

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

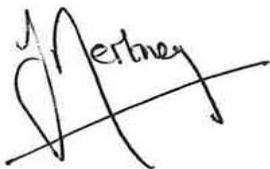
4. Declarations of Interest

5. Minutes (Pages 11 - 22)

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** (Pages 23 - 28)
7. **Monitoring the Impact of Previously Agreed Recommendations – Welcoming and Safe Town Centres** (Pages 29 - 76)
8. **Scrutiny Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget** (Pages 77 - 100)

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)** (Pages 101 - 110)
10. **Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2026-2027** (Pages 111 - 120)



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

Key – Declarable interests are :-

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

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance

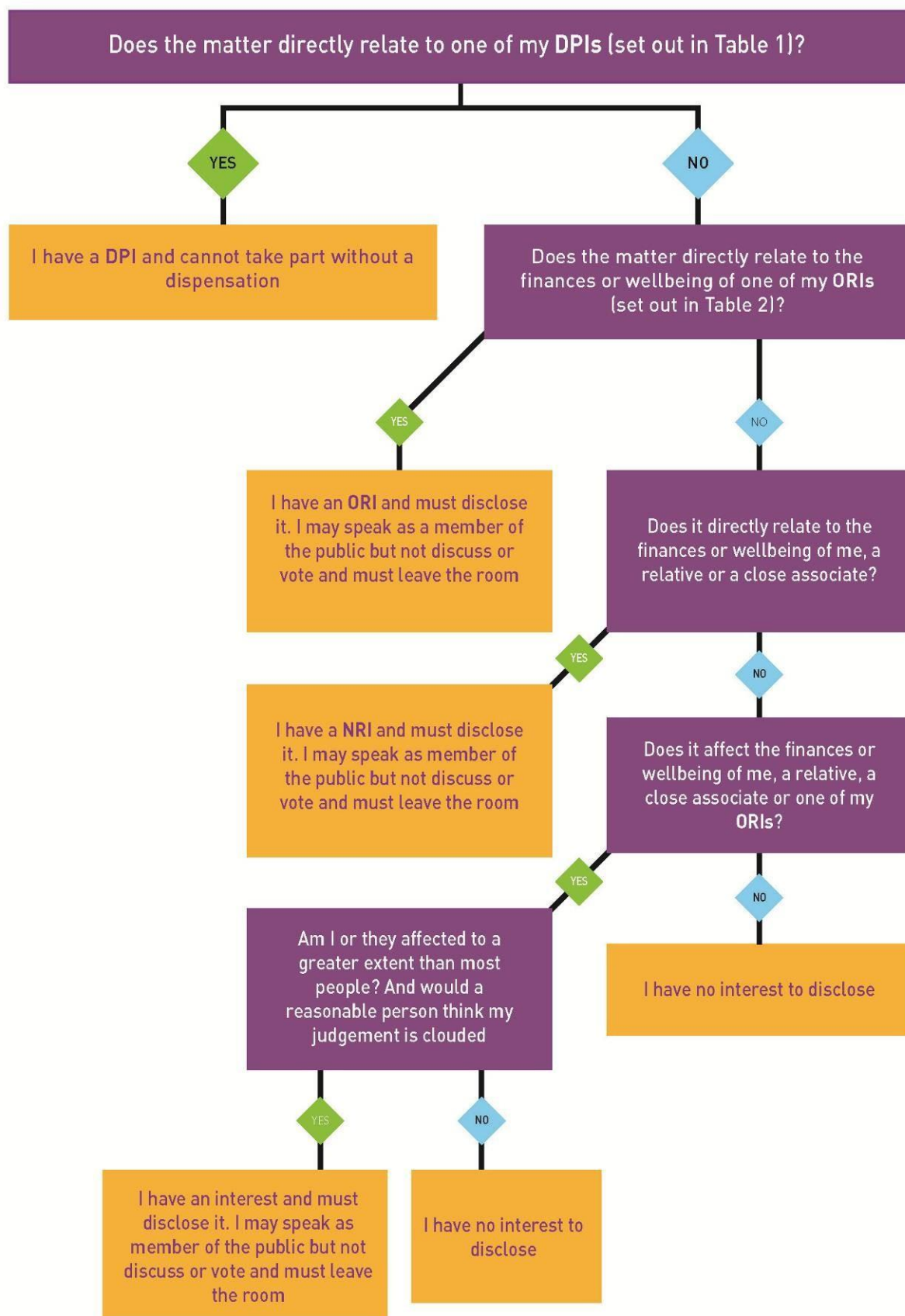


Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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 Registrable 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 30 April 2026.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy (Chair), Cllr Katie Weston (Vice-Chair), Cllr Bob Cook, Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Jason French, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Alan Watson

Officers: Stephen Donaghy, Leanne Maloney-Kelly, Marc Stephenson (A,H&W); Phil Hardie, Simon Milner (CS,E&C); James O'Donnell, Gary Woods (CS)

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

Apologies: None

CSS/1/26 Livestreaming

This meeting was scheduled to be livestreamed. However, due to technical difficulties, this could not be facilitated.

CSS/2/26 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

CSS/3/26 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

CSS/4/26 Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Community Safety Select Committee meeting which was held on 26 March 2026 for approval and signature.

AGREED that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 26 March 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CSS/5/26 Overview Report: SBC Adults, Health & Wellbeing (Community Safety & Regulated Services: Environmental Health and Licensing)

The Committee received an overview report from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Adults, Health and Wellbeing directorate which provided 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 emerging issues within these areas of Council activity.

Introduced by the SBC Assistant Director – Regulated Services and Transformation, and supported by the SBC Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety, the Committee was informed that the Community Safety and Regulatory

Services portfolio was made up of a wide-ranging offer which focused on protecting the Borough's communities and local businesses. These preventative, collaborative and place-focused services included Civic Enforcement, CCTV and Community Safety, alongside Trading Standards, Environmental Health and the Licensing department. Within this group of services was also both Emergency Planning (involving the major incident plan) and organisational Business Continuity.

This overview report demonstrated how Environmental Health and Licensing services were managing risk, protecting vulnerable residents, supporting safe and compliant businesses, and working in partnership to address crime, disorder and environmental harm. The report also highlighted how resources were being targeted using data and intelligence, how performance was monitored, and how workforce and financial challenges were being actively managed – providing Members with confidence that services were delivering their responsibilities while supporting the Council's wider ambitions for healthy, safe and resilient communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental Health is a branch of public health that examined how various environmental factors could affect human health and wellbeing. With an important role in protecting the public, the service fed into a number of other SBC directorates / departments (e.g. planning, events) and was split into three main operational areas – Commercial Environmental Health, Animal Welfare and Pest Control, and Environmental Protection and Nuisance. Led by the SBC Environmental Health Service Manager, key achievements, challenges and emerging issues regarding the SBC Environmental Health department were summarised as follows:

- Commercial Environmental Health: Responsible for ensuring that food produced, sold or consumed within the Borough was safe, compliant with legislation, and accurately described, service performance was robust during 2025-2026, with 100% of all food premises due for review (757) receiving a full inspection (with no outstanding general inspections at the end of the year). 801 service requests (complaints) were received, mostly relating to food hygiene concerns, and the service responded to national food alerts, including a significant listeria incident affecting health and care settings.

In terms of notable successes, Stockton-on-Tees had the highest level of food sampling in the region for the fifth year running, and one of the highest rates in the UK. The Borough was also noted nationally as having both the highest level of food hygiene rating standards in the North East, and the third highest across the country.

Looking ahead to 2026-2027, priorities included maintaining high compliance, responding to emerging risks, and supporting national initiatives. Challenges included business growth, rising public expectations, increasing regulatory demands, and adapting to future system and legislative changes. Overall, the service remained well-placed to protect public health and support local businesses effectively.

- Animal Welfare and Pest Control: Animal welfare focused on the protection of domesticated and captive animals (ensuring they were kept in safe, healthy and humane conditions), whilst pest control aimed to manage and reduce infestations of rodents, insects and other pests that could spread disease, damage property,

and harm quality of life. 887 animal welfare / stray dog requests had been handled during 2025-2026, with 1,912 pest control-related contacts received and actioned over the same period (treatment levels had remained relatively static for the latter).

The SBC Animal Welfare Team had received the RSPCA *PawPrints* Platinum Award 2025 for stray dogs (the highest accolade available), a recognition of the exceptional, long-term commitment to protecting stray dogs (this was achieved after 17 consecutive years at 'Gold' standard and five years at the highest level). The Council's pest control team did exceptional work and had been seen as an exemplar for other Local Authorities.

- Environmental Protection and Nuisance: The Environmental Protection Team addressed a wide variety of areas including complaint work in terms of noise and other environmental stressors, land contamination (involving the Council's Contaminated Land Strategy), and planning and licensing consultation (as statutory consultees), and continued to maintain all three of the closed landfill sites which SBC managed. One of the major areas of work in the last year had been concerning air quality (alongside all other duties) which remained good across the Borough and fully compliant with all national air quality objectives.

A key achievement was the adoption of the Air Quality Strategy 2025-2030 – the Council's first standalone air quality strategy which adopted a proportionate, preventative approach focused on maintaining compliance and addressing local pollution sources. Significant progress had 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. Indeed, Defra (Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs) had acknowledged the work undertaken by SBC and had given it 'ambassadorial' status (a highly recognised standard).

- Challenges: The most significant challenge facing the service continued to be workforce sustainability, particularly the recruitment, training and retention of Environmental Health Officers within a profession that was experiencing an ageing staff profile. While training and trainee roles remained a key part of future workforce planning, the number of student, apprenticeship and trainee posts had reduced slightly year-on-year. The age profile of the local workforce continued to shift, with around a quarter of Environmental Health Officers now aged over 54 and a growing number approaching retirement. SBC had responded proactively, with four Environmental Health trainees employed since 2022 – however, the wider regional context demonstrated that sustained focus would be required to ensure the service remained resilient, skilled and well-placed to meet future demands.

Commending the Environmental Health service for its successes, particularly the work undertaken within schools in relation to air quality, the Committee encouraged a stronger emphasis on more regular communication of these achievements to the wider public.

Members asked whether the Council carried out pest control activity with Thirteen Housing Group (who used to have a contract with SBC) and were informed that Thirteen now had its own in-house pest control service. Should the Council experience any issues around pest control, root cause analysis was undertaken, and if concerns emerged in / around Thirteen properties, SBC still had statutory powers to intervene if necessary. The Committee heard that the Council had maintained its pest

control team despite other Local Authorities deciding to cease their own offer (relying instead on private companies) – a move which many were since regretting. SBCs proactive approach to pest control included leading on work across the North East, an ongoing regional collaboration which intended to meet with all social landlords regarding pest control matters.

Regarding air quality, Members queried if the Council was getting co-operation from those larger organisations which were having a significant impact on the local environment. SBC officers gave assurance that industrial processes were regularly checked by the SBC Environmental Protection Team and that some were regulated by the Environmental Agency which, as reported previously to the Committee, the Council had strengthened its relationship with over the course of the past year.

From a wider Environmental Health perspective, the Committee noted recent media which highlighted increasing attacks on Trading Standards officers. Members heard that the work undertaken by such teams had the potential to unearth organised crime – something which could result in confrontation. SBC had a zero-tolerance approach to attacks on its officers (seeking justice where required), with safeguards in place to protect staff (e.g. training / body-worn cameras) – however, there was also a reliance on support from partners, particularly the police.

LICENSING

The SBC Licensing function administered, inspected and enforced 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. Delivering a comprehensive statutory regulatory function, the service ensured licensed activities across Stockton-on-Tees were carried out lawfully, safely and responsibly, with the aim of protecting the Borough's residents. Summarised by the SBC Trading Standards & Licensing Services Manager, key achievements during 2025-2026 were summarised as follows:

- 1,998 service requests were logged, with 1,061 investigations opened. The team received 2,918 licensing applications (2,893 of which were processed on time, with the remaining 25 rejected) and attended 12 Licensing Committee hearings.
- Five underage sales test purchasing operations across 28 premises (involving age-restricted products such as alcohol, vapes and fireworks) were carried out, with enforcement action taken and follow-up compliance work completed.
- 906 drivers (up 25% since 2023), 638 vehicles (up 31%), and 49 private hire operators (up 133%) were licensed.
- Compliance activity included private hire operator and rank checks, school transport vehicle checks at local schools, and four joint operations with the Cleveland Police Matrix Team where 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).
- 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.

- 11 out of the 13 premises in the target area signed up to participate in the 'Reducing the Strength' scheme (encouraging retailers within Stockton Town Centre not to sell beers, lagers and ciders above 6.5% alcohol by volume) – early outcomes demonstrated a reduction in alcohol-related incidents, reducing from 31 in July 2025 to three by December 2025.
- The service regulated 570 premises licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 and 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.
- 202 Temporary Event Notices were processed, supporting community events, charity fundraising and local business activity. 21 night-time working operations were supported, including general premises checks, joint operations with the Road Policing Unit, and intelligence-led visits.
- Licensing of businesses that provided animal activities licensing continued to increase – the service licensed over 82 animal activity premises and carried out 133 inspections, investigations and advisory visits. Enforcement outcomes included the issuing of cautions for illegal dog breeding where appropriate, alongside ongoing efforts to disrupt activity linked to organised criminal activity.

The report concluded by outlining challenges and emerging issues for the self-funded SBC Licensing service – 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 could stretch capacity and limit the ability to undertake long-term problem-solving work, though the recent merger of Trading Standards and Licensing services was expected to drive improvements / efficiencies and produce a robust and resilient service.

From a wider perspective, economic pressures on licensed businesses could contribute to non-compliance and increased crime and disorder risks. Also, the introduction of the Tobacco and Vapes legislation would 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 were introduced. The legislation was 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.

Welcoming the very positive nature of this element of the report and expressing appreciation for the work carried out by the Licensing service to keep the Borough safe (difficult roles which did not get enough praise), the Committee noted the reference to apprenticeships and asked if these were still offered within the service. SBC officers stated that attracting people into this arena had traditionally proved challenging, and that the Council had made a conscious decision to grow from within using apprenticeships – a move which was bearing fruit. Members emphasised the benefits of making roles appealing to both males and females, and heard that external funding had been confirmed for a specific role in relation to the new Tobacco and Vapes legislation.

The Committee questioned if the Licensing function had any control over pizza delivery vehicles, some of which were seemingly in dubious condition – SBC officers confirmed that there was no requirement for oversight of these, and that such establishments did not need a licence if they were open before and up to 11.00pm.

Final comments came from the SBC Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety who praised the staff working within both the Environmental Health and Licensing services, and noted her personal experience of going out with the teams wherever possible.

FUTURE PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Following the presentation of the overview report, some further context around this item was outlined. 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 noted that the Community Safety Select Committee last considered an overview report in July 2023). It was agreed that this should take place twice-yearly.

Although the reporting of performance measures would not commence until September / October 2026, officers from the SBC Strategic Planning Team were in attendance to briefly outline how future performance information would be presented. With work ongoing in relation to finalising key performance indicators (KPIs) linked to the Stockton-on-Tees Plan, reporting would involve the relaying of 'tier 1' (Council outcomes) measures bi-annually to Cabinet and annually to the Executive Scrutiny Committee and Full Council, with 'tier 2' (service outcomes and progress update, including data that supports SBC strategies / plans) measures being submitted bi-annually to the five Select Committees.

The Committee queried how the Council would ensure the presented performance measures reflected Member priorities. SBC officers stated that there was a page within the Stockton-on-Tees Plan (previously agreed by full Council) about how success would be measured, and that ongoing work to identify the appropriate metrics was all linked to this overarching plan. In terms of future performance reporting, the Committee called for consistency in the colour scheme for the proposed 'progress quadrant'.

AGREED that the Overview Report: SBC Adults, Health and Wellbeing (Community Safety & Regulated Services: Environmental Health and Licensing) be noted.

CSS/6/26 Scrutiny Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget

The first evidence-gathering session for the Committee's review of Community Participation Budget (CPB) and Ward Transport Budget (WTB) considered an initial submission from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Community Safety, Environment and Culture directorate. Presented by the SBC Highway Network & Traffic Team Leader, and supported by the SBC Highways Manager, information covered the following:

- Origins & Evolution
 - CPB: Introduced in 2007 as the *Small Environmental Improvements Budget* (providing a modest, flexible funding mechanism for local environmental works

that were not prioritised through core budgets), the scheme was later re-named to reflect community participation and Member input (with Ward Councillors promoting projects based on local priorities). This annual Borough-wide pot was initially £400,000 per year (revenue-funded) and was allocated by population. Over time, the eligibility expanded to small engineering works, and in 2019, through the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), the scheme was reduced to £200,000 per year, with tighter eligibility introduced to reflect long-term maintenance impacts.

- WTB: This scheme began following a Place Select Committee review of the Area Transport Strategy in 2019 which saw the budget move from an area-based pot that Members would bid into to obtain funds to ward-based allocations which made it easier for Members to access. From April 2020, £150,000 per year was allocated, with funding ring-fenced for transport issues. WTB operated within a structured, evidence-led framework – Members shaped priorities, while officers assessed, designed and delivered schemes to ensure they met safety, legal and affordability requirements.
- CPB v WTB – Key Differences: CPB was revenue funding, which had been identified within the MTFP and supported broader community-focused capital works. WTB, meanwhile, was capital funding from the Council's annual allocation toward highway priorities from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, and was strictly transport-focused (spending was audited to ensure it was directed toward transport priorities).

CPB could match-fund WTB schemes where there may be a shortfall in available budget. However, WTB funding could not be used for CPB projects as the latter were more environmentally focused (rather than transport-related). Crucially, it was important to emphasise that both budgets remained Council funds, where Members influenced priorities and officers retained overall responsibility for determining validity and for delivery.

- Core Funding Criteria: The Council's core highway budgets prioritised statutory duties and road safety interventions at locations with proven casualty records (based on recorded evidence from the Cleveland Police road casualty database). The Department for Transport (DfT) assessed how Council's spent money, and if this was judged to have been used unwisely, funding could be withheld.

CPB and WTB budgets operated differently because they allowed flexibility and could be directed where the concerns of constituents did not meet the evidence thresholds for funding via core budgets. The availability of the CPB / WTB therefore filled the gap between evidence thresholds and lived experience of the Borough's residents.

- Eligibility
 - CPB: This could be used to capital fund projects, but SBC needed to be mindful of proposals that created ongoing revenue or maintenance costs. Eligibility was therefore refined to avoid unfunded liabilities, and some schemes would only become eligible where third-parties (e.g. Town / Parish Councils or resident groups) took on maintenance.
 - WTB: This was far stricter and operated within a tightly defined framework, where funding could only be used for transport, safety and accessibility

interventions. All schemes required evidence-based assessment to demonstrate eligibility, with projects triggering ongoing revenue costs or amenity scope being excluded.

- CPB / WTB Examples: Several projects facilitated through the CPB and WTB schemes over the past year were highlighted, including physical traffic calming measures, village gateway features to encourage reduced speeds, and parking restrictions.

Examples were also given of carriageway and footway resurfacing where Members chose to use their budgets to bring forward schemes that were already identified as future contenders within SBCs five-year programme (this would allow delivery to be accelerated into the current financial year rather than waiting for their scheduled year). This included a live case in Thornaby, where resurfacing on Cunningham Drive was already programmed for the 2026-2027 year – Members had requested that their budget be used to bring forward resurfacing further along the same route on Tedder Avenue, enabling a larger area of works to be completed while resources were already on site (making a bigger difference to the condition of the highway and a noticeable improvement for residents).

- Monitoring Effectiveness: For traffic-calming schemes, speed surveys were conducted before and after implementation – this provided an objective, evidence-based measure of impact on vehicle speeds. Results from schemes delivered this year on Wynyard Road and Wolviston Road showed significant speed reductions – this enabled SBCs enforcement resources to be targeted elsewhere and also had a positive impact on partners (particularly the police).

For parking restrictions, SBC could look at the locations Members had requested double yellow lines for to overcome parking problems. Supporting this scrutiny review, a sample of completed CPB / WTB schemes were assessed after 12 months which focused on service requests, parking and anti-social behaviour (ASB), and repeat incidents – this showed that no service requests had been received into the SBC Civic Enforcement Team at most locations, with only low-level interventions where they did arise. Such a positive impact allowed Civic Enforcement Officers to turn their focus to issues like ASB and other frontline priorities.

- Scheme Delivery: Using internal SBC teams to deliver CPB and WTB schemes avoided contractor overheads and allowed for a consistent approach to standards across the Borough's highway network. Benefits were also highlighted in relation to long-term assurance (in-house teams could be re-directed quickly to undertake priority / emergency works), the ability to efficiently deliver smaller schemes which were aligned with wider maintenance activity, and supporting jobs / retaining skilled staff (the latter being particularly important as these same professionals were relied upon to carry out the Council's statutory duties in maintaining the Borough's highways, deliver winter services by gritting through the cold winter nights, and responding to emergency incidents like flooding).
- Processes & Timescales
 - CPB: These schemes started with Members submitting project requests, supported by evidence of community need – officers then assessed feasibility, eligibility, costs and risks, and whether consultation was required. Seasonal deadlines applied to some CPB activity (e.g. planting) to allow delivery to be

completed within the financial year – late submissions may be deferred to the next year (contributing to perceptions of delay).

- WTB: This was far more structured, with proposals initially submitted via the online Member portal which then triggered officer investigation (site visits, surveys, historic data review) – only once these were done could the detailed design begin. Often these works required a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), therefore it was not unreasonable for such schemes to take up to nine months before they started to hit work programmes. It was also important to highlight that delivery was reliant on workload and capacity – for both the WTB and CPB, the Council had only one dedicated officer dealing with 27 wards and 56 Members, and there was an additional need to factor in required input from other SBC departments (e.g. Design Services, Legal Services) which may result in extended timescales.

To emphasise the timelines involved in some CPB / WTB-related projects, examples were given on the steps required (along with the approximate timescales for each) for introducing double yellow lines and traffic calming measures (both involving a stringent legal process), as well as litter bins.

- Funding: Both CPB and WTB allocations were divided between wards based on population. Whilst unspent funding could be carried forward into the following year, it was encouraged to be kept to a minimum as there was the possibility it could be re-absorbed or re-allocated (that decision would ultimately be taken by the Cabinet Member, depending on the Council's financial position). For larger projects that exceeded a single year's funding, there was the option to draw down from the following year so as not to delay delivery of good projects (with the caveat that this could not be done during election years where future budgets and memberships were undetermined).

The individual allocations for each of the Borough's 27 wards were outlined (it was reiterated that there was only one dedicated SBC officer to manage all the enquiries, investigations and deliveries), with graphics showing that both schemes had an underspend (58% unspent for the CPB and 73% unspent for the WTB). This situation may reflect capacity to develop and deliver rather than a lack of demand, and could be alleviated by addressing resident concerns about the condition of the Borough's highways (reflected in the annual National Highways & Transport Survey), something which, as previously highlighted, had been undertaken in some wards via the WTB.

- Communications: With regard Members, following an internal 'lean' review, an online platform was being developed to raise requests through the CPB and WTB – this case management solution would show the progress of current schemes and available budgets, with improved record-keeping and communication.

In terms of communicating the schemes to the public, Members played a role in promoting these via ward surgeries / Councillor newsletters, and SBC had historically included articles in Stockton News to highlight the availability of the budgets and the projects it had delivered. It remained important to emphasise that schemes delivered through the CPB and WTB had often generated visible, localised benefits, and strengthened links between Members and their communities.

- Next Steps: Improved guidance documents in relation to these schemes would be produced and circulated to Members highlighting issues raised within this presentation, including the level of detailed investigation, revised costs to reflect inflation, and available resource. As part of this scrutiny review, a demonstration of the new online case management platform was intended.
- Summary: These budgets allowed Members to make local improvements that complemented SBCs core budget and made a real difference to residents (providing flexibility for smaller-scale issues that were not prioritised elsewhere). However, there were challenges to address around delivery capacity alongside the Council's statutory duties (leading to pressures on timescales), the potential for sustainability and revenue implications, and the future communication and visibility of these schemes (particularly to / for residents).

Thanking officers for the comprehensive information provided, the Committee asked if Members were able to use allocated funds for repairing potholes (an issue which was frequently raised by residents). It was stated that neither the CPB nor WTB was generally used for potholes and that approval of such work would have to meet the necessary intervention levels. In terms of road re-surfacing, officers noted that there was more highway needing attention than the Council had a budget for.

With reference to the pie-charts depicting spend patterns for both the CPB and WTB, the Committee requested graphics which showed funds that had been allocated but not yet spent. Officers agreed to provide these at the next meeting in May 2026, though cautioned that ongoing investigations in relation to a proposal could make it difficult to quantify how much a project may ultimately cost.

Reflecting on the workforce resources that the Council had to support these schemes, Members commented that whilst funding may be available to support viable projects, there was clearly a capacity issue in terms of getting proposals implemented / delivered. In response, officers suggested that, in order to ensure the Council was prioritising the most impactful repairs to the Borough's highway, details on what roads were listed on the maintenance programme could be shared with Members to see if these locations mirrored what residents were raising concerns about.

WARD COUNCILLOR SURVEY

An updated list of proposed Ward Councillor survey questions was tabled which reflected Member comments that were subsequently received following the circulation of the initial draft at the last Committee meeting in March 2026. These were agreed (subject to a minor re-wording for one question) and would be issued to all SBC Elected Members in the near future.

AGREED that the information submitted by the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Community Safety, Environment and Culture directorate be noted, and further information be provided at the next meeting as requested.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair informed the Committee that the final report following the Committee's review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse was presented to Cabinet in mid-April 2026. All recommendations were subsequently endorsed.

WORK PROGRAMME 2026-2027

Consideration was given to the Committee's current work programme. The next meeting was due to take place on 28 May 2026 where the next evidence-gathering session would be held for the Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget review. The draft Action Plan in relation to the recently completed Children affected by Domestic Abuse review would also be presented for approval, and the first update on progress of the agreed actions following the previously completed review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres would be received.

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

Chair:

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Action Plan for Agreed Recommendations – Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse

Summary

Members are asked to consider the proposed Action Plan setting out how the agreed recommendations from the review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse will be implemented and target dates for completion.

Detail

1. The Committee's final report of the review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse (see link below) was considered by Cabinet in April 2026. Cabinet accepted the recommendations contained within.

<https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s21999/Final%20Report%20-%20Scrutiny%20Review%20of%20Children%20affected%20by%20Domestic%20Abuse.pdf>
2. These are now subject to the procedure for monitoring the implementation of agreed recommendations. An Action Plan has been drawn up and is attached at **Appendix 1**. This sets out how the relevant departments will be taking forward the agreed recommendations and includes target dates for completion.
3. Members should consider and agree the Action Plan. The Committee will receive a detailed progress update on the implementation of recommendations approximately 12 months (or sooner if specifically requested) after the Action Plan has been agreed.

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APPENDIX 1

ACTION PLAN: Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse

No.	Recommendation	Proposed Actions / Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date
1	The Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSSCP) undertake a communications campaign (reflecting the 'keeping your child in mind' principle) around the impact of domestic abuse on children.	a) HSSCP's annual comms plan is shared with and supported by comms teams of partners within the Domestic Abuse Steering Group. b) The HSSCP Executive committee will plan a communications campaign.	Communication campaign launched successfully.	Leanne Stockton (HSSCP) / Vanessa Housley (SBC)	31 st March 2027
2	In collaboration with local schools, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) and Harbour introduce a school staff training programme on domestic abuse, its impact on children, and the support services available (including a plan to increase the uptake of domestic abuse training in primary schools).	a) Harbour to promote the Workforce Development offer to schools, in particular primary schools. b) Harbour to seek opportunities to promote courses through Education Improvement / school networks. c) Harbour to collaborate with primary school Heads on tailoring courses to be accessible.	Increase in number of primary schools represented on courses provided by Harbour in 2026/27.	Danielle Chadwick (Harbour)	31 st March 2027
3	Options be explored in order to secure funding for the continuation / enhancement of Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) services within local health settings (hospitals and primary care).	Collaborate with partners to explore options for funding.	Funding for the role at NTHFT is secured for 2026.	Danielle Chadwick (Harbour)	31 st March <u>2026</u>
4	All organisations improve their recording of details (including a child's age) of domestic abuse-related referrals made to the Stockton-on-Tees Children's Hub (CHUB) (<i>note: to be known as the 'Family Help Point' from 1 April 2026</i>) and local support service, Harbour (even	a) Children's referrals sent either via the FHP portal or via the safer referral process must contain full details of the child. b) All partners should ensure their own record keeping includes the child's age.	Audits and data will demonstrate improved recording of child's details.	Louise Hollick (SBC)	31 st March 2027

APPENDIX 1

ACTION PLAN: Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse

No.	Recommendation	Proposed Actions / Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date
	when domestic abuse is only one of several reasons for a referral being submitted).				
5	In terms of domestic abuse-related training: a) SBC introduces a mandatory course for all staff (and Elected Members) which includes content on identifying this form of abuse and how / where to report it. b) Relevant partnerships with oversight of domestic abuse / safeguarding matters encourage organisations represented within these multi-agency arrangements to introduce mandatory courses for all staff, the content of which should reflect a tiered approach based on individual roles / responsibilities. c) The Stockton-on-Tees Domestic Abuse Steering Group (DASG) seek greater assurance around the uptake of such training within individual organisations (including early years providers) and how this is impacting upon practice.	a) SBC: i. Identify the routes for approval of mandatory training for staff and elected members. ii. Make training available on My Development. b) The Domestic Abuse Steering Group will map what training is in place in member organisations. c) The DASG will seek assurance of the reach of the training mapped in (b).	Training is mandatory 80% staff complete training. Training is accessible on My Development. The DASG is assured that training provision and uptake is appropriate in member organisations.	Mandy MacKinnon (SBC)	31 st March 2027

APPENDIX 1

ACTION PLAN: Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse

No.	Recommendation	Proposed Actions / Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date
6	Harbour strengthens the promotion of its existing offer within local primary care services (across all Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and the individual practices themselves).	Harbour seek opportunities to promote courses through Practice manager Networks and through PCN Clinical Leads.	Primary Care is a key target within Harbour's marketing plan.	Danielle Chadwick (Harbour)	31 st March 2027
7	Where appropriate, the Stockton-on-Tees DASG oversee a drive to increase awareness and utilisation of Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs) by frontline professionals across the local 'system' when domestic abuse is identified within a household.	DASG; the Safer Stockton Partnership and the Tees Tackling DA Perpetration Strategic Board seek a common approach to promoting and applying for DAPOs.	Appropriate DAPO applications are received from across the system.	Mandy MacKinnon (SBC)	31 st March 2027
8	SBC provides assurance to key partners and all Elected Members around the changes to its 'front door' to services for children and their families (<i>note: to be known as the 'Family Help Point' from 1 April 2026</i>), including how existing partnership arrangements will be maintained / enhanced.	Briefing on the Family Help Point (FHP) to elected members took place on 24/03/2026. Family Help Point established on 01/04/2026 and multiple briefings and communications have been made to partners. Strategic partners attend the Families First Partnership board where FHP updates are shared.	Elected members and partners are aware of the new arrangements and how to make a referral into FHP.	Louise Hollick (SBC)	1 st April 2026
9	The Stockton-on-Tees DASG seek assurance that key local partners have 'voice of the child' strategies / mechanisms in place and that best practice principles in relation to capturing the child's voice are shared and continually reinforced (particularly	The DASG shares Harbour's good practice with partner organisations. Work with partners to ensure strategies to incorporate the Voice of the Child into working practice are embedded in safeguarding and domestic abuse training.	Strategies to incorporate the Voice of the Child are embedded in safeguarding and domestic abuse training.	Danielle Chadwick (Harbour) / Leanne Stockton (HSSCP)	31 st March 2027

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ACTION PLAN: Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse

No.	Recommendation	Proposed Actions / Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date
	with frontline officers attending households).				
10	The Stockton-on-Tees DASG provide updates on the progress of actions associated with the local Domestic Abuse Strategy, highlighting any areas which are proving challenging and the reasons for this.	An annual summary of progress will be provided.	Annual summary received.	Mandy MacKinnon (SBC)	30 th June 2026
11	Suggested areas of future focus identified by contributors to this review be shared with, and subsequently considered by, the Stockton-on-Tees DASG and the HSSCP.	Area of future focus collated and circulated to DASG and HSSCP leads for consideration.	Areas of focus evident in future plans.	Gary Woods (SBC)	30 th June 2026
12	The findings and recommendations from the recently published thematic joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) report on <i>'the multi-agency response to children who are victims of domestic abuse'</i> be shared with all relevant local organisations.	a) A request will be made in the HSSCP executive meeting to circulate the JTAI report and include links to it on their website. b) Report to be circulated to members of the DASG so partners can circulate to their organisations.	Report is successfully circulated.	Louise Hollick (SBC)	30 th June 2026

Progress Update on Previously Agreed Recommendations – Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

Summary

Members are asked to consider the evidence and assessments of progress contained within the attached Progress Update on the implementation of previously agreed recommendations in relation to the review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres (see <https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s16838/Committee%20Report.pdf>).

Detail

- Following the Cabinet consideration of scrutiny reports, accepted recommendations are then subject to a monitoring process to track their implementation.
- Two main types of report are used. Initially this is by means of Action Plans detailing how services will be taking forward agreed recommendations. This is then followed by a Progress Update report approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan (unless requested earlier). Evidence is submitted by the relevant department together with an assessment of progress against all recommendations. Should members of the Select Committee agree, those recommendations which have reached an assessment of '1' are then signed off as having been completed.
- If any recommendations remain incomplete, or if the Select Committee does not agree with the view on progress, the Select Committee may ask for a further update.
- The assessment of progress for each recommendation should be categorised as follows:

1	Achieved (Fully)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has been fully implemented within the timescale specified.
2	On-Track (but not yet due for completion)	The evidence provided shows that implementation of the recommendation is on-track but the timescale specified has not expired.

3	Slipped	The evidence shows that progress on implementation has slipped. An anticipated date by which the recommendation is expected to become achieved should be advised and the reasons for the delay.
4	Not Achieved	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved. An explanation for non-achievement of the recommendation would be provided.

5. To further strengthen the monitoring process, from August 2020, the Progress Update report will also include references on the evidence of impact for each recommendation.
6. For Progress Update reports following the completion of a review, the relevant Link Officer(s) will be in attendance.
7. **Appendix 1** (Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres) sets out the recommendations for this Committee and is supported by **Appendix 2** (a small selection of examples of media and social media coverage highlighting welcoming town centres). Members are asked to review the update and indicate whether they agree with the assessments of progress.

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PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE	
Review:	Welcoming and Safe Town Centres
Link Officer/s:	Sharon Cooney
Action Plan Agreed:	May 2025

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

Strategy	
Recommendation 1:	Future refreshed versions of relevant Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) long-term strategies (e.g. Stockton-on-Tees Plan, Community Safety Strategy, Inclusive Growth Strategy) identify and reflect the unique nature of each of the Borough's six town centres, and outline how SBC and its partners will maximise a sense of 'welcoming' and 'safe' within these spaces (acknowledging the key findings of this review).
Responsibility:	Service Manager – Public Protection
Date:	June 2026
Agreed Action:	Ensure that strategies which SBC Community Safety input into, have considered the uniqueness of each of the Borough's town centres, under the theme of making the spaces more 'welcoming' and 'safe.' A list of relevant strategies to be compiled.
Agreed Success Measure:	The refreshed versions of each strategy, documents and evidence that the request has been fulfilled.
Evidence of Progress (May 2026):	In relation to compiling a list of relevant strategies which Community Safety are involved in and impact the theme of making Town Centres more 'welcoming and safe' are listed below: • Local Plan (Strategy) (2019 – 2032) • Fairer Stockton-on-Tees (2021-2031) • Stockton-on-Tees Plan (2024) • Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2025-2030) • Community Safety Strategy (2025 – 2027) • Inclusive Growth Strategy (2025 – 2028) • Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Outdoor Play Provision (2025)
Assessment of Progress (May 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 (Fully Achieved)

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PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

Evidence of Impact (May 2026):	The feedback from the scrutiny review has informed the development of the revised Stockton-on-Tees Community Safety Strategy (2025-2027) which was published at the end of 2025. The strategy identifies the creation of welcoming and safe town centre spaces as a key strategic priority. Importantly, the strategy takes a borough-wide approach, recognising all town centres rather than focusing solely on Stockton Town Centre. This reflects an understanding that each town centre has its own distinct characteristics, challenges, and opportunities, which must be considered when shaping specific place-based interventions. Whilst the strategy references all town centres collectively, it also includes specific examples of place-based activity and good practice, such as Operation Shield in Stockton Town Centre. This initiative demonstrates how targeted, multi-agency approaches can improve community safety outcomes in a busy town centre environment, particularly through enhanced visibility, proactive engagement, and coordinated responses to issues such as anti-social behaviour (ASB) and vulnerability. Learnings from this approach are informing how similar principles can be adapted in other town centres, proportionate to their scale and need. This is especially relevant as key components of this work, apply to other town centres – for instance, the PSPO 2026 expansion included Norton Town Centre, and feasibility discussions are ongoing regarding whether the Reducing the Strength campaign should also be rolled out in Norton Town Centre.
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Strategy	
Recommendation 2:	Utilising existing partnerships (including engagement with local business forums / groups), consideration be given over how to maximise the annual events and markets programme to provide further opportunities for increased footfall / exposure to town centre environments.
Responsibility:	Service Manager – Public Protection Assistant Director – Libraries, Culture and Events
Date:	December 2025
Agreed Action:	Identify a Single Point of Contact (SPoC) from multiple relevant SBC departments, including Community Safety, as to positively, regularly, and consistently, engage with existing partnerships such as Stockton BID, Wellington Square, Stockton-on-Tees markets, the Town Centre Stakeholder Forum, the Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP), business forums, and other Town Centre Management Teams, so that consideration is given, in partnership, to harmonising multi-agency efforts to increase footfall to town centres.
Agreed Success Measure:	Clear demonstrable evidence that SBC enthusiastically engages with partners on a range of matters, all relevant to improving footfall into town centres. SPoC to record their own attendance at partnership meetings.

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Evidence of Progress (May 2026):	Town Centre Management Meeting Operation Shield Multi-disciplinary work (Street Drinking)
Assessment of Progress (May 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 (Fully Achieved)
Evidence of Impact (May 2026):	Within Community Safety, Surveillance & Security, and the Civic Enforcement Service, there are both strategic and operational leads who contribute to improving town centre environments and strengthening partnership working. These functions collectively support the delivery of a safer, more welcoming town centre environment, while also helping to maximise the impact of the Council's wider events programme. Single Points of Contact (SPoCs) for the town centres have effectively been identified through existing structures, with the borough divided into designated areas covered by Community Safety Case Management Officers and corresponding Neighbourhood Policing Teams. Using this approach, Community Safety is embedded into Event Planning considerations (eg SIRC, Yarm Fair). Community Safety officers have contributed and led on problem solving projects to address issues in Thornaby Town Centre and Billingham Town Centre, liaising with Police, Housing Providers, Fire Service, Town Centre Regeneration and Public Health. The Community Safety Manager or management team also attend event planning meetings as to maximise the annual events and markets programme to provide further opportunities for increased footfall / exposure to town centre environments. Community Safety and Cleveland Police have regularly attended BID's Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP), but it is currently suspended pending an election. The functions of the BCRP are effectively carried out via Stockton BID leader attending both the Wellington Square Retailers Security Forum, and the Operation Shield monthly group. Community Safety and Cleveland Police also attend the Wellington Square Retailers Security Forum. Community Safety representatives contribute to ensuring that safety, security, and public reassurance considerations are embedded into not just event delivery, but everyday practice. The monthly 'Operation Shield' Days of Action between ordinary days of the week, and scheduled town centre events. This coordinated activity has been designed to increase visibility, provide reassurance to residents, business, and visitors, and positively influence perceptions of the town centre, as a safe and welcoming destination. The current day of action format showcases the everyday work of the community safety partnership (CSP) in Stockton town centre. The format also provides an opportunity to be experimental with crime/ASB problem-solving techniques. For example, staff from the Stockton Recovery Service (including their SpOC for Op. Shield) attend on outreach, and coordinate with Recovery Connections, so that known ASB offenders can be diverted into a support & recovery drop-in service during an event, as to test new methodologies to responding to drug or alcohol related ASB, crime and disorder. Crucially, these diverted people do not have to be registered with the recovery service to access the support and drop-in.

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	In addition to event-focused engagement, Community Safety officers maintain a regular presence within a range of partnership forums and operational meetings. This includes ongoing collaboration with Cleveland Police, Stockton BID, and Wellington Square, alongside attendance at other relevant business and stakeholder groups.
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Strategy	
Recommendation 3:	As far as possible, SBC ensures the ongoing and future development of the Borough's town centres maximises accessibility, with appropriate amenities (e.g. seating / toilets) to support the experience of those using these spaces, and the promotion of existing public transport options into these areas.
Responsibility:	Assistant Director – Town Centres Development
Date:	December 2025
Agreed Action:	SBC Community Safety & local police are consulted to ensure amenities are accessible, promote inclusion, and are safe and welcoming, and can be resourced if issues arise. SBC to ensure that all future developments are properly consulted at the earliest possible opportunity, with a focus on crime prevention and 'designing out crime'.
Agreed Success Measure:	Decrease of negative reported issues at facilities, with regards to accessibility, crime, and ASB.
Evidence of Progress (May 2026):	There is increased emphasis on recognising the differing needs of the Borough's town centres. This includes considering factors such as footfall, the night-time economy, transport links, and local patterns of behaviour when shaping responses. As a result, Community Safety involvement has moved beyond a one-size-fits-all approach towards more tailored, evidence-led interventions that reflect the uniqueness of each location. Strong links between Community Safety are in place with the Council's Regeneration and Inclusive Growth service, and Town Centre Management functions. Community Safety representatives contribute to strategic discussions and projects, including the Stockton Town Centre Regulatory Meetings, Urban Park planning sessions, Stockton Central and Stockton West Community Partnership meetings, with occasional attendance at business forums in Norton and Yarm. This ensures that safety considerations are considered alongside economic growth, and that new and improved public spaces are designed to feel accessible, inclusive, and safe for a wide range of users. This work reflects the Inclusive Growth Strategy (2025-2028), which is clear on implementing long term methods that "encourage both sustained economic growth across the Borough" (p. III, 2025).ensures that the design, layout, and intended use of spaces is considered to encourage natural surveillance, community cohesion, and crime prevention measures, reflecting both the aims & themes of the Community Safety strategy prioritising public safety in planning developments, expressed in the Council's Local Plan (Strategy) (2019 – 2032), which sets out the "Council's policies and proposals to guide planning decisions" (p. 3, 2019).

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PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

	The Norton High Street redevelopment included the installation of additional seating, complementing existing accessible facilities such as disability-accessible toilets located off the High Street. Similarly, the Stockton Waterfront redevelopment has been designed with accessibility in mind, incorporating ample seating throughout the urban park, including a large amphitheatre. A new toilet block has also been built, featuring accessible facilities. There are also disabled and changing room facilities in The Shambles. Public transport accessibility remains a key consideration. Stockton High Street is well-served by multiple bus stops, including those located along the southern end of the High Street, providing convenient access right outside the regen areas at the park and the new diagnostics centre. In addition, a taxi rank is available to support onward travel options – the rank is close to some nearby pubs and clubs, meaning those with disabilities don't have to travel far from a venue to a taxi. The regeneration plans are fully DDA compliant (Disability Discrimination Act 1995), and disability groups had been involved in the processes. Further opportunities to enhance accessibility and amenities will be considered through the forthcoming regeneration of Billingham and Yarm town centres.
Assessment of Progress (May 2026): (include explanation if required)	2 (On-Track)
Evidence of Impact (May 2026):	The last HMO in the Borough to be approved for development at a planning stage was in January 2022. There have been 7 HMO applications refused by planning since 2022. Community Safety worked alongside colleagues in Planning, providing evidence to support refusals of HMOs in areas where they would impact community cohesion and ASB/Crime concerns. Strengthened partnerships and participation in business and retail forums. Consideration of public safety embedded into planning and development.

Communications / Marketing		
Recommendation 4:	There should be a specific 'town centres' element to the SBC Communications Strategy which reflects greater and more consistent use of communication platforms (online and print media) to proactively market the Borough's town centres (including periodic marketing campaigns) and promote positive developments, ensuring this reflects all six town centre spaces (not just Stockton).	
Responsibility:	Head of Communications	
Date:	December 2025	
Agreed Action:	SBC Community Safety regularly provide SBC Communications with ongoing activity updates, with a specific town centre element.	SBC Community Safety liaise with SBC Communications to ensure a specific town centre element is added to the current strategy.
Agreed Success Measure:	Visible evidence of SBC Communications teams promoting all the Borough's town centres and the	SBC Communications strategy reflects an element of promotion to all town centre spaces.

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PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

	work of SBC and partners to improve town centre environments.	
Evidence of Progress (May 2026):	There is a specific 'town centres' element within the Regeneration and Inclusive Growth and Regulatory Services annual Communications Plans which make consistent use of a host of communication platforms and engages external media stakeholders to proactively market the Borough's six town centres and promote positive developments, including community safety. Example campaigns includes: Stockton Waterfront urban park, Thornaby regeneration schemes, Norton High Street improvements, Yarm improvements, Operational Shield, Public Spaces Protection Orders, Reducing the Strength, events held in the town centre such as S&DR and SIRF, Markets promotion, court cases and closure orders where there has been positive action around ASB and criminality. We are in constant touch with SBC Community Safety officers to work proactively and collaboratively with ongoing promotional activity with a specific town centre element such the launch of Public Spaces Protection Order in Stockton Town Centre and Norton. We work proactively and closely with partner agencies such as the Police, Police and Crime Commissioner, NHS as well as Wellington Square and town centre operators. We have a separate communications plan for the opening of the urban park which includes all these elements including how the park and wider town centre will be a safe and welcoming place for people to spend time in.	Community Safety and Regulatory Services provide weekly updates to a SPOC within Communications Team. This update includes all relevant achievements and plans relevant to our six Town Centres, as well as Operation Shield updates.
Assessment of Progress (May 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 (Fully Achieved)	

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Evidence of Impact (May 2026):	See Appendix 2 .
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Communications / Marketing	
Recommendation 5:	SBC engages with the Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF) initiative to establish effective ways in which to publicise / promote the Borough's town centre offers to young people.
Responsibility:	Service Manager – Public Protection Head of Communications
Date:	December 2025
Agreed Action:	SBC Community Safety to liaise with SBC Community Engagement teams to promote the BMBF initiative across SBC departments and relevant partners of town centre environments, to improve insight. SBC Community Safety officers, and where appropriate, uniformed staff, to engage with BMBF about ways to improve engagement with young people, with emphasis on changes to online media communications. SBC Communications engage with BMBF to explore publicity opportunities.
Agreed Success Measure:	Clear demonstrable evidence of SBC engaging with BMBF, and of BMBF insights impacting on how SBC engages with young people.
Evidence of Progress (May 2026):	BMBF were consulted as part of the development of the Community Safety Plan (2025 – 2027), providing an opportunity for young people's perspectives and experiences to help shape priorities and approaches. This reflects a commitment to ensuring that the voice of young people is considered within strategic planning. In addition to this, BMBF has engaged directly with Community Safety teams through attendance and participation at a number of community events during the previous summer period, including the Hardwick Family Day and Bowesfield Family Fun Day. They have also participated in a young people's 'Takeover Day,' working within Community Safety and Regulatory Services, gaining insights into how services are delivered and how their input has influenced daily business. While this demonstrates positive initial engagement, there is recognition that this work should continue, developing the relationship further and embed BMBF insights more consistently into Community Safety service delivery and decision-making. Opportunities exist to build on this foundation through more structured engagement, regular collaboration, and clearer mechanisms for incorporating feedback from BMBF into how SBC designs and delivers services for young people.
Assessment of Progress (May 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 (Fully Achieved)

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PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

Evidence of Impact (May 2026):	Community Safety Strategy 2025-2027 Takeover Day 2026
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Data / Evaluation	
Recommendation 6:	SBC provides the Committee with an evaluation of the 2023 implementation of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) in Stockton and Norton town centres, including details of how this was / is resourced, and whether such an approach may be suitable for other town centre spaces within the Borough.
Responsibility:	Service Manager – Public Protection
Date:	September 2025
Agreed Action:	SBC Community Safety provide a report reviewing the Public Spaces Protection Order. From the current PSPO evaluation, SBC Community Safety to consider implementing further orders in the remaining town centres, where there is an appropriate demand.
Agreed Success Measure:	That the Committee receives and acknowledges the report. That the Committee assesses any recommendations.
Evidence of Progress (May 2026):	In April 2023, Stockton Borough Council introduced Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in Stockton and Norton Town Centres. These were implemented following public and business consultations to address persistent issues of street drinking and aggressive begging. PSPOs, under the Crime and Policing Act 2014, empower local authorities to restrict specific behaviours within designated public areas. The Council adopted a three-tier enforcement approach: 1. PSPO Instruction 2. PSPO Warning 3. Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) Each stage included signposting individuals to relevant support services. In January 2024, a further verbal warning stage was introduced, following legal advice, to enhance flexibility in enforcement. Impact Dedicated Enforcement Officers were deployed in both town centres, with coverage daily and enhanced on market days and for events. While police officers currently did not exercise PSPO powers at that time, they were involved in joint patrols. The Council's enforcement presence had an immediate and visible impact. Key Outcomes There was an immediate 52% reduction in reported begging incidents in Stockton Town Centre (2023–2024). Initial deterrence was effective, largely due

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PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

	to warnings and the threat of legal action. Reports of street drinking, and importantly, action taken to address them, increased. However, over time, the deterrent effect diminished. Contributing factors included: • Reduced impact of repeated warnings. • Predictability of patrol schedules. • Ineffectiveness of fines for individuals with limited means. • Delays in court proceedings. • Insufficient consequences for breaches. • Limited access to appropriate recovery and/or harm reduction services. Additionally, public perception suggests a lack of visible enforcement and confusion about alcohol consumption rules in public spaces. Consultation took place with the public at the end of 2025 and feedback incorporated into the revised PSPO.
Assessment of Progress (May 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 (Fully Achieved)
Evidence of Impact (May 2026):	New PSPOs for Norton and Stockton were developed following significant research with key partners, other local authorities and public consultation. It went live April 2026. Stockton Town Centre PSPO conditions: • street drinking; an authorised person may ask you to cease consuming alcohol in a public place and to surrender the container • no begging • no anti-social loitering • no anti-social use of vehicles • no urinating or defecating • no overnight stays or camping without prior authorisation • no dog fouling • keep dogs on leads, except Trinity Gardens • you must provide personal details to authorised persons • you must disperse if ordered to do so by an authorised person Norton PSPO conditions: • street drinking; an authorised person may ask you to cease consuming alcohol in a public place and to surrender the container • no begging • no anti-social loitering • no anti-social use of vehicles • you must provide personal details to authorised persons • you must disperse if ordered to do so by an authorised person The Public Spaces Protection Orders give the Council's Community Safety team and the police greater powers to tackle these problems. Breaching a PSPO is a criminal offence carrying a maximum penalty of £1,000 upon prosecution.

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PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

Data / Evaluation	
Recommendation 7:	Within 12 months, SBC provides the Committee with an assessment of how the 2025 implementation of new / increased parking charges in Stockton and Yarm had impacted access (footfall / dwell time) to these town centre spaces, clearly demonstrating views from / experiences of local businesses.
Responsibility:	Assistant Director – Community Services and Transport
Date:	June 2026
Agreed Action:	SBC Community Safety to provide data comparisons on parking tissues issued before and after the parking charges changed in the town centres. SBC Parking Services to provide a summary report of the impact from their perspective (footfall statistics obtained).
Agreed Success Measure:	That the Committee receives and acknowledges the report. That the Committee assesses any recommendations.
Evidence of Progress (May 2026):	A review has taken place and was used to inform part of the decision making in respect of the parking policies.
Assessment of Progress (May 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 (Fully Achieved)
Evidence of Impact (May 2026):	The free first hour has been reinstated as a result.

Data / Evaluation	
Recommendation 8:	The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Cleveland provides the Committee with the outcomes of its evaluation of the recent anti-social behaviour (ASB) hot-spot patrols in Billingham, Stockton and Thornaby.
Responsibility:	OPCC Service Manager – Public Protection
Date:	December 2025
Agreed Action:	SBC Community Safety to contact OPCC to produce a summary report and evaluation of the 2024/2025 financial year, ASB hot-spot programme, which will then be presented to the Committee.
Agreed Success Measure:	That the Committee receives and acknowledges the report. That the Committee assesses any recommendations.
Evidence of Progress (May 2026):	A report has been received from the OPCC. There are mixed results concerning Crime and ASB, suggesting that areas with higher levels of serious violence are more resistant in responding to efforts to lower ASB. (The below tables illustrate patrol hours Cleveland wide, not just Stockton)

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

Local Authority patrol summary for quarter Jan 25– Mar 25



Number of patrols and patrol hours

Month	Total Hotspot Patrols	Total number of patrol hours	Target number of patrol hours	Percentage compliance
January	637	847:56:00	855:00:00	99%
February	533	718:01:00	855:00:00	84%
March	612	819:40:00	855:00:00	96%
Grand Total	1782	2385:37:00		

Enforcement Activity

Enforcement actions		
Actions	Number	%
ASB Letter	0	0%
ABC signed	0	0%
PSPO actions	0	0%
FPN	44	21%
Section 46 warning	166	79%
CPN/CPW	0	0%
Total	210	

Community Engagement Other activity

Month	Engagement with residents	Engagement with businesses
January	49	37
February	34	2
March	28	16
Grand Total	111	55

Activities		
Activity	Number	%
Information shared	14	8%
Fly tipping	70	41%
Begging	3	2%
ASB - General	34	20%
Neighbourhood disputes	0	0%
Stray dogs	5	3%
Vehicle ASB	34	20%
Noise Nuisance	6	4%
CCTV request	5	3%
Total	171	

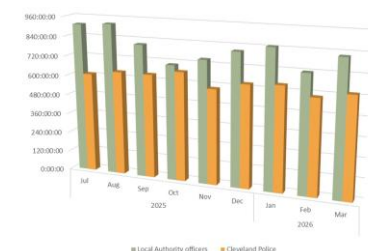
SAFE STRONG & CONFIDENT COMMUNITIES

Project Salus- overall summary from July 2025 March 2026 Patrol hours total



Local authority and Police patrols

Year / Month	Local Authority officers	Cleveland Police	Grand Total
2025	4909:18:02	3758:54:06	8668:12:08
Jul	911:45:02	610:15:50	1522:00:52
Aug	922:48:00	636:51:43	1559:39:43
Sep	811:37:00	636:02:02	1447:39:02
Oct	703:47:00	667:23:03	1371:10:03
Nov	749:37:00	582:08:58	1331:45:58
Dec	809:44:00	626:12:30	1435:56:30
2026	2385:37:00	1837:22:22	4222:59:22
Jan	847:56:00	636:59:52	1484:55:52
Feb	718:01:00	583:12:04	1301:13:04
Mar	819:40:00	617:10:26	1436:50:26
Grand Total	7294:55:02	5596:16:28	12891:11:30



SAFE STRONG & CONFIDENT COMMUNITIES

Assessment of Progress
(May 2026):
(include explanation if required)

1 (Fully Achieved)

Evidence of Impact
(May 2026):

Norton saw a 2.63% reduction in ASB, Ropner a 34.21% reduction, Billingham a 10.17%. However, Stockton Town Centre saw a 5.88% increase in ASB (July 2025-March 2026).

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

Data / Evaluation	
Recommendation 9:	Cleveland Police ensures incidents reported to them by the business community are captured and reflected within its own crime / ASB recording systems.
Responsibility:	Stockton District Commander Service Manager Public Protection
Date:	December 2025
Agreed Action:	SBC Community Safety cascades request to Stockton Police Chief Inspector for Neighbourhoods. Cleveland Police provide a suitable update once a process is in place.
Agreed Success Measure:	That the information captured is shared with relevant partners, the community safety partnership, and via Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP).
Evidence of Progress (May 2026):	There are mechanisms in place to ensure that relevant information is routinely shared with partners, the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), and business networks. A force-wide governance structure is in place for retail and business crime, led strategically by Superintendent O'Donoghue and tactically by Chief Inspector Bell, both of the Stockton district. The recently completed strategic retail crime plan, supported by a 4P delivery plan (Prevent, Pursue, Protect, Prepare), establishes a consistent framework for engagement, information sharing, and coordinated activity across partners. As part of this delivery, a monthly tactical retail crime meeting will be introduced. This will include an open session, where regional business representatives, security leads, and partner agencies are invited to attend. This forum will enable the regular sharing of crime trends, offender information, and prevention tactics, while also facilitating a two-way dialogue to support joint problem solving between business and the police. This approach ensures that, while the BCRP is currently suspended pending the BIDs re-election later this year, its intended function – information sharing, improved cross accountability, and collaboration with businesses and partners – is maintained and strengthened. CSP partners will also be included within this engagement structure. Indeed, police remain in contact with town centre businesses through attendance at the Op. Shield strategy meetings and the Wellington Sq. Retail Security Forums. Information sharing is further supported through analytic products, with weekly briefings provided to the District Senior Leadership Team, highlighting the top five offenders and top five offence locations. These insights are used operationally by Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs), and shared with relevant partners where appropriate, to support targeted interventions and problem-solving activity at repeat locations. A problem-solving plan (PSP) can be made if the same offender or location is seen in this top 5 repeatedly. In addition, a live Power BI dashboard provides up-to-date data on shoplifting hotspots, enabling police to maintain situational awareness and respond proactively. The live Power-BI is particularly useful for local PCSO and PCs to track emerging issues on their patch.

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

	Operationally, the Primary Crime Investigation Unit (PCIU) enhances the quality and timeliness of information shared with businesses by producing retail crime packs for priority locations. These include prepared evidential materials like statements and footage, which streamline investigations and improve engagement with affected businesses. The PCIU's shoplifting work is being trialled in Stockton. The work of the PCIU means frontline NPT staff spend less time doing paperwork, as when they are given the crime report, the investigation is already complete, and all they have to do is arrest and produce a file build. Further partnership-focused initiatives include: • Work with retailers to develop Business Impact Statements, ensuring the impact of offending, both financial and emotional, is clearly communicated to the courts. • Engagement with businesses to strengthen in-store prevention measures, including shop floor designs and additional security presence. • Support for Shopwatch schemes (e.g. Thornaby), which facilitate real-time information sharing between businesses via radio networks. NPT officers in the location of the scheme are asked to carry the radios too. • Ongoing exploration of innovative approaches in collaboration with retailers is ongoing too, with emphasis on looking at DNA marking of repeat stolen good types, and of the Northumbria Police straight summons initiative, which cuts time between an offence, and the offender being convicted. Collectively, these measures demonstrate a structured and improving approach to ensuring that relevant information is consistently shared with partners, the CSP, and business communities, including through BCRP-equivalent arrangements, to support a coordinated response to retail crime. A strong partnership with the OPCC secured additional funding for Shopwatch and Pubwatch radios, and recently the provision was extended to Thornaby.
Assessment of Progress (May 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 (Fully Achieved)
Evidence of Impact (May 2026):	In the preceding 6 months from December 2025, there was a 17.8% drop in shop thefts in Stockton Town Centre.

Town Centre Presence	
Recommendation 10:	Cleveland Police and SBC consider further ways in which greater police / enforcement visibility can be achieved within the Borough's town centres, particularly around identified hot-spot areas for crime / ASB / congregations of groups of individuals with addiction issues, as well as anticipated new developments (e.g. new Stockton waterfront).
Responsibility:	Stockton District Commander Service Manager – Public Protection
Date:	December 2025

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

Agreed Action:	Efforts to be made between SBC & Cleveland Police to increase resources directed at improving safety and the perceptions of safety in town centres. This will include efforts to source external funding to assist in increasing town centre resourcing. Utilising data analysis to direct resources and track the trend of perception.
Agreed Success Measure:	An increase in the level of visible resources within town centre environments. Clear evidence of multi-agency improvements being made to better resource town centre environments.
Evidence of Progress (May 2026):	There is clear evidence of ongoing and planned increases in visible resourcing within town centre environments, supported through both policing and Council-led activity. Through the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, Cleveland Police are undertaking a Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) uplift programme, which has already resulted in increased officer numbers dedicated to local policing. As part of this uplift, additional and accountable resources (PCs and PCSOs) will be allocated to each ward – including wards with town centres in. This increased capacity is intended to enhance visible policing presence, strengthen community engagement, and improve the ability to respond proactively to local concerns. Complementing this, the Council seeks to work with Cleveland Police and conduct as many joint patrols as necessary. Joint patrols pool resources and increase a visibly uniformed presence – this is especially useful when two organisations have limited resources but want to work together to improve capacity. Of note, given the increased demand in Stockton Town Centre, and the regeneration project at the waterfront, the Council has committed to not only maintaining daily foot patrols within Stockton Town Centre, but increasing the team by an extra two in the of Summer 2026. These patrols will contribute to a consistent and visible uniformed presence, providing reassurance to residents, visitors, and businesses, whilst also supporting early intervention and problem-solving. In addition, multi-agency collaboration is continuing to develop through coordinated activity between Council services, Cleveland Police, and key town centre partners. Initiatives such as aligned operational deployments under Op. Shield, joint patrols, days of action, and shared intelligence networks, contribute to a more cohesive and visible approach to managing the town centre environment. Collectively, these measures demonstrate tangible improvements in the level and coordination of visible resources. By aligning policing uplift with Council-led activity and partnership working, plus adding two more enforcement officers to Stockton Town Centre foot patrol duties, there is a stronger, more unified place-based presence in wards across the Borough, which inevitably improves the uniformed presence in town centres.

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

Assessment of Progress (May 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 (Fully Achieved)
Evidence of Impact (May 2026):	Enhanced visibility in the Town Centre since launch of PSPO in April. This will be evaluated over the coming months.

Town Centre Presence	
Recommendation 11:	Where appropriate, consideration be given to the introduction of multi-agency, co-located hubs within town centre spaces to provide sanctuary, support and signposting for those with addiction needs.
Responsibility:	Assistant Director – Regulated Services & Transformation
Date:	December 2025
Agreed Action:	Demonstrate research has been conducted with service users, service providers, other local authorities and other relevant external partners, in an effort to identify best practice methods of combatting addiction related ASB, whilst improving service engagement with persons suffering from addiction needs.
Agreed Success Measure:	Evidence that research has been conducted into best practice methods to improve engagement of those with addiction needs.
Evidence of Progress (May 2026):	Evidence demonstrates that work is actively underway to explore and apply best practice approaches to improving engagement with individuals experiencing addiction-related needs within the town centre. This is being progressed through the Council's Early Intervention and Prevention Programme (EIP), specifically within the <i>Complex Lives</i> workstream. A focused corporate project with AD/Director oversight, titled <i>Interventions on Street Drinking (Stockton Town Centre)</i>, is currently in late-stage development, and is intended to identify effective, evidence-based approaches to supporting individuals with complex needs, including substance misuse. As part of this process, an options appraisal was conducted with several options listed. The development of this workstream has been a real collaborative effort between SBC Community Safety and SBC Public Health. It drew on existing research, professional expertise, bespoke engagement work with service users, and emerging best practice from comparable local authority areas, as to ensure that any proposed interventions are both effective and sustainable. Local insight has been gathered to inform the development of appropriate interventions. This has included informal engagement activity and surveys with service users, enabling the programme to reflect lived experience and better understand barriers to engagement. These insights are critical in shaping approaches that are person-centred, trauma-informed, and responsive to the specific needs of individuals within Stockton Town Centre. This combined approach, bringing together research, partnership expertise, and direct engagement with service users, provides a strong evidence base to inform future delivery. It will ensure that interventions are not only aligned with

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

	recognised best practice, but are also tailored to local need, ultimately supporting improved engagement outcomes and contributing to a safer and more supportive town centre environment. The options were taken to CMT who decided that the project pursue a multi-disciplinary team of professionals, both clinical and lived experience, from statutory bodies and VCSE organisations, as to improve and encourage access to support & recovery for those suffering from alcohol and drugs addiction.
Assessment of Progress (May 2026): (include explanation if required)	2 (On-Track)
Evidence of Impact (May 2026):	The MDT was only established very recently, so no comprehensive review of its impact has taken place yet.

Town Centre Presence	
Recommendation 12:	SBC and its relevant partners formulate an agreed plan for managing and supporting highly visible street drinkers / drug-users (who may or may not be ready for recovery).
Responsibility:	Service Manager – Public Protection
Date:	December 2025
Agreed Action:	Demonstrate that SBC and partners have strategic and operational awareness of community concerns about street drinking, and have strategic vision on how to manage the situation safely long-term.
Agreed Success Measure:	Clear & demonstrable evidence that SBC and relevant partners are working to manage community concerns over street drinking and drug use in town centres. Evidence that there is a strategic structure to improve safety and the perception of safety.
Evidence of Progress (May 2026):	There is clear and demonstrable evidence that the Council, alongside relevant partners, is actively working to address community concerns relating to street drinking and drug use within town centre environments, supported by an emerging strategic and coordinated approach. This work is being progressed through Operation Shield, the Council's multi-agency community safety initiative in Stockton Town Centre, as well as through the Council's Early Intervention and Prevention Programme (EIP), specifically within the Complex Lives workstream. The options were taken to CMT who decided that the project pursue a multi-disciplinary team of professionals, both clinical and lived experience, from statutory bodies and VCSE organisations, as to improve and encourage access to support & recovery for those suffering from alcohol and drugs addiction. A particularly strong example of how the Council is responding to public concern, is the renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) in April 2026. A comprehensive public consultation was undertaken between December 2025 and January 2026, which invited residents, businesses, and stakeholders,

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PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

	to share their views on town centre safety, perceptions of safety, and specific anti-social behaviours impacting the community, including street drinking. The consultation generated a significant level of engagement compared to other Council surveys, demonstrating the importance of this issue to the public. The findings highlighted overwhelming support for the strengthening and expansion of PSPOs in both Stockton and Norton. In response, updated PSPOs were introduced in April 2026, reflecting the concerns and feedback received through the consultation process. This approach clearly demonstrates that the Council is actively listening to community concerns, providing formal opportunities for public input, and taking decisive action in response. The strengthened PSPOs form part of a broader strategic framework to address ASB, enhance safety, and improve the perception of safety across the Borough's town centres.
Assessment of Progress (May 2026): (include explanation if required)	2 (On-Track)
Evidence of Impact (May 2026):	The MDT and new PSPO were only established very recently, so no comprehensive review of either of initiatives' impact has taken place yet.

Assessment of Progress Gradings:	1 Fully Achieved	2 On-Track	3 Slipped	4 Not Achieved
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A small selection of examples of media and social media coverage highlighting welcoming town centres

My Council E-Newsletter examples – including town centre events, community safety updates and regeneration updates.

E-Newsletter subscription is currently 44,000.



Get festive with Stockton Sparkles

Start your Christmas celebrations with the Stockton Sparkles Launch on Thursday 27 November. From 5pm, Stockton High Street will come alive with festive fun, live music and the dazzling light switch-on. The celebrations continue with a Weekend with Santa on 29–30 November, the Christmas Market and free Victorian Fair from 5–7 December, and the magical Lantern Parade on Sunday 7 December at 4pm. For more information visit **Stockton Sparkles**.



Summer Family Fun Day: Here to Help event

Join us for a free family fun day on Saturday 19 July from 10am to 2pm on Stockton High Street. The event is organised by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees and Community Engagement teams and is themed around arts and crafts, with loads of creative activities for all the family to enjoy. There will also be a range of support and guidance available. Visit our [Here to Help page](#) for more information.



Remembrance Sunday across Stockton-on-Tees

Services of Remembrance will take place around the Borough on Sunday 9 November to honour those who gave their lives during both World Wars and more recent conflicts. Residents are invited to pay their respects at services being held in communities around the area.

A full list of services including times and locations can be found on the [Tees Valley What's On website](#).





Combatting anti-social behaviour

A multi-agency operation to combat anti-social behaviour and offending in Stockton Town Centre has started. Operation Shield, will see officers from the Council's Civic Enforcement Team, Licensing Team, CCTV and Public Health Team, Cleveland Police, Wellington Square, Stockton BID, local recovery support agencies and other partners join forces to combat substance misuse related offending and improve perception of safety in the town centre. Find out more about community safety on the Council's website.

Stockton Waterfront Urban Park

New images show the progress of the construction of Stockton Waterfront urban park as it nears completion. Paving and street furniture are now in place at Finkle Square, and the three play areas are now complete. Work continues around the Oval Lawn and amphitheatre, alongside new road and traffic signal installations on the new carriageway of A1305 Riverside Road. Stockton Waterfront urban park will welcome its first visitors across the weekend of 20 and 21 June. Learn more about **Stockton Waterfront online**.





Stockton Urban Waterfront Park

Construction continues across **Stockton Urban Waterfront Park**, due to be completed later in the Spring. The upper park's large play area is progressing well, including two striking timber towers over ten metres tall. Finkle Gardens is developing into a peaceful space with river views, while the new amphitheatre and accessible viewing platform is near completion. An 18-metre Platanus Orientalis 'Minaret' tree has been planted by the Oval Lawn and the Millennium Footbridge has been reconnected to the town centre once again.



Work continues at Urban Park

New images show exciting progress at the **Stockton Waterfront development**, with tree planting and new facilities taking shape in Finkle Square and Finkle Gardens. Work continues on the riverside amphitheatre, while paving on the Oval Lawn is now complete. The Riverside Road footbridge has reopened, reconnecting Silver Street to the riverside. Over the next month, more changes will unfold with additional paving and landscaping and new shelters being installed.



Urban Park on track for Spring 2026

Two years on from the first spade in the ground on the **Stockton Waterfront development**, significant progress has been made on the site, ahead of its completion in the Spring. The transformational urban park will create an iconic, new public space that residents and visitors will be able to enjoy, as part of Council plans to transform the town centre. It will include features such as exciting new play areas for families, flexible spaces for hosting a range of events and food and street trading opportunities.



Construction starts on iconic play area

A new play attraction with two huge timber towers, each standing over ten metres tall, is being installed in Stockton Waterfront urban park. The towers form part of a large play area with a wide range of equipment and features, all influenced by the previous industrial heritage of the site. This is one of three play spaces in the new urban park, along with 'play-on-the-way' features and an exhilarating six-metre slide from the amphitheatre to the riverside that will take children and families on a journey of discovery. Read more [on the Council's website](#).



Work begins on new leisure centre

Work is underway on a new £14 million, **state-of-the-art leisure facility** in Thornaby Town Centre, as part of the £23.9 million Thornaby Town Deal. The development will include a five-lane pool, gym, sauna and changing rooms. It will also feature a new entrance, extra parking and improved public spaces, connecting to the existing Thornaby Pavilion. Operated by Tees Active, the pool will offer more learn-to-swim opportunities and school swimming partnerships. The facility is due to open in summer 2027.

Stockton Waterfront campaign

Examples of media coverage generated:

[Stockton-on-Tees urban park scheme enters final stage - BBC News](#)

[Historic illustrations and sculptures among heritage features in Stockton Waterfront Urban Park | Teesside Live](#)

[Stockton Waterfront urban park opening dates confirmed as project in 'final stages of construction' | Teesside Live](#)

Example of a social media post on this campaign:

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Published by Jen Tomlin · 20 March ·

...

📍🔧 On the ground at Stockton Waterfront! 📸

👁️ Here's a sneak peek at some of the impressive spaces being created at Stockton Waterfront urban park.

This includes:

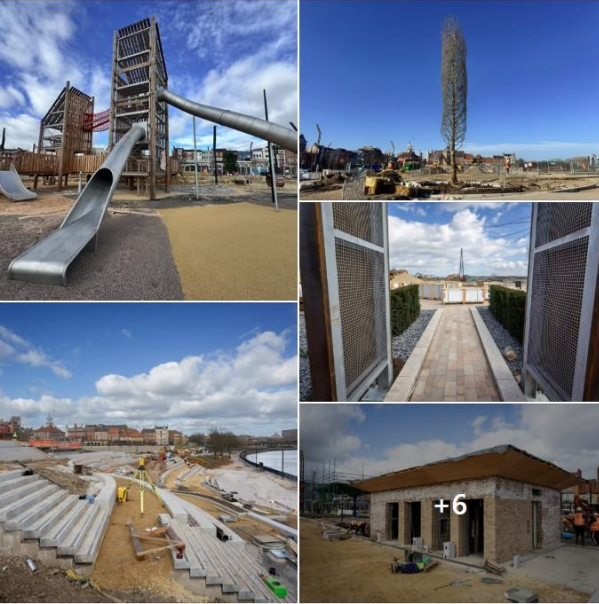
- 🔵 The large play area on the upper park, with two timber towers, each standing over ten metres tall.
- 🔵 The Finkle Gardens area, set to be a more intimate setting, with a quiet garden space and views of the river.
- 🔵 The creation of a large amphitheatre and accessible viewing platform which is nearing completion.
- 🔵 The planting of a large 18 metre feature tree, a Platanus Orientalis 'Minaret', near to the Oval Lawn area.
- 🔵 The construction toilet block shell, which will also include a changing places facility.

🌳🌳🌳 From events spaces and three exciting new play areas to trees and gardens, we're so excited to see how the site is changing each week.

📅 The urban park is on track to open later in the spring and is the next step in Stockton High Street's transformation.

📄 Find out more about Stockton Waterfront: www.stockton.gov.uk/stockton/urban-park

Stockton BID | Tees Valley Combined Authority | Ryder Architecture | Timberplay Ltd See less



👤 North East Family Adventures, Timberplay Ltd and 480 others

339 comments 46 shares

Views ⓘ

140,032

54.2%

Non-followers

45.8%

Followers

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Thornaby regeneration campaign:

Examples of media coverage generated:

'Eyesore' Thornaby hotel brought under council control - BBC News

Regeneration plans to take step forward with 'huge opportunity for expansion' | Teesside Live

Clearing the way for Thornaby's regeneration | Bdaily

Example of social media posts on this campaign:



Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Published by Jen Tomlin

30 March

New images show the progress of the construction of a new leisure facility in Thornaby Town Centre.

The two-storey leisure centre will include a five-lane swimming pool, gym, sauna and changing rooms.

Following work beginning on site in February, Groundworks have been taking place, including pouring the steel-reinforced concrete for the floor installation.

This work is taking place ahead of the construction of the steel structure of the building, set to begin in late May.

The building will connect into the existing Thornaby Pavilion, and feature a new entrance and car park, with an extra 46 car parking spaces.

This project is part of the £23.9million Thornaby Town Deal, set to bring long-term change and investment to Thornaby.

Find out more: www.stockton.gov.uk/thornaby

Galliford Try See less

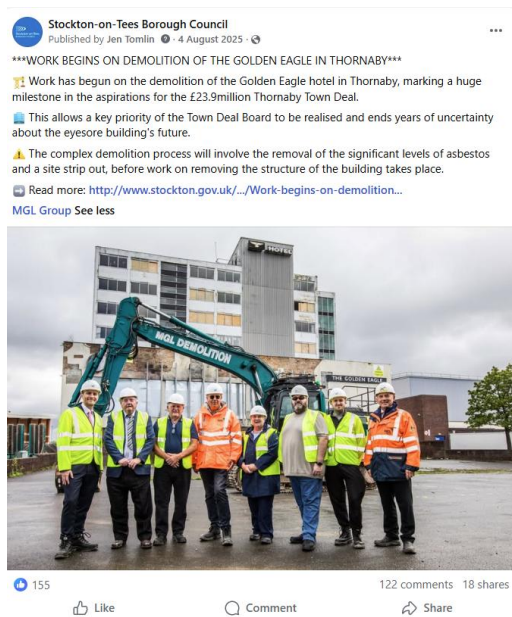




North East Family Adventures and 109 others

43 comments 18 shares

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Operation Shield and 'Reducing the Strength' licensing scheme

Examples of media coverage generated:

Six months of Operation Shield: A focus on Stockton's town centre | Cleveland Police

Stockton scheme tackles alcohol-related anti-social behaviour - BBC News

Examples of social media post for this campaign:



Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Published by Jen Tomlin · 24 June 2025 ·

Officers from Cleveland Police and the Council's Civic Enforcement Team were on hand in Stockton on Saturday to support and show appreciation for the contribution of veterans, cadets and all those who serve their country.

They were patrolling as part of Operation Shield to ensure everyone could enjoy the weather and all of the activities the event had to offer.

It was a fantastic day in the town, with residents, businesses and visitors enjoying the event and outdoor market, with only one complaint received about anti-social behaviour throughout the entire day.

Officers from the Licensing Team visited premises in the town centre with Change Grow Live to advise on the sale of high strength alcohol products.

On Friday, a multi-agency taskforce also took part in an early morning outreach programme in the town centre. Staff from the Council's Adult Social Care team, the Homeless Team and Community Safety joined staff from Change Grow Live and The Moses Project, to visit and offer help to those who may be in need of support.

Operation Shield sees officers from the Council, [Cleveland Police Wellington Square Stockton BID](#) local recovery support agencies and other partners join forces to combat substance misuse related offending and perceptions of safety. [See less](#)



Operation Shield Update







Stockton BID and 33 others

10 comments

8 shares

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Published by Laura Kelsey · 18 June 2025 ·

...

👉

It's been a busy day in Stockton High Street today with lots of you making the most of the sunshine.

👉👉

You may have spotted [BBC Tees](#) on site, who were down speaking to the young market traders and regular market traders, finding out about the Borough's popular traditional markets and helping spread the word about becoming a trader of the future.

👉

At lunch time talented students from The Northern School of Art's MA Directing & Theatre-Making courses were performing near the fountain giving a preview of A Bunch of Plays - a celebration of new work coming to ARC next week.

This festival of theatre marks the culmination of the students' creativity, passion, and dedication over the past academic year. Audiences will be able to enjoy seven original plays across four nights. Find out more: <https://arconline.co.uk/whats-on/?showcats=theatre>

👉

As part of 'Operation Shield', our Civic Enforcement team were also out on patrols alongside Cleveland Police to ensure everyone can enjoy the town centre safely.

[Wellington Square](#) | [Stockton BID](#) | [Stockton Police](#) | [ARC Stockton Arts Centre](#) | [The Northern School Of Art](#) | [Stockton-on-Tees Markets](#) [See less](#)



Wellington Square, Stockton BID and 234 others

35 comments

26 shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Published by Laura Kelsey · 2 October 2025 ·

...

👉

A new scheme aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour and reducing health issues caused by alcohol is being launched by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

✖

The Council's Licensing Team have been working with local businesses to introduce the 'Reducing the Strength' scheme which will see Premises Licence holders voluntarily agree to stop selling low cost, high strength alcohol such as beer, lager and cider above 6.5% Alcohol By Volume (ABV).

Reducing the Strength is being implemented following collaboration between the Council, local businesses and licence holders in Stockton Town Centre as well as partners at [Cleveland Police](#), [CGL Stockton Recovery Service](#), [Public Health](#) and [Stockton BID](#).

👉

This scheme is being introduced in line with the wider Operation Shield approach to help make Stockton a welcoming place to visit, work and live.

Premises already signed up include a range of small businesses and national retailers, including Addison Newsagents, Pickwicks (formerly D&S News), Iceland, B&M Stores, Heron Foods, Savers, Yarm Lane Convenience Store, Quick News and Fanni Vapes.

Find out more <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/.../Reducing-the-strength-A...>

[Wellington Square](#) | [Stockton Police](#) | [Stockton-on-Tees Markets](#) [See less](#)



Stockton-on-Tees Markets, Stockton BID and 106 others

95 comments

8 shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

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Operation Shield

Working with you to make our town centre safer



We want our businesses to thrive and together we can make Stockton Town Centre a welcoming place to visit and enjoy.

That's why we launched Operation Shield, a multi-agency initiative, which aims to combat anti-social behaviour (ASB) and offending in Stockton Town Centre, as well as supporting people with addiction issues into support and recovery services.

Operation Shield sees officers from the Council, Cleveland Police, Wellington Square, Stockton BID, local recovery and support agencies, and other partners, join forces to combat substance misuse related offending, and improve perceptions of safety in the town centre.





**Reducing the Strength
- Member -**

This shop has committed to stamping out low cost super strength alcohol above 6.5%.

We are working together to reduce street drinking and anti-social behaviour, and to make our town centre safer.

Find out more about the scheme, please scan the QR Code.



Public Space Protection Orders in Norton and Stockton Town Centre

Examples of media coverage generated:

[New orders ban urinating, excreting and irresponsibly driving in Stockton town centre | Teesside Live](#)

[Stockton Council enforcement of anti-social behaviour | Darlington and Stockton Times](#)

[Stockton and Norton orders aim to curb anti-social behaviour - BBC News](#)

Social media examples:

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Published by Hootsuite

9 April

The launch of the new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) coincided with a further Operation Shield 'Day of Action' which took place in Stockton Town Centre over the Easter weekend.

The multi-agency Operation Shield aims to create a safe and welcoming town centre for residents, businesses and visitors, as well as supporting people to access recovery services.

The new PSPOs, which came into force on Friday 3 April, give the Council's Community Safety team and [Cleveland Police](#) greater powers to tackle anti-social behaviour, such as street drinking and begging.

With [Stockton Calling](#) bringing lots of visitors into the town centre on Saturday, the Council's Civic Enforcement, CCTV, Licensing and Trading Standards Teams were supported by Cleveland Police, [Cleveland Police Special Constabulary](#), [CGL Stockton Recovery Service](#), [Wellington Square](#) security and Stockton Calling event coordinators and venues, to ensure everyone had a safe and enjoyable time at the Bank Holiday weekend. [See less](#)



125

Like

Comment

Share

34 comments

4 shares

Page 61



Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Published by Hootsuite

27 March

*** NEW EXTENDED PSPOs SET TO COME INTO FORCE ***

New extended Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) to target street drinking, begging, anti-social behaviour and using off road or e-bikes and scooters in Stockton Town Centre and Norton will come into force, next week, on Friday April 3.

PSPOs give the Council's Civic Enforcement Team and the Police more powers to fine individuals for specific and repeated anti-social behaviour problems in a given area.

Breaching a PSPO is a criminal offence and can be dealt with by issuing a £100 fixed penalty notices (FPN) or prosecution.

The new PSPOs will again target begging, including begging in a threatening or intimidating way, following people or begging near a cash machine or bus stop, and drinking alcohol in specified areas.

They have also been extended to cover using off road or e-bikes and scooters irresponsibly, urination and defecating in a public place and dog fouling.

The new PSPOs will allow authorised officers to direct people to leave the designated areas and not return for a period of 24 hours. If this occurs, personal details may be requested and those directed must comply.

The Stockton Town Centre order will include the new Stockton Waterfront urban park.

The Civic Enforcement Service, which operates from 7am until midnight every day of the year, will continue to work closely with Cleveland Police to enforce the new PSPO which is valid for three years.

You can report any concerns to our Civic Enforcement Service on 01642 528439 or email civic.enforcement@stockton.gov.uk

[Cleveland Police](#) [Stockton Police](#) [Stockton BID](#) [Wellington Square](#) [Stockton-on-Tees Markets](#) [See less](#)



👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

👤 Stockton-on-Tees Markets and 108 others

65 comments 9 shares

Page 62

Bonfire Season Civic Enforcement including Billingham and Norton

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Published by Hootsuite · 31 October 2025 ·

*** BONFIRE SEASON PATROLS AND LETTER DROP UNDERWAY ***

🔥 Our Civic Enforcement team are patrolling the borough with a view to removing materials that can easily catch fire in areas where incidents of illegal bonfires and build ups of waste have previously taken place.

👮 Officers will be on the lookout for fly tipping and waste being built up in hotspot areas around the borough, where people have been known to set deliberate fires, until Thursday 6 November.

✉ A letter drop has also taken place in parts of Roseworth, Ragworth, Hardwick, Newtown, Norton and Billingham to remind residents of the right ways to store and dispose waste lawfully.

🚗 Fly tipping waste is a criminal offence and can leave you subject to a fixed penalty notice of £400 or an unlimited fine and/or imprisonment of up to five years if prosecuted.

📞 If you spot any fly tipping or waste being built up, please report it to our Enforcement team. You can do so by calling 01642 607943 or emailing civic.enforcement@stockton.gov.uk.

💣 The sale of illegal fireworks can be reported to the Council's Licensing team, or any criminal activity can be passed on anonymously direct to Cleveland police via 101 or 999, the COPA app or online via the Cleveland police website at report a crime.

📞 Alternatively, you may want to report through Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 or online at crimestoppers-uk.org. You can also contact Firestoppers anonymously to report any deliberate fire setting on 0800 169 5558.

🗑 If you have a large item, you need to dispose of it's easy to book a bulky waste collection from the Council. Visit: www.stockton.gov.uk/bulky-waste or telephone 01642 391959.

♻ You can also arrange for waste to be disposed of at the Household Waste and Recycling Centre on Haverton Hill Road. Remember, you must book a slot in advance at <https://digital.stockton.gov.uk/hwrc-bookings>.

🚚 There are registered waste carriers that can take your waste which can be found on the Waste Carriers Register - <https://environment.data.gov.uk/.../search-waste-carriers...>

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, Cleveland Fire Brigade UK and Cleveland Police urge all residents to attend safe scheduled events and to follow the firework code and to not take part in illegal bonfires.

📅 You can find scheduled events within the Stockton area by visiting <https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/visit/whats-on> See less



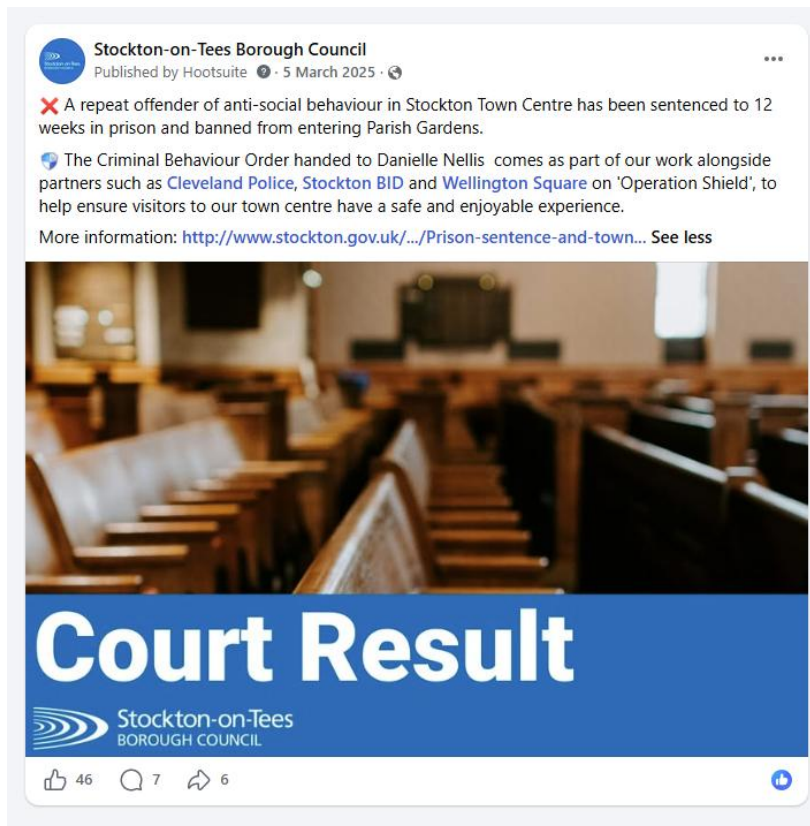
Court Cases and Criminal Behaviour Orders

Examples of media coverage generated:

[Aggressive Stockton beggar is banned from town centre | The Northern Echo](#)

[Man who verbally abuses members of the public banned from Stockton town centre | Cleveland Police](#)

[Woman jailed after hurling abuse at Stockton Council workers | Darlington and Stockton Times](#)



Events – a small selection of town centre events which promote welcoming town centres:

S&DR200

S&DR 200 Celebrations this weekend!

Celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of the modern railway with S&DR200 - a fantastic festival for all ages to enjoy! This Sunday (28) Stockton takes centre stage with a once in a lifetime re-enactment of Locomotion No. 1's first journey followed by exciting activities in Stockton Town Centre. Don't miss the finale, Ghost Train: The Arrival, a magnificent outdoor show of epic scale and innovation taking place on Stockton Riverside. [Here's everything you need to know to have a fun-filled festival.](#)

A photograph of a steam locomotive at night, illuminated by warm lights. The locomotive is positioned on tracks, and its large wheels and smokestack are visible. The background shows a building with lit windows.



Stockton-on-Tees Borough Cou...

Published by Hootsuite · 28 September 2025 ·

🎉 Hundreds of people grabbed tickets to watch Locomotion steam into Stockton Station on its Anniversary Journey this morning!

🚂 As one of the highlights of S&DR Festival, the journey is a once in a lifetime reenactment of the inaugural journey of the Locomotion No. 1, which took place on 27 September 1825 and covered a 27-mile journey between Shildon and Stockton-on-Tees via Darlington.

🥳 And that's not all that's happening today - there's a programme of exciting activities in Stockton to mark the occasion. To see the full programme visit www.stockton.gov.uk/sdr200

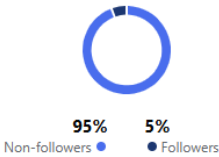
S&dr200

See less



Views ⓘ

251,861



Viewers

200,504



Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Published by Harry Crowe · 17 September 2025 ·

The biggest outdoor show ever staged in Stockton is almost upon us...

The S&dr200 flag is now up above Fountain Shopping Mall - Home Of The Enterprise Arcade, along with special S&DR200 bunting in Stockton High Street and Preston Park Museum and Grounds.

And visitors to town may have noticed a giant 12-metre-high structure being installed in Riverside Road car park. It's part of the build ready for the Ghost Train, The Arrival, a magical, after-dark show which is arriving on Stockton Riverside on Sunday, September 28 at 7.30pm.

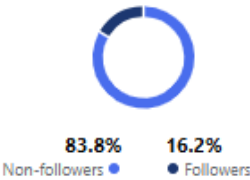
To find out more information on S&DR200 Festival, please visit <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/.../A-must-see-event.....>

Stockton BID



Views ⓘ

168,595



Viewers

104,113

THREE DAYS TO GO UNTIL GHOST TRAIN

👁️ Here's a sneak peek of what to expect at Ghost Train: The Arrival, happening on Sunday 28 September on Stockton Riverside as part of [S&DR200](#).

🌟 From 11am, visitors to Stockton Town Centre will experience a packed festival programme of celebrations, activities, performances and food and drink opportunities.

🕒 Then at 7:30pm, don't miss the magical after-dark finale, Ghost Train: The Arrival, the biggest outdoor show ever staged in Stockton!

🚂 Ghost Train is an epic performance, a creative and engineering feat which includes an amazing re-imagining of Locomotion No.1, with six illuminated carriages, travelling along a giant 12-metre-high structure in Riverside Road car park. It features a bespoke musical score from international composer Sarah Llewellyn, live music, pyro, projection and a 75-strong cast made up of prestigious national and local performers.

🏢 The Ghost Train is a commission of the S&DR200 Project and is created and produced by Avanti Display Ltd and Walk the Plank, funded by S&DR200 and Tees Valley Combined Authority. It's the second part of the Ghost Train Story, which began in Darlington last week.

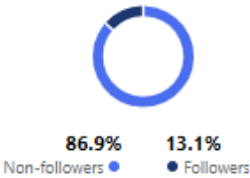
🔗 For more information about the event visit: <http://www.stockton.gov.uk/.../S-DR200-Here-s-everything...>

[Walk the Plank](#) | [Tees Valley Combined Authority](#) | [Stockton BID](#)



Views ⓘ

229,935



Viewers

141,037

Love Your Local Market:

💙 Stockton-on-Tees Markets 'Love Your Local Market' event returns to Stockton High Street this Saturday (16 May) between 10am and 2.30pm.

🔥 This year, Stockton's award-winning market is themed around the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the invention of the friction match by John Walker, who ran a chemist shop on Stockton High Street.

👉 For more information, visit: <http://www.stockton.gov.uk/.../Love-Your-Local-Market...> See less



LOVE YOUR LOCAL MARKET EVENT RETURNS TO STOCKTON HIGH STREET WITH A JOHN WALKER THEME

A special outdoor market event bringing fun for all the family returns to Stockton High Street on Saturday 16 May.

Stockton-on-Tees Markets 'Love Your Local Market' event will take place between 10am and 2.30pm and is part of the national Love Your Local Market fortnight.

Hundreds of markets across the country join forces to celebrate and encourage the community to shop local.

This year, Stockton Market's event is themed around the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the invention of the friction match by John Walker, who ran a chemist shop on Stockton High Street.

Read more: <http://www.stockton.gov.uk/.../Love-Your-Local-Market...>

Stockton BID | Love Your Local Market See less



Health and Wellbeing Festival

Come along to Thornaby Pavilion Leisure Centre on Thursday 23 October, 10am to 2pm for free refreshments, information stalls, activities and free goodies! Discover support and activities available to you, including:

- Health support
- Volunteering opportunities
- Wellbeing services
- Creative stalls
- Safety
- Social groups
- Staying active



A group of five people are performing parkour on a metal ledge. One person is hanging upside down from the edge, while others are in various positions of climbing or jumping. The background is a clear blue sky.

SIRF is back this weekend

The Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF) returns this summer. The world-renowned outdoor arts and street theatre festival will once again be wowing crowds in Stockton town centre with a jam-packed programme this Friday 1 to Sunday 3 August. Don't miss our incredible Friday launch show Life Lines by celebrated French performers Compagnie Lézards Bleus at 7.15pm in the Town Hall and fountain area. Find out more and plan your weekend by visiting [the SIRF website](#).

Promoting Stockton-on-Tees - Invest Stockton-on-Tees – Tees Central (video for UKREiiF and wider)

 Search Library

Upgrade ⓘ 🔔 New ▾

An aerial view of a city development site. The image shows a mix of existing buildings and new, modern structures. A green area, possibly a park or sports field, is visible in the center. The text 'STOCKTON WATERFRONT' and '3 acre development site' is overlaid on the bottom left of the video frame.

[Introducing: Tees Central | Videos & Movies on Vimeo](#)

Working with partner agencies:



Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Published by Jonathan Barber · 18 February 2025 ·

Councillor Norma Stephenson, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety, said: "Our town centres across the Borough are popular spots during the day and on a night time, so it was a pleasure to join the Street Angels and view their selfless volunteering work in action to help ensure everyone has a safe night out.

👏👏 "Their presence and extra reassurance means people can relax and enjoy their evening and all our town centres have to offer.

✔ "Keep up the good work, everyone!" See less





Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

18 February 2025 ·

PCC Matt Storey recently went out on a shift with the newly recruited Stockton Street Angels to see how they help vulnerable people at night. 🌟 ... See more



Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Published by Ellie Simpson · 6 February 2025 ·

📢 🗨️ If you're on a night out in town and feel unsafe, Safehaven will help you discreetly, on 01642 727333 but always call 999 if in danger.

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland [See less](#)





Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

6 February 2025 ·

Girls just wanna have a safe night out..... [See more](#)



Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Published by Hootsuite · 25 February 2025 ·

...

 A multi-agency operation to combat anti-social behaviour and offending in Stockton Town Centre has started.

 Operation Shield, will see officers from the Council's Civic Enforcement Team, Licensing Team, CCTV and Public Health Team, [Cleveland Police](#), [Wellington Square](#), [Stockton BID](#), local recovery support agencies and other partners join forces to combat substance misuse related offending and improve perception of safety in the town centre.

 Councillor Norma Stephenson, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety, said: "We want our town centres to be welcoming places, where residents and visitors can enjoy spending time and businesses can flourish.

 "Patrols currently take place daily by dedicated town centre civic enforcement officers but as part of Operation Shield these will be boosted by regular joint patrols with Cleveland Police plus targeted substance misuse support for those needing it.

 "Although crime is down in both Stockton Town Centre and the Ropner Ward we've listened to both residents and businesses about their concerns around safety in the town centre, and how this affects people's perceptions and experience. Operation Shield will reassure the public that we take their safety extremely seriously."

 Chief Inspector Andrew Evans, from Stockton's neighbourhood policing team, said: "Following on from the success of joint officer and local authority patrols over the last three months, we want to continue providing an even greater visible presence on foot.

 "This will further deter criminals who come into Stockton to commit offences such as shop lifting, thefts and anti-social behaviour. Meanwhile working alongside numerous partners will allow referrals for those in need of support.

 "We hope this will provide further reassurance for members of the public who live, work and visit the town centre."

 Matt Boxall, Centre Manager at Wellington Square, said: "It's fantastic to be teaming up with our local partners to provide a reassuring presence for both our customers and retailers. By engaging in key conversations and working together, we're making Stockton Town Centre a more welcoming place for everyone."

Stockton Police

See less



  Stockton-on-Tees Markets and 200 others

85 comments 17 shares

**Cleveland Police** 

20 October 2021 · 

Stockton Neighbourhood Officers worked in partnership with [Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council](#) yesterday, Tuesday 19th October, to secure a closure order of a flat on Yarm Lane in Stockton.

The order was granted following a series of alleged incidents which took place in and around the flats over the last few months, including reports of fighting, the use of weapons and suspected drug activity.

Cleveland Police Acting Sergeant Mitch Baldwin said: "Police and partners will continue to respond to information and reports of drug activity and antisocial behaviour in our communities and we'll use everything in our power to tackle it.

"The closure of the address sends out a clear message to the public that we do listen to them and we do not tolerate criminal activity.

"If you have any criminal activity to report please contact us on 101 or 999 in an emergency. Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org." [See less](#)





Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Published by Jen Tomlin · 14 April 2025 ·

A monthly update from [Cleveland Police](#) on their work in Stockton, including Operation Shield, a multi-agency operation aiming to combat anti-social behaviour and offending as well as supporting people to access recovery services.

👉 👉 See less





Cleveland Police

12 April 2025 ·

Here is your monthly update from our officers in Stockton 📄

... See more

 Stockton BID and 20 others

 Like

 Comment

 2 comments

 1 share

 Share

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Scrutiny Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget

Summary

The second evidence-gathering session for the Committee's review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget will consider a further submission from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Community Safety, Environment and Culture directorate, as well as additional information regarding similar Elected Member-related schemes operating within other Local Authority areas. Initial feedback from the ongoing SBC Ward Councillor survey will also be relayed.

Detail

1. This evidence session will build on the presentation and subsequent discussion that took place at the last Committee meeting in April 2026. Members identified areas which they wanted further information on, and this latest submission will:

- Review schemes delivered and not progressed, including key reasons
- Highlight revenue impacts of certain schemes
- Present updated spend patterns and funding commitments
- Provide benchmarking against other Local Authorities

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.

2. Further to this latest presentation, a supporting document highlighting other Member-related budget schemes across the country is included within these meeting papers for consideration.
3. Following agreement of the questions at the last Committee meeting in April 2026, a survey was issued to all SBC Ward Councillors requesting views around this scrutiny topic. Initial feedback will be relayed to this meeting.
4. In advance of this session, Members may again 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>
5. A copy of the agreed scope and plan for this review is included for information.

Name of Contact Officer: Gary Woods

Post Title: Senior Scrutiny Officer

Telephone Number: 01642 526187

Email Address: gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk

CPB / WTB Overview

Session 2

WTB/CPB Overview

Purpose – Session 2

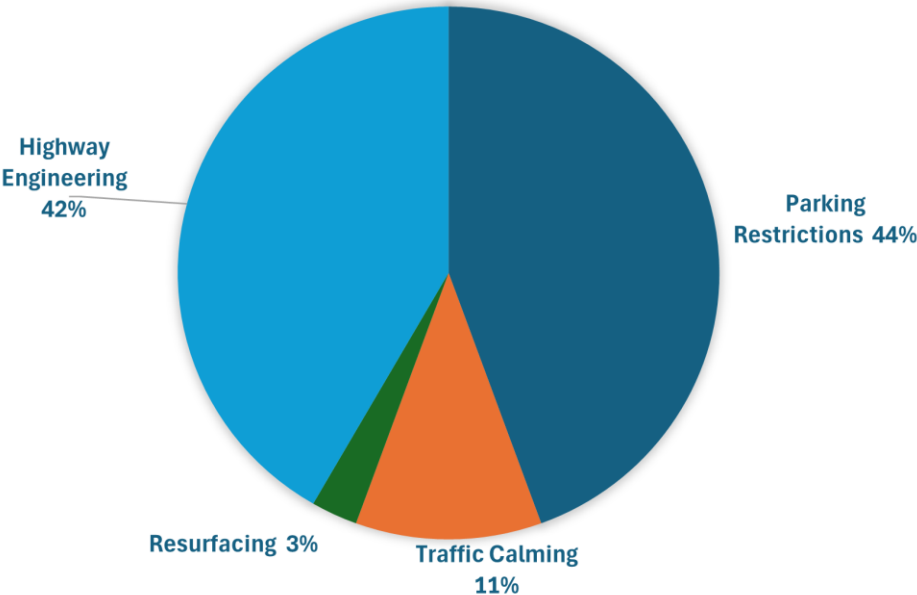
Building on previous session, to provide a clearer evidence base for how CPB and WTB are operating in practice :

- Review schemes delivered and not progressed, including key reasons
- Highlight revenue impacts of certain schemes
- Present updated spend patterns and funding commitments
- Provide benchmarking against other Local Authorities

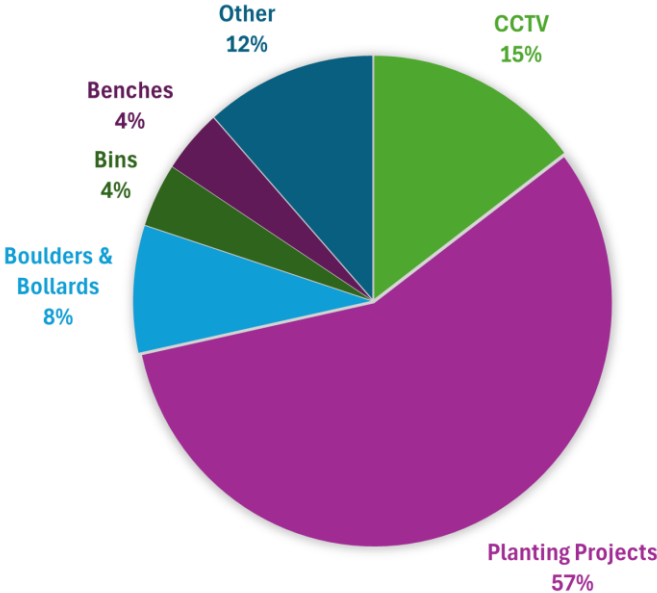
Project Delivery

Schemes in Progress

WTB SCHEMES BY TYPE (TOTAL = 36)
£ 175,205

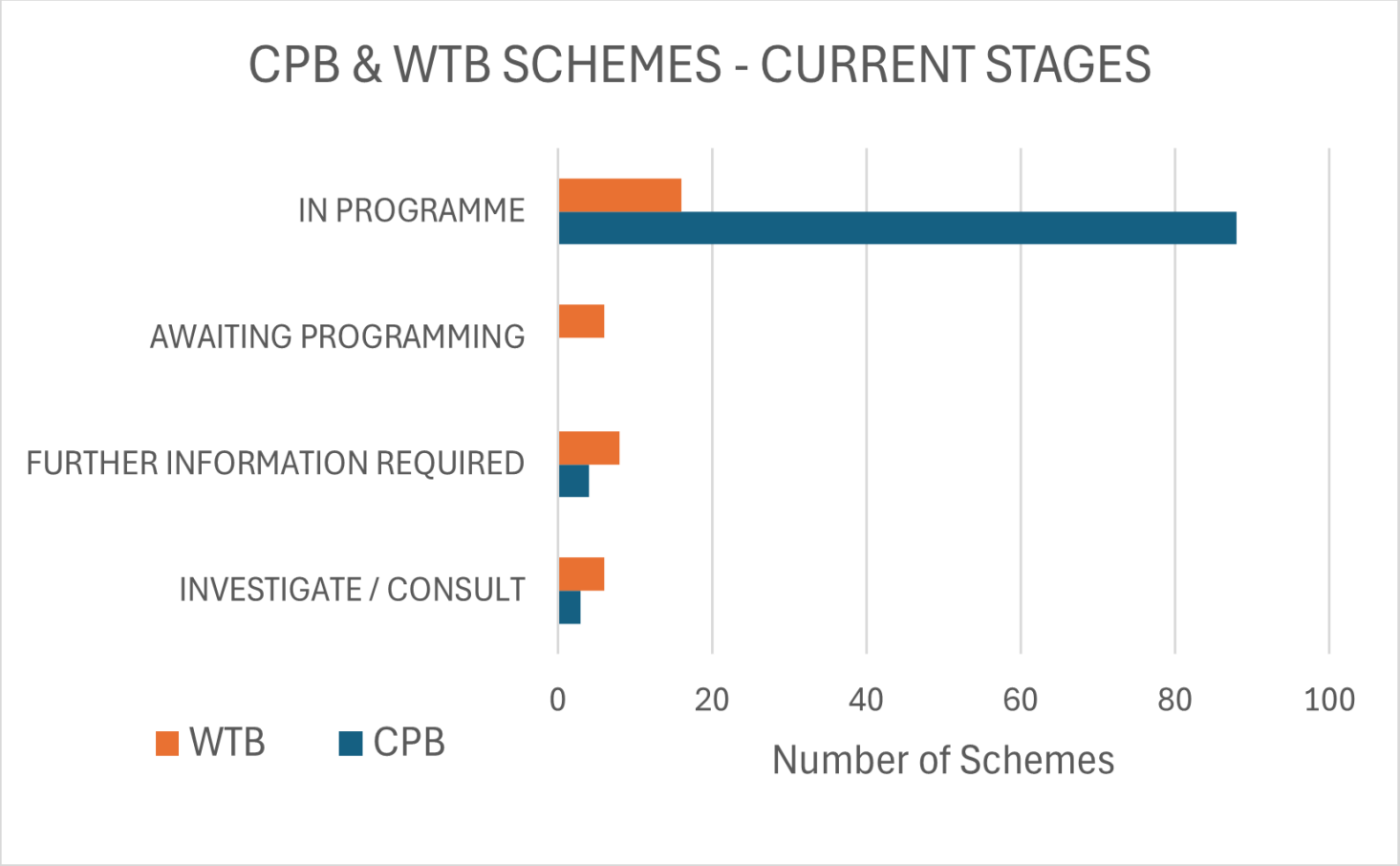


CPB SCHEMES BY TYPE (TOTAL = 95)
£ 165,160



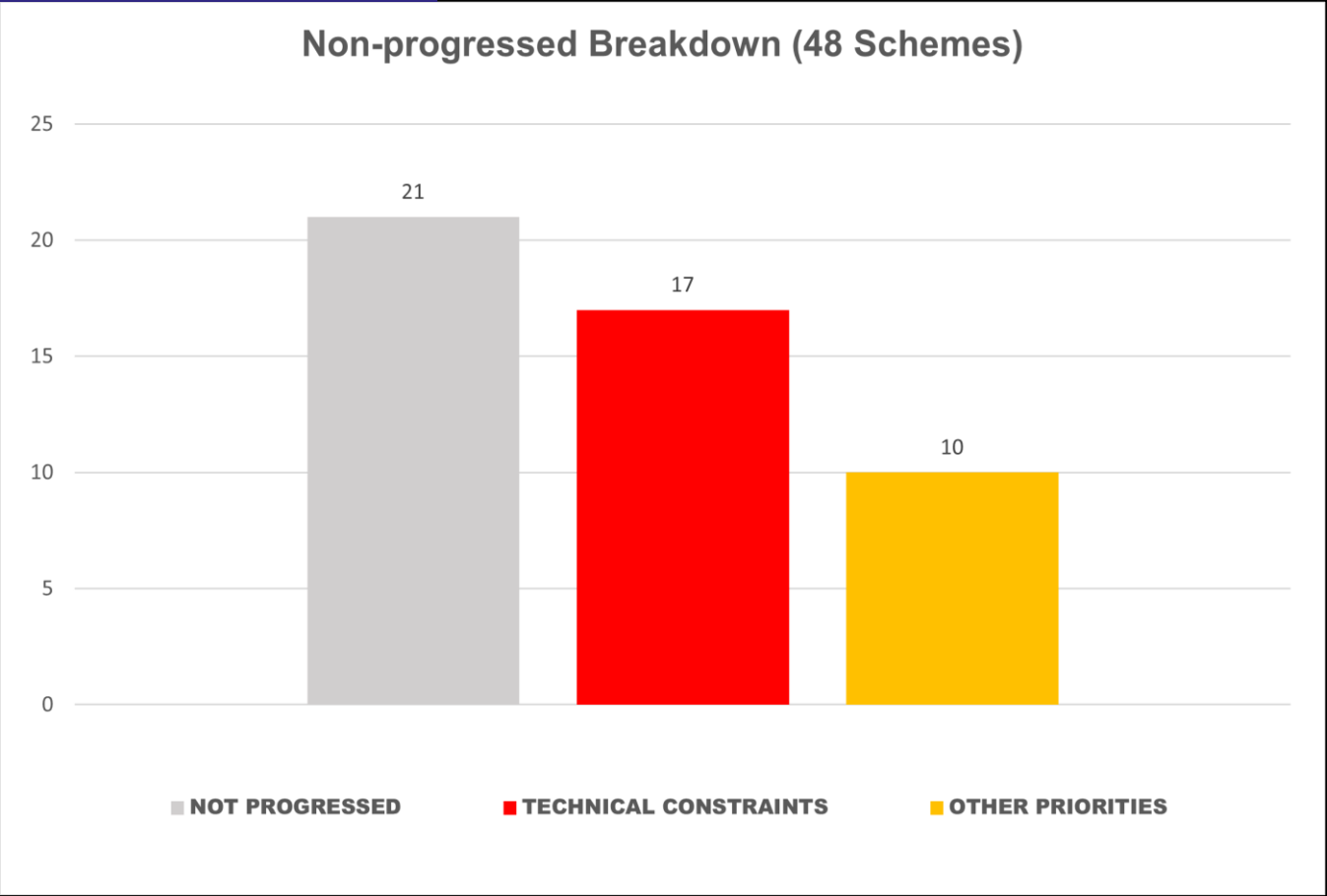
Project Delivery

Schemes In Progress – Stages



Project Delivery

Proposals Not Taken Forward



Eligibility Criteria

CPB & WTB

Community Participation Budget (CPB)

- Focus on local community and environmental improvements
- Must demonstrate local need and community benefit
- Must be feasible and deliverable
- ⚠ Limited where schemes create ongoing revenue or maintenance costs
- Some schemes require third-party maintenance arrangements

Ward Transport Budget (WTB)

- Restricted to transport, safety and accessibility schemes
- Must be supported by evidence (e.g. safety data, speed surveys)
- Requires full technical assessment and design
- Must be safe, compliant and deliverable on the highway network
- ⚠ Not suitable for non-transport or revenue-based schemes

Project Summary

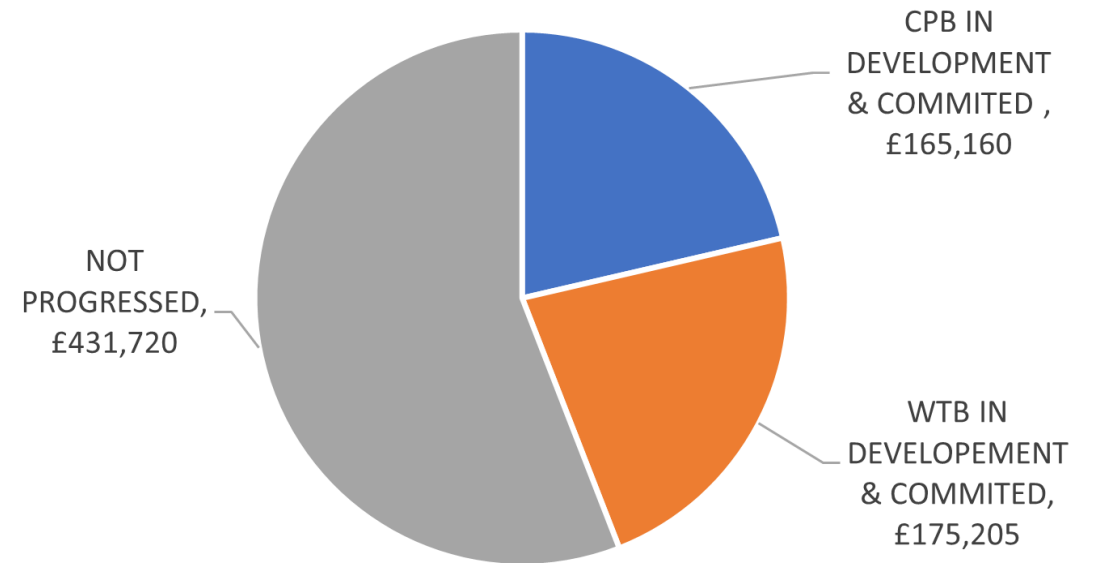
Spend Profile

Cumulative cost of schemes for WTB and CPB (separate charts/graphs for each):

- In development and committed
- Not Progressed
- Total both WTB/CPB combined

Underspend reflects schemes in development or constrained by delivery factors, not lack of demand

COST OF SCHEMES FOR CPB & WTB



Revenue Implications

Examples

The introduction of new schemes creates ongoing revenue costs, which may influence eligibility.

- CCTV → monitoring costs
- Planting → maintenance / watering
- Bins → emptying / servicing
- Road Markings → refresh & enforcement
- Speed Indicator Devices → Energy costs & Rotation

Benchmarking

Overview

Benchmarked with:

- Hartlepool
- South Tyneside
- Durham
- Northumberland

Schemes vary significantly in:

- Level of funding
- Governance / control
- Eligibility / purpose

Benchmarking

Comparison with Other LA's

Authority	Budget Model	Key Features	Key Constraints
Hartlepool	✗ No member budget	Previously £3–5k	Strict evidence-led prioritisation
South Tyneside	✓ Pooled CAF budgets	Schemes voted across wards	Less individual control
Durham	✓ £19k per councillor	Broad community schemes	Not highways-focused
Northumberland	✓ Capital MLIS programme	Asset-based schemes	No revenue allowed
Doncaster	✓ £3k per Member	Community & voluntary funding	Limited scope for highways
Stockton	✓ CPB & WTB split	Member input + officer control	Capacity and eligibility constraints

Benchmarking

Key Differences

Funding Models Vary

- No budget (Hartlepool) → strict prioritisation
- Pooled budgets (South Tyneside) → shared decision-making
- Individual budgets (Durham) → greater autonomy
- Smaller discretionary budgets (e.g. Doncaster) → focused on community groups, not infrastructure
- Split model (Stockton) → balance of flexibility + control

Common Challenges Across Authorities

- Revenue and maintenance pressures
- Expectations vs deliverability
- Officer capacity and competing priorities

Role of Evidence vs Flexibility

- Highways schemes increasingly evidence-led (national trend)
- Authorities without budgets rely entirely on collision data prioritisation
- Member budgets provide flexibility, but within limits

We are not an outlier — this is consistent locally.

Benchmarking

Summary

- No single model across local authorities
- Different approaches to funding, governance and delivery
- Common challenges:
 - Revenue pressures
 - Capacity constraints
 - Evidence-led decision making
- Stockton provides a balance of flexibility and control

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION BUDGET (CPB) AND WARD TRANSPORT BUDGET (WTB)

Other Local Authority approaches to Ward Councillor-related budgets

- Cheshire West and Chester Council**

Member Budget Scheme Guidance Note 2026-2027

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/asset-library/member-budget-scheme-guidance-2026-27.pdf>

- £5,000 per Member (2026-2027)
- Published timetable for applications to be received / processed / paid
- Published process for applications and basic criteria which needs to be met (including links to guidance, Cheshire's crowdfunding scheme, and potential external funding support)

- City of Doncaster Council**

Councillors' Ward Budgets

<https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/the-council-democracy/councillors-ward-budgets>

- £3,000 per Member
- Can be allocated to voluntary and not-for-profit groups
- Published terms and conditions, and examples of previous allocations

- City of Stoke-on-Trent**

Ward and Environment Budget Launched for 2024/25

[Building Better Neighbourhoods: Ward and Environment Budget Launched for 2024/25 | Stoke-on-Trent](#)

- 'Ward Budget Spend' included on each Councillor's personal webpage (e.g. https://www.stoke.gov.uk/homepage/84/councillor_spend_breakdown?uid=45712)

Councillor Lynn Watkins			
1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027			
Budget: £5000			
Spend : £1710			
All Councillors have a dedicated budget of £5,000 per year to address local priorities and issues within their wards, as identified through their local communities.			
This is a Councillor-led process, and it is the responsibility of Ward Councillors to promote its availability and encourage individuals and groups to submit suggestions for proposed projects and needed work within their Ward.			
IMPORTANT - evidence of your account details must be provided when completing the application as this will delay payment.			
Organisation	Amount	Approved date	Project
Kharis Change Works CIC	£150	11/05/2026	Contributions towards toxic relationships awareness talks and the warning signs of such relationships.
Jericho come as you are	£150	07/05/2026	Contributions towards providing a space where people feel welcome and respected where social deprivation is an issue
Port Vale FC Foundation	£250	07/05/2026	Contributions towards Port Vale Park run, for low income families, ethnic minorities, older adults and those people with long term health condition

- **City of Westminster**

Apply for Ward Budget funding

<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/about-council/democracy/apply-ward-budget-funding>

- £46,000 per ward (annually)
- Money not used carries-forward to next year (within four-year Council cycle)
- Published case studies and endorsements

- **Hillingdon Council**

Ward budget scheme

<https://pre.hillingdon.gov.uk/strategies-policies-projects/ward-budget-scheme>

- Published breakdown of projects funded from May 2022 – November 2023 (including graphics)

Eastcote

- Refurbishment of the kitchen in St Lawrence Church - £3,000
- A defibrillator for Deane Park and Bessingby Park Bowls Club - £1,175
- The removal of old trees and planting of new trees within the Wild Orchard at Eastcote House Gardens - £700
- Installation of a toddler swing at Pembroke Park Estate, Coleridge Drive - £750
- Paris 2023 trip and additional stationary for 5th Eastcote Methodist Church Guides - £800



- **North Yorkshire Council**

Councillor locality budgets

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/community-and-volunteering/councillor-locality-budgets>

- £5,000 per Member (annually)
- Published funding allocations that have been approved

- **Oxford City Council**

Funding from your local ward councillor

<https://www.oxford.gov.uk/grants/funding-local-ward-councillor>

- £1,500 per Member (annually)
- Published spend data

- **Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council**

Ward Budget Summaries

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/homepage/233/ward-budget-summaries>

- Two funds: Community Leadership Fund (CLF) and a ward capital budget
- CLF budgets are managed by individual councillors – the ward capital budget is managed by all ward councillors collectively
- Published ward budget summaries (annually)

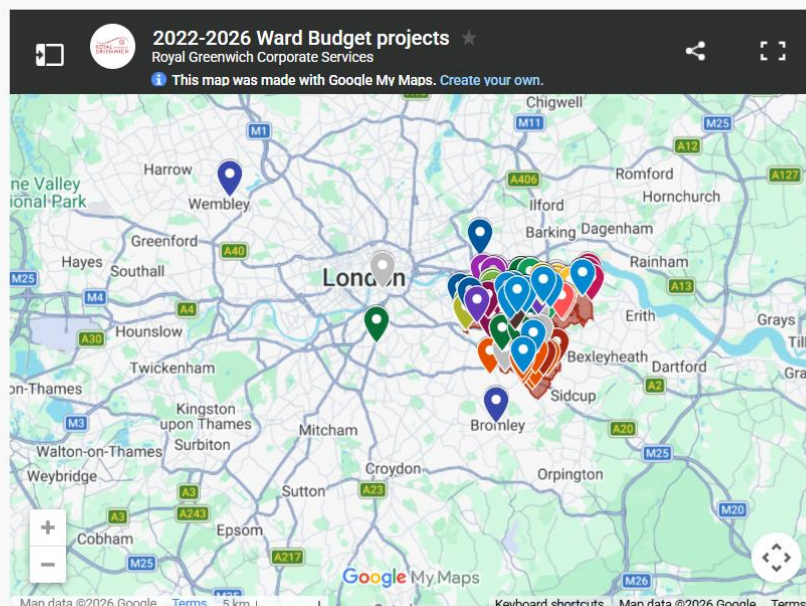
- **Royal Borough of Greenwich**

Apply for ward budget funding for local projects

https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/200245/grants/1954/apply_for_ward_budget_funding_for_local_projects#:~:text=The%20Ward%20Budget%20Scheme%20provides,residents%20living%20in%20their%20wards

- £16,500 for wards with three Councillors (over four-year Council term); £11,000 for wards with two Councillors
- Published list of funded projects / previous schemes (including interactive maps)

Please see our interactive map below for examples of projects funded through the current scheme



- **Wealden District Council**

Councillor Ward Budgets Scheme

<https://www.wealden.gov.uk/councillors-and-committees/councillor-ward-budgets-scheme/>

- £10,000 per Member (annually)
- Published application deadline
- Published list of decisions (including reason and amount applied for / approved)

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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? The review will contribute to the following Stockton-on-Tees Plan 2024-2028 priorities: • <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? 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: • 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 be 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.):	
- 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)	
Community Services, Environment and Culture	➤ CPB / WTB origins, aims, differences / links ➤ Processes / timelines / funding allocations ➤ Eligible / ineligible projects ➤ Effectiveness of completed work ➤ Communication to Ward Councillors / public
Ward Councillors	➤ 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)	➤ Awareness of / views on CPB / WTB ➤ Experience of using these schemes
Town / Parish Councils	➤ 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	➤ 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).	

How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?
Committee meetings, information submissions.
How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?
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.
How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?
<u>Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2030: <i>Everyone lives in health and sustainable places and communities</i></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).
Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and / or transformation:
• 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 • SBC Community Services, Environment and Culture • Ward Councillor Survey • SBC Community Services, Environment and Culture • Town / Parish Council Survey • Residents Survey	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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Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Wednesday 21st January 2026.

Present: Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (Chair), Alan O'Donoghue (Vice), Sharon Cooney, Dawn Tyerman, Cllr Clare Besford, Cllr Pauline Beall, Anna Waddington, Sarah Wilson, Sarah Bowman-Abouna, Leanne Maloney-Kelly, Barry Whilton, Marc Stephenson, Adam Bateman, Mandy Mackinnon, Kellie Wigley, Graeme Bowenstock, Freddie Hamilton, Kelly Spink, Germaine Pereira, Jacob Downing, Claire Spencer, Elliot Beavers.

Officers: John Devine, Junita Agyapong.

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Jen Moore, Kay Nicolson, Angela Corner.

SSP/55/25 Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

SSP/56/25 Recorded Crime & Disorder Report

Members were presented with the Recorded Crime & Disorder report, the report focused on the recorded crime in the Stockton on Tees Borough over a 12-month period starting in December 2024 to December 2025.

The key points highlighted to Members from the report were as follows:

- Publicly reported offenses had reduced but Police generated crime had increased.
- Publicly reported Anti-Social Behaviour had increased.
- Violence Overall showed a 0.3% increase however Officers noted that within that category Stalking and Harassment had a 5.9% decrease.
- Death or serious injury caused by illegal driving had the greatest reduction of 55.6%
- Arson had increased by 4.4% during the 12-month period. But overall criminal damage was down by 10.4%
- Another increase highlighted to members was the number of Drug Offences which had increased by 12.9% during the period.

Officers reassured members that work had already begun in regards to the increases but noted that some were to be expected due to proactive Police work. For example, the increase in drug offenses was from the Police having undertaken operations related to organised crime.

Members AGREED to note the report.

SSP/57/25 Retail Crime Update

Officers from Cleveland Police presented a report to Members on Retail Crime, within it they discussed their strategic objectives, prevention and early intervention, Officers also spoke on enforcement and pursuing offenders.

In relation to Cleveland Polices strategic objectives Officers stated that they aimed to make “Cleveland’s retail safe, thriving, and resilient”. They would achieve this proactive problem solving, early intervention and to make sure to pursue repeat offenders through coordinated enforcement and prosecution. It was also acknowledged that the partnership approach with stakeholders needed to be strengthened. Officers would target hotspot areas identified through the use of data and intelligence; they would also make use environmental improvements such as CCTV and business layouts.

The importance of supporting victims was also discussed with Members which could take the form of follow up contact and reassurance visits, alongside the promotion of victim support services and business crime guidance.

In the discussion following the presentation Members asked Officers if they were looking at the reasons behind some areas of retail crime for example food theft. Officers were happy to explain that they would look into each case and try to sign post the offender to help them with the root cause.

Members also discussed Officers strategy in regards to repeat offenders, Officers informed members that profiles would be made of repeat offenders and Officers would then look at how best to tackle them. Members were keen to share this information to see if repeat offenders could be guided to partners best able to help them.

Members AGREED to note the report.

SSP/58/25 Mischief /Bonfire Strategy Update

Members of the Partnership were presented with an update report on Operation Autumnus 2025. Officers explained that the Autumnus was the annual joint operation between the Police, Fire and Stockton Council. It started in October and ran through to Bonfire Night, it included letters to households about waste accumulation, safety advice to parents and children (including animal welfare) as well as Social Media posts by all partners.

Police data for the last six years was shared with Members and a spike in ASB and Criminal Damage could be seen for the autumnus period. Officers noted that they had traditionally seen a spike in these incidents from 13th October to 10th November. The graph showed that the highest numbers of incidents (64) was in 2022, with the 2020 the year of the pandemic predictably showing the lowest number. Last year (2025) there were 31 reported incidents which was on par with 2024 and 2019.

It was noted the Hardwick and Roseworth were the busiest wards on both 30th October and 5th November. These areas also generated the highest number of services calls to SBC during the period. While service demand from Stockton Town Centre fell significantly when compared to last year. Overall, Officers were pleased to report that total service calls to SBC had decreased year on year.

Before the Autumnus joint operations began between SBC, Police and Fire the levels of ASB and Criminal Damage were much higher. This successful operation has had a positive impact on reported incidents. A change of behaviour had been noted, with perpetrators not targeting householders as in previous years and the ASB being more sporadic in nature.

Each year partners share information, conduct joint patrols and develop cohesive messaging to ensure the public is kept informed about partners activities and how to safely enjoy the Bonfire period.

Members AGREED to note the update.

SSP/59/25 Reducing the Strength Update

Officers from the Councils Licensing Team gave an update to members on the Reducing the Strength (RTS) Scheme. They began by briefly reminding members about the scheme, in which off licences voluntarily agreed to stop selling beer, lager, and cider with an alcohol content above 6.5% ABV. It was launched in September 2025 with 9 members agreeing to partake in the scheme, but since the launch 2 extra members had agreed to join the scheme.

Participant feedback was discussed with members, several participants reported that they had seen less incidents since joining the scheme. While some noted no real change as they had already been practising the principles of the scheme. Participants were asked if the scheme had an impact on sales or profits, with most respondents stating there had been no noticeable change.

Participants were also asked to share feedback from customers which was mostly neutral while some customers gave positive comments. All participants also stated that they felt they had enough support from the Licensing Team, most respondents also stated they did not need any extra support for the scheme. When asked if they would recommend the scheme to other retailers all respondents said yes.

The initial data showed a reduction in ASB incidents directly linked to alcohol reported by the public, partner agencies and Civic Enforcement Officers. It had also shown a reduction in the number of alcohol related breaches of the PSPO identified by Civic Enforcement Officers. The scheme continued to contribute to the Councils plan, vision for the Councils Town Centres and had increased retailer participation rates.

Going forward the Licensing Team would monitor the scheme to identify gaps where changes may need to be made, to use data to review and refine the scheme and promote the scheme to other premises to engage with the scheme.

Members AGREED to note the report.

SSP/60/25 PSPO / Operation Shield Update

Members were given an update on Operation Shield by Officers. The update began with Officers reminding members of the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) in Stockton and Norton town centres.

Partners were informed that the current PSPO came into force in April 2023. And as per the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, PSPOs only last for 3

years and then they expire. They can be altered, disposed of, or extended for another three-year period. This process and decision in Stockton was carried out at executive Cabinet level.

A public consultation was held for the raft 2026 PSPO from 8th December 2025 to the 9th January 2026. It was carried out in person and online by SBC Consultation staff and SBC Community Safety. Paper copies were also available in the local libraries.

The data from the consultation was still being processed but Officers shared some raw data-oriented results with the Partnership. There were 528 either full or partial responses received for the survey/public consultation, 18 paper copies being incorporated into the overall results.

The full results of the survey would be available to members of the partnership at a later date. Officers informed members that the next step in the draft PSPOs journey would be to go to Cabinet in March 2026.

Members AGREED to note the update.

SSP/61/25 Prevent (CT) Update

Officers informed members that the annual benchmarking process would soon be approaching. The Council had exceeded or met the requirements every year and Officers were confident that would continue.

Members AGREED to note the update.

SSP/62/25 Any Other Business

Members were given a brief update on the Bleed Cabinets that had been installed.

Members AGREED to note the update.

SSP/63/25 IQuanta Report

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

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

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP/64/25 CSP Action Plan

Due to the connection to an ongoing Police investigation this Agenda Item was restricted.

Agreed that the update be noted.

SSP/65/25 Town Centre Action Plan

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an overview on Town Centre Action Plan.

AGREED that the report be noted.

Chair:

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Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Wednesday 18th March 2026.

Present: Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (Chair), Alan O'Donoghue (Vice-Chair), Adam Bateman, Jamie Bell, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Clare Besford, Marc Besford (sub for Lucy Owens), Sarah Bowman-Abouna, Graeme Fuller, Darran Hope, Vicky Japes, John Lathan, Leanne Maloney-Kelly, Errol Parks, Madie Rowlands, Claire Spencer, Marc Stephenson, Joy Switherbank, Anthony Trattles, Dawn Tyreman, Barry Whitton.

Officers: John Devine, Junita Agyapong

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Louise Brown, Steven Harris, Karen Hawkins, Molly Larkin, Majella McCarthy, Kay Nicolson, Lucy Owens, Ann Powel, Kevin Tyerman, Anna Waddington, Kelly Wigley.

SSP/67/25 Evacuation Procedure

The Evacuation Procedure was noted by Members.

SSP/68/25 Recorded Crime & Disorder Report

Members were presented with the Recorded Crime & Disorder report, the report focused on the recorded crime in the Stockton on Tees Borough over a 12-month period starting in February 2025 to February 2026.

Officers highlighted the following sections of the report to Members:

- Overall Theft Offences was up 5.9%
- Vehicle Offences showed a reduction of -13.8% and Death or serious injury caused by illegal driving had also seen a reduction.
- Stalking and Harassment had also shown a reduction, but Officers noted that Sexual Offences had increased over the same period.
- Arson had decreased by -3.7%
- Robbery overall had increased by 50.9% during the 12 month period.
- Criminal Damage had decreased by 4.8%

Officers noted that ASB was a big concern across all communities and it was discussed every morning at Police briefings. Members noted the update and stated that they hoped the joint work being done would prove to be a solution for Sex Offences.

Members AGREED to note the update.

SSP/69/25 HOTH

Members were presented with a report on the Harm Outside the Home (HOTH) Strategy 2024/27. The strategy is aimed at ensuring a consistent approach to harm outside the home, to improve understanding, prevent harm as early as possible and protect children. This was underpinned by a child centred decision-making trauma informed practice, with the partnership of families and transitional safeguarding into adult services when necessary.

The HOTH team attend the daily Police Partners District meeting in which incidents are reviewed, information and intelligence from the previous 24 hours to identify emerging risks. HOTH also chairs a daily multi-agency triage, considering intelligence from PPDM, missing-from-home episodes, screening tools, CHUB dashboard requests and partner information.

HOTH works closely with CHUB, making referrals where required, contributing to decision-making, sharing intelligence on persons and locations of concern, and attending CHUB Strategy Meetings.

Officers highlighted the Adolescent team which comprised of one team manager and five social workers who work directly with young people, and their families. They work to deliver interventions addressing healthy relationships, online safety, exploitation awareness, and emotional support using trauma-informed practice.

Officers informed members that over 2025 they had 209 referrals into HOTH, workforce pressures were noted, with the team supporting approximately 60 children at significant risk while maintaining regular reviews.

Members AGREED to note the update.

SSP/70/25 Trailblazer

Members were presented with a report on the Trailblazer Project, in September 2025 the Government announced that the Central Stockton and Portrack areas had been chosen as part of a nationwide initiative called Pride in Place.

Over the next ten years a funding pot of £19.6m would be available for those areas, the project is aimed at putting power into the hands of local people so they can decide how to regenerate their local area.

A Neighbourhood Board would require the local areas MP and Ward Councillors to sit on it, with other members being made up of engaged people of the local area e.g. Business owners.

The three overarching aims of the Neighbourhood Board would be:

- Stronger Communities
- Thriving Communities
- Taking back control

Officers were keen to engage with Partners on any work that had been undertaken or was currently being done that could inform the Board approach. They didn't want to waste any resources duplicating work.

Members were pleased with the project and looked forward to seeing it develop, but some discussion was had that Officers would need to be clear with the public on what the funding can be used for. Partners didn't want the public to build up their hopes on an idea only to find out it wouldn't be covered by the fund.

Members AGREED to note the report.

SSP/71/25 Prevent (CT) Update (Nothing by Exception)

Members were informed that referrals to had remained static since the last meetings update. Stockton Council had recently finished its inspection from the Home Office and Officers were pleased to report that they had passed or exceed in all areas.

A more detailed report would be available at a later date for Partners.

Members AGREED to note the update.

SSP/72/25 Any Other Business

Officers from Cleveland Fire Brigade gave a brief update to members regarding an increased number of house fires. Officers wanted to link with all partners to target areas of high risk. Officers would circulate a list of the data with partners to coordinate on prevention.

Members noted the report.

SSP/73/25 PSPO

This report was restricted due to the links to Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP/74/25 IQuanta Report

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

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

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP/75/25 DARDR

This item was restricted due to the sensitive victim information and multi-agency intelligence contained within Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP/76/25 CSP Action Plan

Due to the connection to an ongoing Police investigation this Agenda Item was restricted.

AGREED that the report be noted.

Chair:

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 SBC Community Services, Environment and Culture	Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE / Marc Stephenson / Stephen Donaghy / Leanne Maloney-Kelly / James O'Donnell Phil Hardie / Simon Milner
28 May	Monitoring: Action Plan – Children affected by Domestic Abuse Monitoring: Progress Update – Welcoming and Safe Town Centres Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget - SBC Community Services, Environment and Culture - Ward Councillor Survey Feedback - Other Local Authority Schemes Minutes of the Safer Stockton Partnership (January & March 2026)	Louise Hollick Sharon Cooney Simon Milner
2 July	Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget - SBC Community Services, Environment and Culture - Town / Parish Council Survey Feedback - Residents Survey Feedback	Phil Hardie / Simon Milner / Corinne Moore
30 July (informal)	Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget Summary of Evidence / Draft Recommendations	Phil Hardie / Simon Milner
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		

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. 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).

COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2026-2027

- **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 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. 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

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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). 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.

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- 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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