

**Date:**

Thursday 28 May 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)

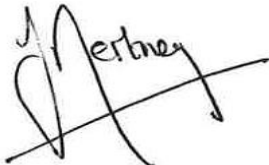
**3. Apologies for Absence****4. Declarations of Interest****5. Minutes (to follow)**

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 30 April 2026.

6. **Action Plan for Agreed Recommendations – Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse (to follow)**
7. **Monitoring the Impact of Previously Agreed Recommendations – Welcoming and Safe Town Centres (to follow)**
8. **Scrutiny Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget (to follow)**

To consider further information in relation to this scrutiny topic from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Community Services, Environment and Culture directorate, as well as initial feedback from the ongoing SBC Ward Councillor survey.

9. **Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP) – Previous Minutes (January & March 2026) (to follow)**
10. **Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2026-2027** (Pages 11 - 20)



Jonathan Nertney  
Head of Democratic Services  
Monday 18 May 2026

### **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](mailto: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**

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

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

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

## Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

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

## 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**  
**Work Programme 2026-2027**

Date (4.30pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
30 April 2026	<p>Overview Report: Adults, Health &amp; Wellbeing (Community Safety &amp; Regulated Services: Environmental Health &amp; Licensing)</p> <p>Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBC Community Services, Environment and Culture</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE / Marc Stephenson / Stephen Donaghy / Leanne Maloney-Kelly / James O'Donnell</p> <p>Phil Hardie / Simon Milner</p>
28 May	<p>Monitoring: Action Plan – Children affected by Domestic Abuse</p> <p>Monitoring: Progress Update – Welcoming and Safe Town Centres</p> <p>Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBC Community Services, Environment and Culture</li> <li>• Ward Councillor Survey Feedback</li> <li>• Other Local Authority Schemes</li> </ul> <p>Minutes of the Safer Stockton Partnership (January &amp; March 2026)</p>	<p>Louise Hollick</p> <p>Sharon Cooney</p> <p>Simon Milner</p>
2 July	<p>Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBC Community Services, Environment and Culture</li> <li>• Town / Parish Council Survey Feedback</li> <li>• Residents Survey Feedback</li> </ul>	<p>Phil Hardie / Simon Milner / Corinne Moore</p>
30 July (informal)	<p>Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of Evidence / Draft Recommendations</li> </ul>	<p>Phil Hardie / Simon Milner</p>
1 October	<p>Air Quality: Annual Update</p> <p>Overview and Performance Report: Adults, Health &amp; Wellbeing</p>	<p>Stephen Donaghy</p> <p>Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE / Carolyn Nice / Marc Stephenson</p>
29 October		
26 November		

## COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE Work Programme 2026-2027

Date (4.30pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
17 December		
28 January 2027		
25 February		
25 March	Overview and Performance Report: Adults, Health & Wellbeing	Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE / Carolyn Nice / Marc Stephenson

### 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) – May 2026
- Children affected by Domestic Abuse (Action Plan) – May 2026

### 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](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).

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- **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.

In April 2026, the Home Office published the Section 27 statutory guidance for the [Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Act 2025](#), commonly referred to as [Martyn's Law](#). The guidance explains the core concepts of the legislation and helps those responsible for premises and events determine whether they fall within its and how to meet their legal duties. Separately, the SIA will shortly publish its draft Section 12 Guidance, which explains how it will exercise its functions as the regulator. This document and a public consultation regarding the SIA's regulatory approach will be published in the near future. All relevant information can be found [here](#), which hosts a range of Martyn's Law materials, including links to the Section 27 Guidance.

- **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-

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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*.
- **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](#)

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[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.

- **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

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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 by passing 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. 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 private 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

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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 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](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.

## COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE

### Work Programme 2026-2027

- 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.
- **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

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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.
- **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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