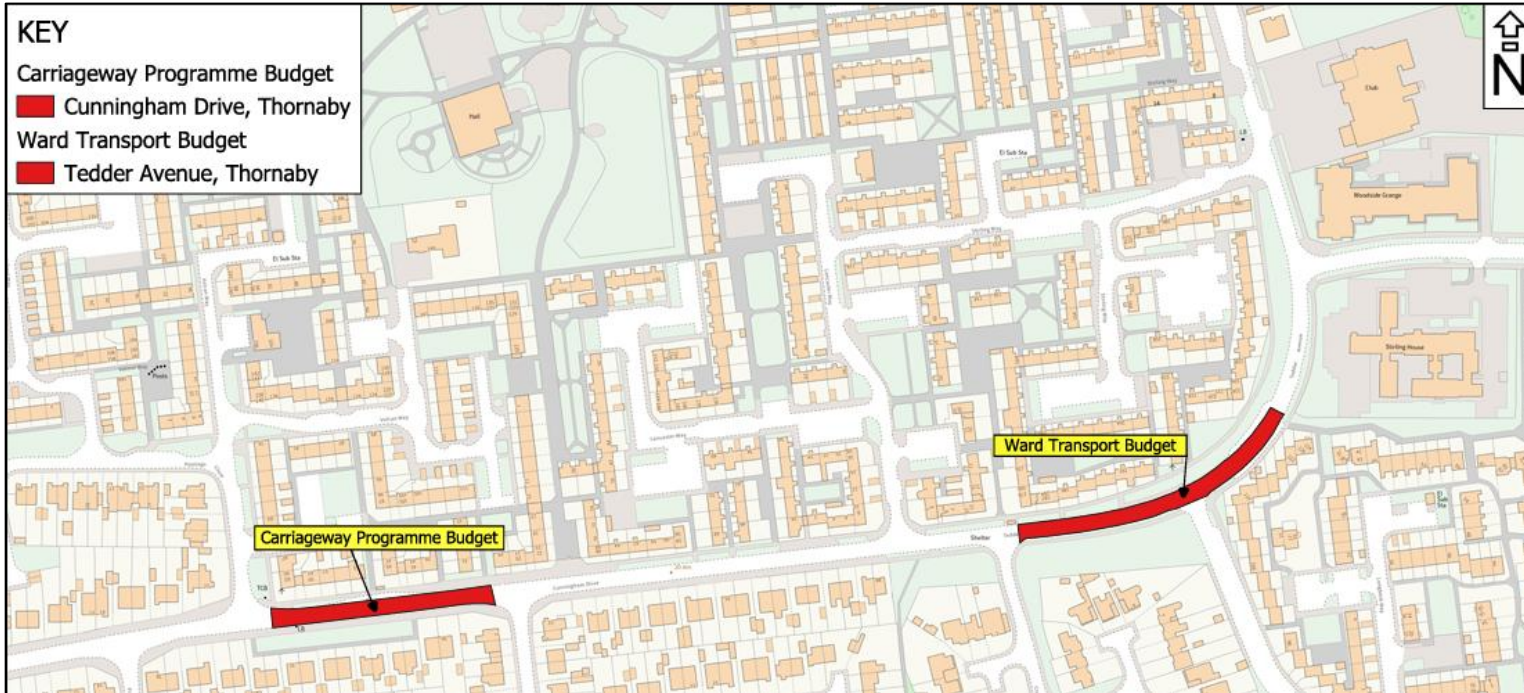
CPB / WTB Examples

Delivered Schemes



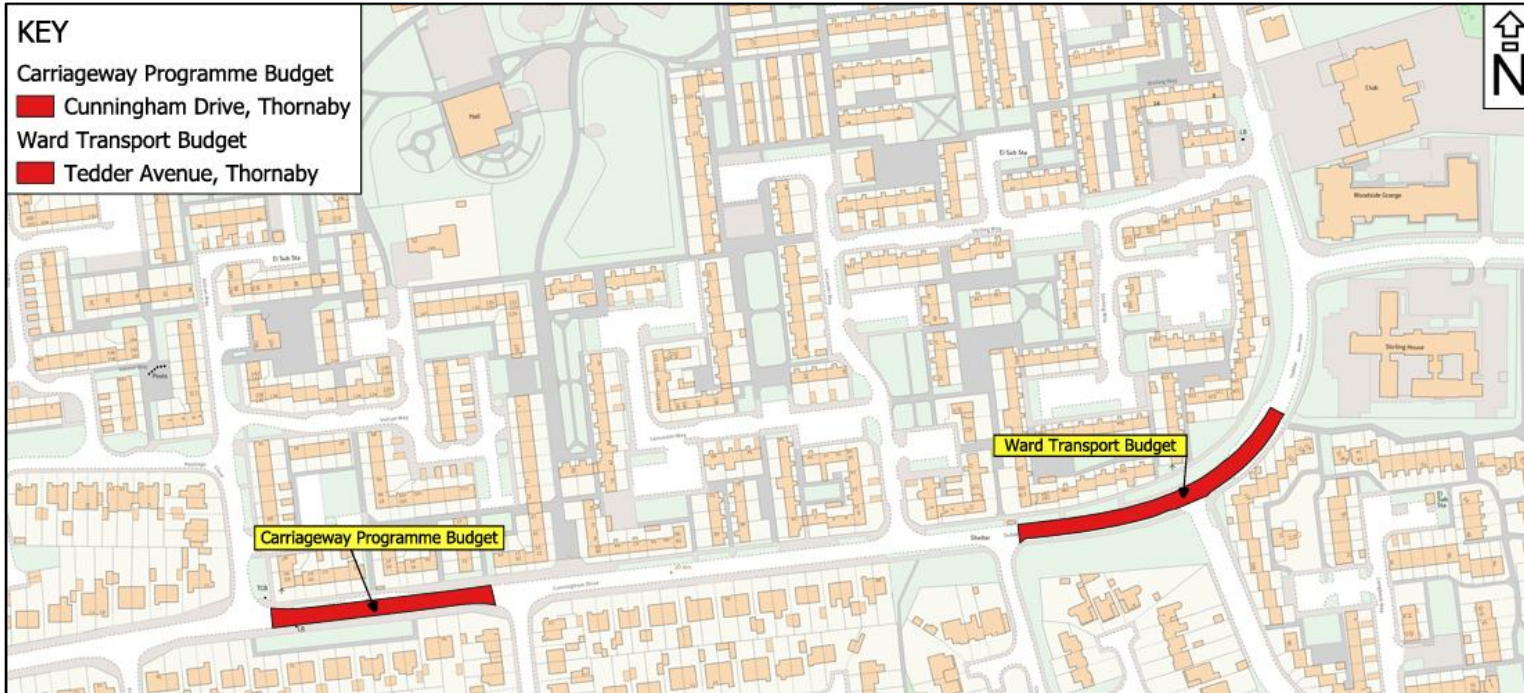
CPB / WTB Examples

Delivered Schemes



CPB / WTB Examples

Delivered Schemes



Monitoring Effectiveness

Traffic Calming

For traffic-calming schemes, speed surveys are conducted before and after implementation.

This provides an objective, evidence-based measure of impact on vehicle speeds. Results from schemes delivered this year:

Wynyard Road

Eastbound:

22.4 mph → **25.1% reduction**

Westbound (leaving village):

28.2 mph → **9.3% reduction**

Wolviston Road

Northbound:

26.8 mph → **8.8% reduction**

Southbound:

30.3 mph → **4.7% reduction**

Monitoring Effectiveness

Double Yellow Lines

As part of this review, a sample of completed CPB / WTB schemes has been assessed after 12 months, focusing on:

- Service requests
- Parking and ASB issues
- Repeat incidents

Location	Post-Implementation Observations (12 months)
Pump Lane	No service requests
Beechwood Rd	No ASB or vehicle issues
Ribchester Close	No service requests
Bedale Road	No service requests
Holburn Park	No parking-related service requests
Butts Lane	3 service requests; PCNs successfully issued

Scheme Delivery

Highway Operations

Better use of available funding

Internal teams avoid contractor overheads, and allow for a consistent approach

Keeping investment within the authority

Funding supports jobs and retains skilled staff needed for statutory duties such as managing and maintaining the carriageway, winter services, and responding to emergency incidents, e.g., flooding.

Greater flexibility and resilience

In-house teams can be redirected quickly to priority or reactive emergency works

Supporting local and Member priorities

Internal delivery enables smaller schemes to be progressed efficiently and aligned with wider maintenance activity.

Processes & Timescales

CPB

- CPB schemes start with Members submitting project requests, supported by evidence of community need. Officers assess feasibility, eligibility, costs and risks, and whether consultation is required.
- Seasonal deadlines apply to some CPB activity (e.g., planting) so delivery can be completed within the financial year. Late submissions may be deferred to the next year, contributing to perceptions of delay.

Processes & Timescales

WTB

- WTB schemes follow a structured pathway: issues are submitted via the online Member portal, triggering officer investigation (site visits, surveys, historic data review).
- Initial investigation typically takes 3–4 months, depending on complexity and staff resources.
- If justified, scheme design and consultation add a further 4–5 months before delivery can be programmed.
- Timescales reflect statutory requirements, Officer capacity and the need to coordinate with wider highway work programmes.
- Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) require a statutory legal process: consultation with residents and stakeholders, public advertisement, and a formal period to consider objections before double yellow lines or similar restrictions can be introduced.

Processes & Timescales

Flowchart – Double Yellow Lines

Step or milestone	Approximate Timescale
Request received. Feasibility checks, including site visit and draft plan prepared	4 weeks
Draft report <u>of</u> proposals; check existing Traffic Orders in effect	
Consultation with Ward Councillors and quarterly OTG / Police	6 weeks
Any informal consultation with directly affected businesses/residents	
Update Councillors. Finalise report & seek Cabinet Member approval	4 weeks
Instructions to Legal to draft TRO, agree drafts, and arrange advertising	4 weeks
Statutory advertising (notices on-site, press, online) cannot be reduced	21 days
If there are no objections, publish the 2nd advert in the press	1 week
Quote for signing/lining required; add to work programme and coordinate with the date of TRO effect	6 weeks

Processes & Timescales

Flowchart – Traffic Calming

Step or milestone	Approximate timescale
Request received. Logged for audit and tracking; initial feasibility checks commenced	4 weeks
Initial site assessment, including review of collision history and existing speed survey data	
Advise Ward Councillors of survey requirements and costs (7-day speed survey if required)	6 weeks
Arrange and undertake a 7-day speed survey and provide results to Councillors	
Feasibility decision and options discussion with Councillors, including site visit if required	4 weeks
Design of preferred option; prepare drawings and outline costs	8 weeks
Internal cost check with Highway Operations and final proposal issued to Councillors	4 weeks
Councillor decision to proceed using the Ward budget allocation	1 week
Consultation with Ward Councillors and quarterly OTG / Police	6 weeks
Any informal consultation with directly affected businesses/residents	
Update Councillors. Finalise report & seek Cabinet Member approval	4 weeks
Instructions to Legal to draft TRO, agree drafts, and arrange advertising	4 weeks
Statutory advertising (notices on-site, press, online) cannot be reduced	21 days
If there are no objections, publish the 2nd advert in the press	1 week
If there are no objections, the scheme will be approved and added to the Works Programme	12 weeks

Processes & Timescales

Flowchart – Litter bin

Step or milestone	Approximate timescale
Request raised by Ward Councillor regarding litter issue / new litter bin. Logged for audit and tracking	2–4 weeks
Request referred to the Cleansing Team to assess litter issues and the need for a new bin, including a site visit if required	
If the Cleansing Team do not support a new bin, Ward Councillors are informed, and the process closes.	—
If supported, prepare Bill of Quantities, obtain statutory undertaker drawings, and prepare a location plan.	2–4 weeks
Information issued to Highways Operations to confirm installation costs	
Ward Councillors updated with confirmed costs and asked to confirm budget approval	1–2 weeks
Following approval, the litter bin installation will be added to the Works Programme	12 weeks

Funding

Ward Allocation

- CPB and WTB allocations are divided between wards based on population.
- Unspent funding may be carried forward into the following year if available.
- Carry-forward should be kept to a minimum because unspent funds may be reabsorbed corporately or reallocated depending on the Council's financial position.
- If a project exceeds the available ward allocation, funding can be drawn from the next year's budget, except during election years or where future budgets are known to be unavailable.

Funding

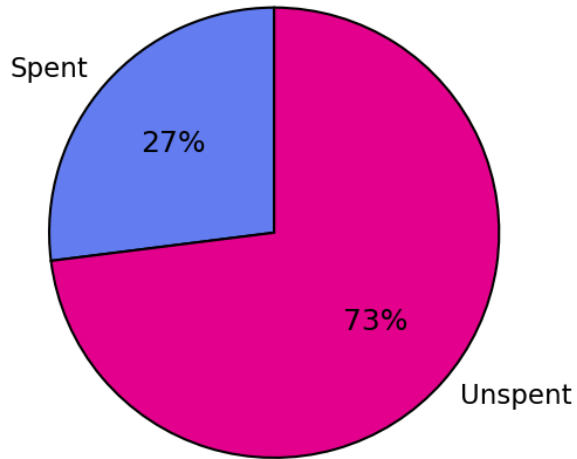
Ward Allocation

Ward	WTB	CPB	Ward	WTB	CPB
Billingham Central	£5,706	£7,607	Ingleby Barwick South	£8,722	£11,629
Billingham East	£5,335	£7,113	Mandale & Victoria	£5,811	£7,748
Billingham North	£5,486	£7,314	Newtown	£2,594	£3,459
Billingham South	£5,969	£7,959	Northern Parishes	£5,314	£7,085
Billingham West & Wolviston	£4,993	£6,658	Norton Central	£4,924	£6,566
Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	£5,167	£6,890	Norton North	£5,357	£7,142
Eaglescliffe East	£4,866	£6,487	Norton South	£4,860	£6,480
Eaglescliffe West	£5,120	£6,827	Ropner	£5,287	£7,049
Fairfield	£7,375	£9,833	Roseworth	£5,959	£7,945
Grangefield	£2,605	£3,473	Southern Villages	£1,910	£2,547
Hardwick & Salters Lane	£5,564	£7,419	Stainsby Hill	£5,852	£7,803
Hartburn	£7,285	£9,713	Stockton Town Centre	£5,082	£6,777
Ingleby Barwick North	£8,853	£11,805	Village	£5,731	£7,641
			Yarm	£8,273	£11,031

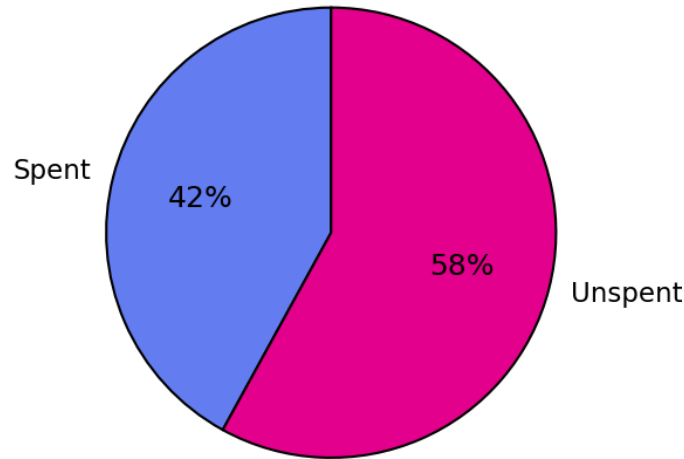
Funding

Spend Patterns

Ward Transport Budget



Community Participation Budget



- CPB and WTB delivery relies on one dedicated officer, limiting how much can be delivered at any one time.
- Underspend may reflect capacity, not lack of demand.
- Uncommitted funds may be carried forward, subject to availability and Cabinet Member consultation.

Funding

Underspend – Possibilities?

The 2025 National Highways & Transport (NHT) Survey received 546 responses (16.6%), providing a strong and credible picture of resident priorities.

What Residents Care Most About

- The survey clearly shows that road condition is:
 - the *most important* issue to residents,
 - the area they are *least satisfied* with, and
 - where they consistently say additional funding should be prioritised.

Highway Maintenance							
Reference	Indicator	Stockton	Quartile	NHT Highest	NHT Average	NHT Lowest	Difference %
KBI23	Condition of highways	29%	2	52%	27%	11%	2%
KBI24	Highway maintenance	46%	1	56%	43%	35%	3%
KBI25	Street lighting	65%	1	70%	60%	49%	5%
KBI26	Highway enforcement/obstructions	45%	1	54%	40%	32%	5%
HMBI01	Condition of road surfaces	26%	3	52%	26%	10%	0%
HMBI02	Cleanliness of roads	46%	2	57%	45%	35%	1%
HMBI03	Condition of road markings	44%	2	61%	43%	33%	1%
HMBI05	Provision of street Lighting	58%	2	65%	57%	44%	1%

Communications

With Members & Public

Current Position

- An online platform is being developed to raise requests through the Ward Transport and Community Participation Budgets. This case management solution will show the progress of current schemes and available budgets, with improved record-keeping and communication.
- Funding mechanism discussed by Councillors at Ward Surgeries.

Public Communication

- Historically, CPB/WTB outcomes were shared in Stockton News.

Why is it important?

- Projects delivered through CPB and WTB have often generated visible, localised benefits and strengthened links between Members and their communities.

Next Steps

Improved Guidance Documents

More focused Officer resource

- CPB / WTB requests are now supported by a smaller, dedicated team
- Promotes consistency, but means capacity needs to be managed

Wider officer involvement in scheme development

- Officers now undertake early costing and utility checks as part of requests
- Helps improve accuracy and reduce issues later in delivery

Higher and more realistic scheme costs

- Construction and material costs have increased across all schemes
- Ward budgets now support fewer but better-defined interventions

Programme and statutory constraints

- Delivery is aligned to the Highways Works Programme
- Design, legal and consultation stages require prioritisation and scheduling, alongside competing priorities across for all service areas

Ward Transport Budget Guidance



Next Steps

Digital Solution

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Welcome back Lucas My tasks Logout Reset password

Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL
STAFF PORTAL

Assist Customer Manage Platform Search cases Service Area Contact Centre Services

Request use of the Ward Transport or Community Participation Budget All Requests Budget Admin

Home / Service Area / Ward Transport Budget

Home
Service Area
Ward Transport Budget
Request use of the Ward Transport or Community Participation Budget

Raise a request through the Ward Transport or Community Participation Budget fund

Are you raising a new issue?

Yes No

< Back Continue >

Summary

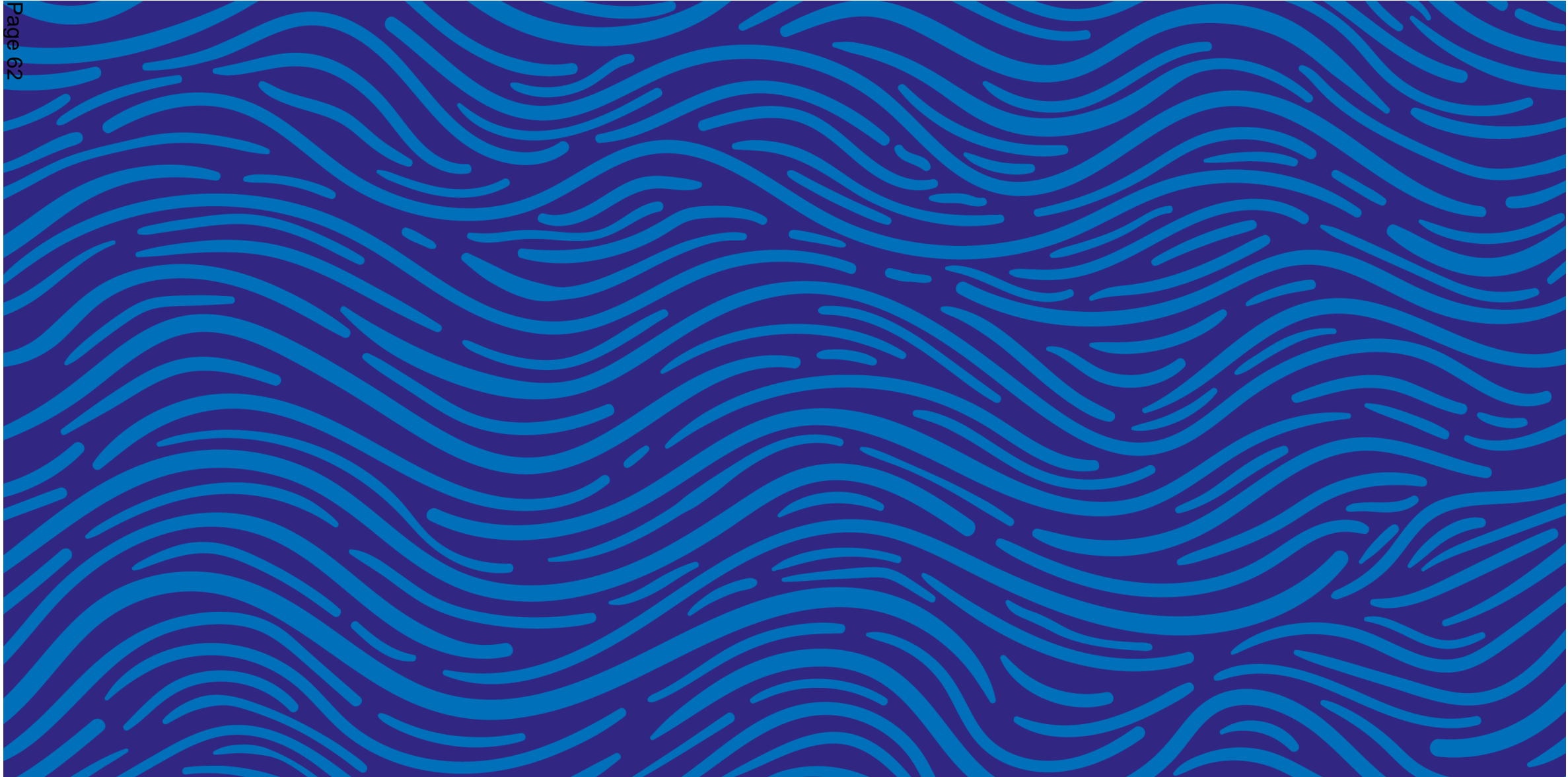
Is there an appetite to continue CPB and WTB in their current form?

What's working well

- Enables Member-led, place-based local improvements
- Complements evidence-led core highway programmes
- Has delivered visible schemes with positive local outcomes
- Provides flexibility for smaller-scale issues not prioritised elsewhere

Key challenges

- Delivery capacity and competing statutory priorities
- Eligibility limits driven by sustainability and revenue pressures
- Timescales affected by investigation, consultation and legal processes
- Communication and visibility, particularly for residents



Community Safety Select Committee
Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget
Outline Scope

Scrutiny Chair (Project Director): Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy	Contact details: ann.mccoy@stockton.gov.uk
Scrutiny Officer (Project Manager): Gary Woods	Contact details: gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk 01642 526187
Departmental Link Officer: Phil Hardie (SBC Highway Network & Traffic Team Leader)	Contact details: phil.hardie@stockton.gov.uk
Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?	
<p>The review will contribute to the following Stockton-on-Tees Plan 2024-2028 priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Priority 2: Healthy & Resilient Communities:</i> We will support residents to be safe and connected to each other in their homes and communities. • <i>Priority 3: A Great Place to Live, Work and Visit:</i> We will make Stockton-on-Tees a great place to live, work and visit - a Borough that residents can be proud of. It will be a vibrant and diverse place with an environment that is well looked after and outdoor spaces to enjoy. • <i>Priority 5: A Sustainable Council:</i> We will ensure our council is financially sustainable and manages our assets effectively to enhance their local impact. We will be a well-run council across areas of our business and continue to improve outcomes for communities. 	
What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?	
<p>Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) provides Elected Members with two budget schemes that, through engagement with the local community, can be used to fund project ideas within their wards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Participation Budget (CPB) can be used to fund a variety of developments ranging from small engineering schemes that improve the function of the space on or adjacent to the highway, to small projects that improve the local amenity space. The CPB is divided between wards on the basis of population-per-ward. • The Ward Transport Budget (WTB) is an allocation of the Council's City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement budget that is allocated on a ward-by-ward basis to undertake potential projects identified to address transport-related issues raised by members of the public via their local Ward Councillors. 	

The projects that the CPB and WTB are typically used for are those that generate resident interest and engagement, albeit at a local level. Whilst these are generally small-scale and local in character, they connect directly with resident concerns and can have a significant impact on social and environmental wellbeing. Through the direct involvement of Ward Councillors and the input of the communities they represent, interventions should be well focused and likely to meet a genuine community concern.

Although there are a number of examples where both the CPB and WTB has been utilised to make positive differences across the Borough, several issues have arisen over the years in relation to these budget schemes. Ward Councillors can feel frustrated about what projects are deemed eligible / not eligible, the costs associated with a proposal, and the time taken from submission of a proposals to it being realised. In some cases, the completion of a project has created future revenue implications around maintaining / sustaining work developed via CPB or WTB funds. From an administrative perspective, there is also a need to mindful of the officer time spent on developing schemes which then are not progressed through to implementation.

The main aims for this review will be to:

- understand the scope of interventions that are eligible through these two budget schemes, the processes for determining the priorities for use of the funds, and the management of the projects that are funded through CPB and WTB.
- establish the effectiveness of these two budgets and whether projects funded through the CPB and WTB have had genuine and sustained impact.
- ascertain the communication of the CPB and WTB to Ward Councillors and wider public awareness of these two funding streams.
- consider the value of CPB and WTB in the context of significant ongoing budget pressures for the Council as a whole.

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

What are the underlying aims of the CPB and WTB, have these changed since they were introduced, and how are the two budget schemes different / interlinked?

How much does each Ward / Ward Councillor have access to, and has this changed over time (if so, why)? How much has been spent by Wards / Ward Councillors in recent years, and what available funds have not been used (and what happens to these)?

What is considered an eligible / ineligible proposal, and how is this determined? Have criteria changed over the years?

What is the process for submitting, considering and deciding upon proposals? Who is involved and what is the timeframe for determining the validity and progression of a project?

How effective have completed projects been and how are these assessed? Have they created future revenue pressures?

How aware are Ward Councillors about these schemes – how are they communicated, and how are they kept updated on any submitted proposals?

Are residents of the Borough made aware about these potential funding opportunities and how they can submit ideas / proposals?

Is there an appetite to maintain existing CPB / WTB arrangements?

Can the Council learn anything from similar schemes being used in other Local Authorities?	
Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?	
Council, Cabinet, all Ward Councillors, residents of the Borough.	
Expected duration of review and key milestones:	
5 months (report to Cabinet in October 2026)	
What information do we need?	
Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBC People Select Committee – Community Participation Budget Update, including CPB Guidance (2017-2018)) (Dec 17): Community Participation Budget • SBC Place Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Area Transport Strategy (Dec 19): https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet/202001231630/Agenda/att37948.pdf • SBC Ward Transport Budget Guidance (2020-2021): Ward Transport Budget Guidance 	
<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>
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Services, Environment and Culture • Ward Councillors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CPB / WTB origins, aims, differences / links ➤ Processes / timelines / funding allocations ➤ Eligible / ineligible projects ➤ Effectiveness of completed work ➤ Communication to Ward Councillors / public ➤ Awareness of / views on CPB / WTB ➤ Promotion of these schemes to their residents ➤ Experience of using these schemes ➤ Views on continuing these arrangements
Local Residents (via SBC Communities Powering Our Future / Viewpoint panel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Awareness of / views on CPB / WTB ➤ Experience of using these schemes
Town / Parish Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Examples of joint-working with SBC on CPB / WTB-related schemes ➤ Examples of non-CPB / WTB-related schemes undertaken / completed that have reduced pressure on the Local Authority budget
Other Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Examples / effectiveness of similar schemes
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, case studies, Ward Councillor survey, 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-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2030: Everyone lives in health and sustainable places and communities</u> (focus area 3): Commitments – Community Safety (To make Stockton-on-Tees a safer place where people are protected from serious harm and live in communities which are safer and welcoming).</p>
<p>Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and / or transformation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarity about the criteria and eligibility of work and the avoidance of unfunded future revenue pressures arising from the one-off capital works.• Confidence that the level of investment made through the CPB and WTB represents value for money and is justifiable in the context of overall budget pressures.

Project Plan

Key Task	Details/Activities	Date	Responsibility
Scoping of Review	Information gathering	February 2026	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	05.03.26	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	26.03.26	Select Committee
Publicity of Review	Determine whether Communications Plan needed	TBC	Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer
Obtaining Evidence	SBC Community Services, Environment and Culture	30.04.26 28.05.26 02.07.26	Select Committee
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	30.07.26	Select Committee
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report	August 2026	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	01.10.26	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of report	[17.11.26]	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet / Approving Body	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	15.10.26	Cabinet / Approving Body

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COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE
Work Programme 2026-2027

Date (4.30pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
30 April 2026	Overview Report: Adults, Health & Wellbeing (Community Safety & Regulated Services: Environmental Health & Licensing) Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBC Community Services, Environment and Culture 	Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE / Carolyn Nice / Marc Stephenson Phil Hardie
28 May	Monitoring: Action Plan – Children affected by Domestic Abuse (TBC) Monitoring: Progress Update – Welcoming and Safe Town Centres (TBC) Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC Minutes of the Safer Stockton Partnership (January & March 2026)	Louise Hollick / Mandy MacKinnon Sharon Cooney
2 July	Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC 	
30 July		
1 October	Air Quality: Annual Update Overview and Performance Report: Adults, Health & Wellbeing	Stephen Donaghy Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE / Carolyn Nice / Marc Stephenson
29 October		
26 November		
17 December		
28 January 2027		
25 February		
25 March	Overview and Performance Report: Adults, Health & Wellbeing	Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE / Carolyn Nice / Marc Stephenson

COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE Work Programme 2026-2027

2026-2027 Scrutiny Reviews

- Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget
- Alley Gates

Monitoring Items (scheduled / to be scheduled)

- Fly-Grazed Horses (Progress Update) – TBC
 - Welcoming and Safe Town Centres (Progress Update) – TBC (mid-2026)
 - Children affected by Domestic Abuse (Action Plan) – TBC
-

OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES / UPDATES

- **Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP):** The SSP is the local community safety partnership and works together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) – meeting dates, agendas and minutes can be accessed via <https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Cid=1144&Year=0>. Every three years, the SSP undertake a Crime and Disorder Audit and, following public consultation, produce a Community Safety Plan which sets out how agencies within the Partnership intend to achieve targets in crime reduction – the latest version is the [Stockton-on-Tees Community Safety Strategy 2022-2025](#).

Part two of the [Police and Crime Commissioner Review](#), recommended that the Home Office undertake a full review of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) across England and Wales. The CSP review ran from March 2023 to January 2024 and has now concluded – it sought to clarify the role of CSPs, and improve their transparency, accountability, and effectiveness, making it easier for them to serve the needs of their communities in tackling crime, disorder, and antisocial behaviour. As a result of the review, the Home Office will be developing new guidance for CSPs, which will reflect the context CSPs currently work within and set out recommended minimum standards, as well as suggestions for good practice.

- **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 Home Office has [released new guidance materials](#) to support public understanding of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025—commonly known as Martyn's Law—by publishing a myth buster and a one-page leaflet aimed at clarifying the Act's scope and dispelling common misconceptions.

The Institute of Licensing has [published Martyn's Law guidance](#) which has been produced to support licensing professionals, operators, regulators and partners as the UK prepares for the implementation of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025.

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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 2025, the Home Office [published its end of year summary for the National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\)](#) and Duty to Notify Statistics in 2024. The statistics provide a breakdown of the number of potential victims of modern slavery referred into the NRM. 19,125 potential victims of modern slavery were referred to the Home Office last year, representing a 13 per cent increase compared to the preceding year. The [Home Office has published their Action Plan on modern slavery](#), which sets out the Home Office and partners' actions to tackle modern slavery over the next 12 months, and long-term ambition over the coming years. It sets the strategic approach for the next financial year, reflecting current parameters and constraints (including resourcing and budget). Middlesex University and Anti-Slavery International have completed [research exploring the role of local authorities as first responders](#). The report looks at the challenges and opportunities facing Councils, and focuses on the need to improve training, awareness, and collaboration to strengthen the local response to modern slavery.

The LGA has [updated its councillor guide on tackling modern slavery](#). The guide provides advice to Councillors on how they can increase awareness and understanding of modern slavery across their Council and community, as well as how Councillors can scrutinise the work of the Council and its partners on modern slavery, ensuring accountability.

In November 2025, the Human Trafficking published updated [Slavery and Trafficking Survivor Care Standards \(Care Standards\)](#) which aim to improve service provision by ensuring that adult survivors of human trafficking and modern slavery consistently receive high quality care wherever they are in the UK.

In February 2026, the Home Office [published its end of year summary for the National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\)](#) and Duty to Notify Statistics in 2025. Government has also published a [summary of responses to the call for evidence on the identification of victims of modern slavery](#), alongside the [publication of a written Ministerial statement](#). Respondents to the consultation highlighted the importance of trauma-informed approaches, training gaps among practitioners, children requiring different approaches, and the value of multi-agency collaboration.

Anti-Slavery International has also published [A Training Framework for Local Authorities as Modern Slavery First Responders in England and Wales](#) which Council officers may find helpful.

- **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*.

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- **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).

The Victims and Courts Bill includes new powers for the Victims' Commissioner to scrutinise the treatment of victims of anti-social behaviour. The Commissioner has already taken a close interest in ASB but to date, her focus has been on the criminal justice system. This additional power will enable future Commissioners to look more widely at the victim experience. In preparation for this, the Office of the Victims' Commissioner is undertaking a mapping exercise, to look at the victim journey across all agencies, identifying sources of data, gaps in policy and obstacles to victims reporting and getting support. The Commissioner is keen to receive any case studies and feedback about current processes.

The Home Office has updated the ASB statutory guidance for frontline professionals to housing providers and LAs which has been updated on [gov.uk](#). These changes have been made following the recommendations of the Victims' Commissioner's 2024 report, "[Still living a nightmare: Understanding the experiences of victims of anti-social behaviour](#)". Key updates include:

- Enhanced recommendations for victim participation and support throughout the ASB Case Review process.
 - Clearer guidance on the role of a single point of contact for victims
 - Stronger emphasis on the use of independent chairs for case reviews.
 - Alignment with the Victims Code to ensure victims of criminal ASB are referred to support services, regardless of whether criminal charges are pursued.
 - Additional guidance on the interface between ASB and safeguarding, including domestic abuse and exploitation.
- **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.

On 30 September, Counter Terrorism Policing launched ACT for Local Authorities. Led by National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO), ACT for Local Authorities uses CTP's regional network of Counter Terrorism Security Advisers and Prepare Officers to enhance the capabilities of local authorities in delivering the Protect and Prepare elements of the [national counter terrorism strategy](#). ACT for Local Authorities strengthens local authority capabilities in protective security across five key areas: planning and development, licensing, community safety, transport and highways, and emergency planning. ACT complements the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, offering tailored information, guidance, and access to specialists. Local authorities will be able to access resources – including toolkits and videos for each of the five priority areas – primarily through [the ProtectUK website](#) to support their consideration and understanding of terrorist risks, protective security and preparedness.

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- **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>. In November 2024, it was reported that incidents of shoplifting had reached a 20-year high, according to figures recorded by the police. A survey of shopkeepers by the Association of Convenience Stores found that 94 per cent felt that the problem had worsened in the last 12 months: [Sky: 'We need help': Workers say shoplifting is 'out of control' after surge in brazen thefts](#).
- **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.

In July 2025, the Transport Select Committee launched [a new parliamentary inquiry looking at taxi and private hire vehicle licensing](#). This inquiry will examine whether the current licensing framework provides authorities with the tools they need to successfully regulate the sector. The Committee will consider the implications of uneven rules between areas, the growing role of digital ride-hailing platforms, and the challenges that can arise from cross-border working. It will also explore what reforms may be needed to improve standards for passengers and drivers. Councils are encouraged to respond to this inquiry, and the deadline for responses is Monday 8 September. More recently, in January 2026, the Government [launched a consultation on the future of taxi and private hire vehicle licensing](#). The proposals represent a significant change from the current system, and Councils are encouraged to respond. The consultation is open until midday on 1 April 2026.

Leeds City Council and West Yorkshire Trading Standards are working together to push for a national change to the Licensing Act by gathering national support and evidence via a short survey: [Licensing Act loophole survey](#). The goal is to close the loopholes which undermine the work from Local Authorities and regulatory services to protect communities and public health. One major issue is the transfer of alcohol licences during a review or appeal. Organised crime groups are exploiting this bypassing licences to individuals with no known links to the criminal activity.

October 2025 saw calls for better monitoring of gambling venues, following investigation by the BBC which found that more than a third of Councils have not been able to carry out an inspection in the past year.

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The LGA said Councils struggled to fund proactive inspections, and welcomed plans to give it new powers to block new gambling premises opening on high streets. The Government also launched a [call for evidence](#) on what will be significant alcohol licensing reform, building on the recommendations of the [Licensing Taskforce recommendations and the government's response](#) (the LGA will be responding, but Councils are encouraged to submit their own response by 6 November), and [launched a call for evidence to inform their plans to introduce a licensing scheme for the retail sale of tobacco](#) (Councils are encouraged to respond by 3 December and the LGA will also be submitting a response).

The Government has since [published its national licensing policy framework](#), which only applies to on-sales premises. Whilst this is not statutory guidance, Government is clear that licensing authorities should demonstrate how they have had regard to the guidance when next reviewing their licensing policy. It has also produced an [analysis of the responses received](#) to the call for evidence on alcohol licensing reform.

The [statutory guidance](#) governing England's new primate licensing regime received a targeted update on 2 March, refining several operational points ahead of the law coming into force on 6 April 2026.

- **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) formed a Domestic and Related Deaths Review (DARDR) forum for those who are involved in commissioning DARDRs or DHRs. There are currently 195 members of the forum from Councils, police, Offices of Police and Crime Commissioners and health. The forum set up a task group to give recommendations to government to consider in the forthcoming output from a review of DARDRs. The second phase will begin shortly where access to qualified chairs and costs will be considered.

In March 2026, Surviving Economic Abuse published a landmark new report, "[Hidden risks, fatal consequences: Economic abuse in Domestic Homicide Reviews](#)", which examines the role of economic abuse in domestic abuse-related deaths across England and Wales. The report finds that economic abuse is a significant and often overlooked factor in domestic homicides. Analysis of 454 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) showed that 231 cases (51%) involved economic abuse by a current or former partner, equating to at least one victim dying every 19 days. The majority of cases involved a female victim and male perpetrator, and victims experiencing economic abuse were typically younger than those in non-economic abuse cases. However, fewer than half of DHR panels recognised the presence of economic abuse, and only a small number of in-depth reviews made recommendations to address it. The findings also highlight repeated missed opportunities by agencies to identify and respond to risks linked to economic abuse.

- **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.
- **Social Cohesion**: 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.

The LGA and the Belong Network [have published guidance to support councils to build cohesive communities](#). This January 2026 guidance includes a clear summary of legal obligations, examples of

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effective tools and strategies for embedding cohesion in council services and outlines the practical steps required to develop effective cohesion strategies. It also shares good practice examples from councils throughout the guide.

In March 2026, Government [published a new Cohesion Strategy](#) which sets out its priorities in this area. Crucially, the guidance recognises the important role councils play in building cohesive communities.

- **Safe Access Zones Around Abortion Clinics:** Councils have been contacting the LGA regarding Safe Access Zones around abortion clinics. The LGA have been engaging with government to ensure safe access zones can be established. Legislation will come into force from 31 October 2024 and will make it illegal for anyone to do anything that intentionally or recklessly influences someone's decision to use abortion services, obstructs them, or causes harassment or distress to someone using or working at these premises. The law will apply within a 150-metre radius of the abortion service provider. The College of Policing and the Crown Prosecution Service will be publishing operational guidance to ensure there is clarity and consistency with the enforcement of the new offence. Further information is available at: [Protection zones around abortion clinics in place by October - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).
- **Trading Standards:** Illegal imported sweets which contain banned additives linked to cancer and behavioural problems are "flooding UK high streets", councils have said (see February 2025 article: https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/feb/13/imported-sweets-american-candy-flooding-uk-high-streets-councils-banned-additives?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). The warning first came from the Chartered Trading Standards Institute, which said that demand for American confectionery was being driven by influencers on social media platforms, leading to high street shops and smaller convenience stores stocking the products.
- **Crime and Policing Bill:** Early-2025 saw the UK Government introduce the Crime and Policing Bill to Parliament. Key provisions include:
 - **Powers for Theft Recovery:** Police can now enter properties without a warrant to recover stolen items located via electronic tracking, such as 'find my phone' apps. This change enables swifter action during critical investigation periods.
 - **Protection for Retail Workers:** The bill introduces a specific offence for assaulting retail workers, ensuring better safeguards for employees in shops and supermarkets.
 - **Addressing Antisocial Behaviour:** New "Respect Orders" will ban habitual offenders from town centres, and police are empowered to seize vehicles like off-road bikes and e-scooters used irresponsibly in public spaces.
 - **Combatting Knife Crime:** Measures include increased penalties for selling dangerous weapons to minors and the creation of a new offence for possessing a blade with intent to cause harm.
 - **Violence Against Women and Girls:** The bill strengthens Stalking Protection Orders, criminalises spiking incidents, and restricts registered sex offenders from changing their names to evade detection (note: publication of a new VAWG government strategy is expected later in 2025).
 - **Child Protection:** A new duty mandates adults in specific roles to report instances of child sexual abuse, implementing recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.
 - **Public Order Enhancements:** The legislation bans face coverings used to conceal identity during protests and criminalises climbing on designated war memorials, promoting respect for public monuments.

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- **Young Futures Programme:** The Young Futures Programme is a national, cross-government plan to prevent youth violence by proactively identifying and supporting young people most at risk. Central to the strategy are Young Futures Hubs, local centres that bring together mental health services, education, career advice, youth workers and police. Prevention Partnerships, which are multi-agency panels, will be introduced where there are Violence Reduction Units. This will work with communities, charities, schools, health services and police to map risk, co-ordinate early interventions and tailor support packages. These panels harness VRU expertise and local knowledge to spot vulnerabilities early, reduce youth involvement in crime (including knife crime and violence against women and girls), and offer continuous, evidence-based support. Each area with a VRU area will introduce a Prevention Panel from October 2025. Roll out to further areas is expected from April 2026.
- **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG):** The Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy publication is scheduled for September 2025.
- **Domestic Abuse:** A Sanctuary Scheme is a victim survivor centred initiative which aims to enable households at risk of domestic abuse to remain in their own homes (if it is safe and their choice) and reduce repeat victimisation through the provision of enhanced security measures (sanctuary) and support. The Local Government Association (LGA), the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), and Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (STADA) are working in partnership to clarify current practice. In September 2025, surveys were sent to all Council Directors of Housing to delegate to relevant colleagues to complete.

A national reciprocal housing scheme is being developed, led by Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse and Clarion Housing, to provide secure housing options for domestic abuse survivors who need to relocate while retaining their tenancy rights. Building on the Whole Housing Approach toolkit, several local schemes already exist, and the national initiative aims to expand this support across England. With 2.4 million people experiencing domestic abuse in 2022, housing remains a key barrier to safety, making reciprocal moves a vital lifeline that prevent re-victimisation, reduce homelessness pressures, uphold tenancy security under the Domestic Abuse Act, widen rehousing options, and offer consistent support for both survivors and landlords. Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse would appreciate if councils completed this [survey](#).

In December 2025, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) confirmed £499m over the next three years to support domestic abuse duties, providing LAs with the financial certainty they have called for – this is a £19m uplift to the £480m announced as part of the provisional allocations published on 18 December in the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. From April 2026, domestic abuse funding will be included within the new ringfenced Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant, enabling local authorities to take a more integrated approach to supporting vulnerable people across these three areas.

- **Civil Resilience:** In November 2025, the [LGA updated guidance](#) designed to support Councillors in strengthening their approach to civil resilience. It provides an overview of the Council's responsibilities in this area, along with targeted sections outlining the role of Ward Councillors and portfolio holders. A new section also outlines how officers can support Elected Members in fulfilling their civil resilience roles.

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- **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/>.

On 13 November 2025, Government announced the abolition of PCC elections when current terms end in 2028. It is intended that where there are directly-elected Mayors, the Deputy Mayor for policing model will continue. This will also be the case for where new Strategic Mayoral Authorities (SMAs) will be established. Where there are not Mayors, it is expected a new local Policing and Crime Board is established to local government leaders together to oversee the police force. These Boards are said by government to not be a return to the bureaucratic and invisible committee-based oversight of policing that existed before the establishment of PCCs. Government proposes these Boards include the leaders of each upper tier authority from the force area and up to two co-optees. The LGA is working with the Home Office with regards to how these police boards might operate.

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