

Date:

Thursday 2 July 2026 at 4.30pm

Venue:

Council Chamber, Dunedin House, Columbia Drive, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees
TS17 6BJ

Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy (Chair)

Cllr Katie Zagoria (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 - 20) |

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 28 May 2026.

6. Scrutiny Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget (Pages 21 - 42)

To consider a presentation from the SBC Digital Services and Systems department regarding a new, streamlined process for submitting WTB and CPB requests, as well as initial feedback from the Town / Parish Councils and local residents surveys.

7. Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2026-2027 (Pages 43 - 52)



Ged Morton
Director of Corporate Services
Wednesday 24 June 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

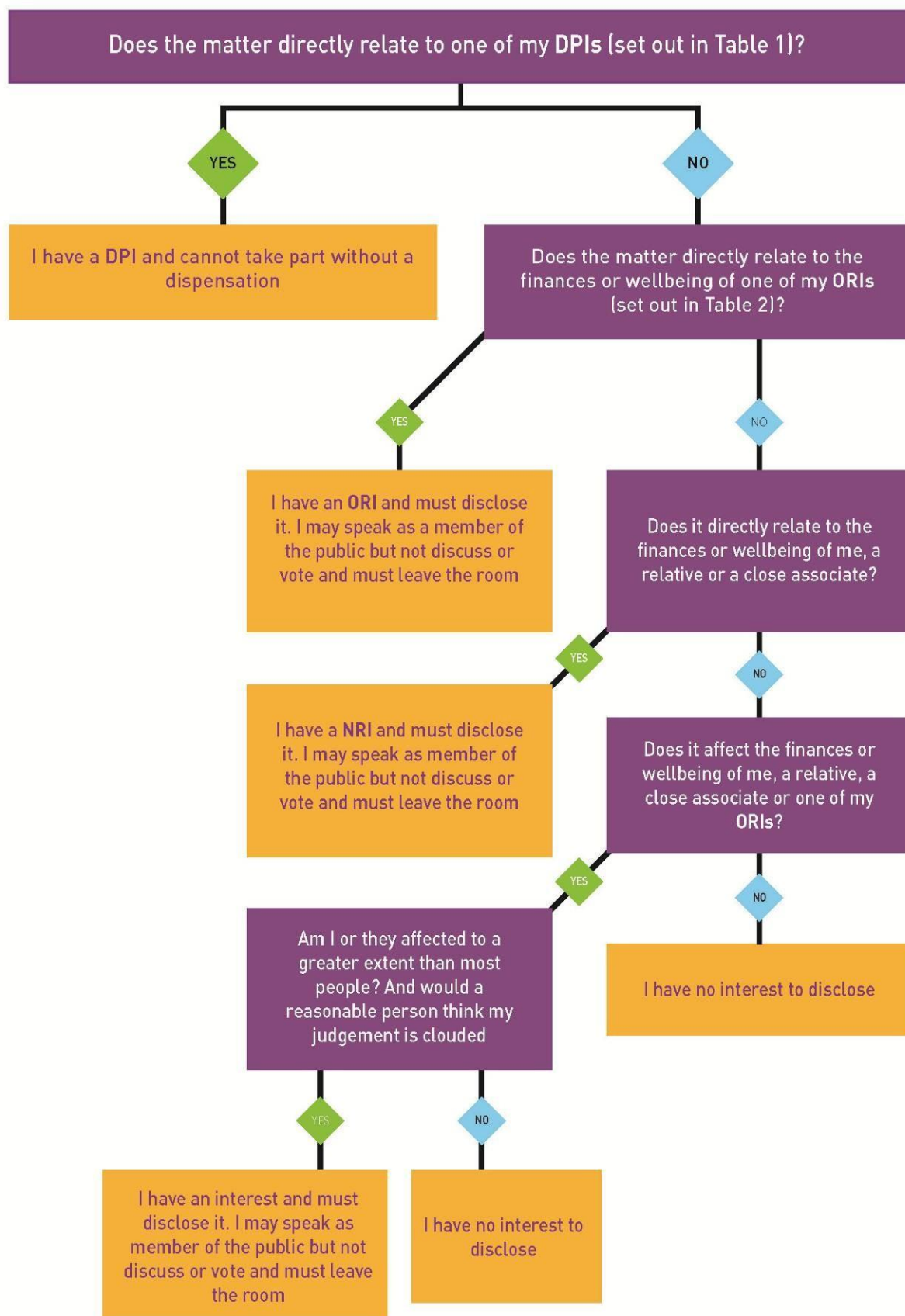


Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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.

This page is intentionally left blank

Community Safety Select Committee

A meeting of the Community Safety Select Committee was held on Thursday 28 May 2026.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy (Chair), Cllr Katie Weston (Vice-Chair), Cllr Stephen Dodds (sub for Cllr Shakeel Hussain), Cllr Jason French, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Alan Watson, Cllr Sally Ann Watson (sub for Cllr John Coulson)

Officers: Richard Bradford, Sharon Cooney, Mandy MacKinnon (A,H&W); Louise Hollick (ChS); Andrew Corcoran, Simon Milner (CS,E&C); Gary Woods (CS)

Also in attendance: None

Apologies: Cllr Bob Cook, Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Ray Godwin, Cllr Shakeel Hussain

CSS/8/25 Livestreaming

The Chair announced to those present that the meeting would be livestreamed.

CSS/9/25 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

CSS/10/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

CSS/11/25 Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Community Safety Select Committee meeting which was held on 30 April 2026 for approval and signature.

AGREED that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 30 April 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CSS/12/25 Action Plan for Agreed Recommendations - Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse

Presented by the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Assistant Director – Early Help, Safeguarding and Children in Our Care, and supported by the SBC Strategic Health & Wellbeing Manager, consideration was given to a draft Action Plan setting out how the agreed recommendations from the recently concluded review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse would be implemented, including success measures and target dates for completion.

Noting involvement from both Harbour (the local domestic abuse support service that was commissioned by SBC) and the Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding

Children Partnership (HSSCP) in collating this draft document, specific attention was drawn to the following:

- Recommendation 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)): This recommendation had already been achieved following confirmation that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Cleveland had agreed to extend funding for the University Hospital of North Tees IDVA by a further six months. Collaboration with NHS partners regarding future steps beyond this extended period would continue.
- Recommendation 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 (note: to be known as the 'Family Help Point' from 1 April 2026), including how existing partnership arrangements will be maintained / enhanced): This recommendation was already deemed achieved following briefings given to SBC Elected Members and key partners on the changes to the Council's 'front door' to services for children and their families.

Regarding recommendation 3 (above), the Committee commended officers and the OPCC for Cleveland for the prompt agreement to extend funding for the local hospital IDVA, particularly given the clear benefits the role brought to those who had experienced domestic abuse. This was a very positive development which addressed a key element of the Committee's findings.

In terms of recommendation 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) (note: to be known as the 'Family Help Point' from 1 April 2026) and local support service, Harbour (even when domestic abuse is only one of several reasons for a referral being submitted)*), the Committee queried if there had been any early progress in relation to data retention. Members were informed that data on referrals featuring domestic abuse factors was being retained within the new Family Help Point, with information produced weekly and reviewed on a monthly basis.

From a wider SBC perspective, the Committee asked how the proposed actions would feed into domestic abuse-related work being undertaken as part of the Council's *Powering Our Future* (POF) initiative. SBC officers stated that domestic abuse was being looked at as a risk factor for severe and multiple disadvantage in adulthood, and would continue to be a key consideration around early help discussions / planning. The Committee then approved the content of the draft Action Plan as presented and requested the first update on progress of the agreed actions in early-2027.

AGREED that the Action Plan in relation to the recently completed Scrutiny Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse be approved.

CSS/13/25 Monitoring the Impact of Previously Agreed Recommendations – Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

Consideration was given to the assessments of progress on the implementation of the recommendations from the Committee's previously completed review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres.

Presented by the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Service Manager – Public Protection, and supported by the SBC Community Safety Manager, this was the first progress update following the Committee’s agreement of the Action Plan in May 2025. Supplemented by associated presentation slides, developments regarding actions linked to the Committee’s recommendations were highlighted as follows:

- 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)): The uniqueness of the Borough’s six town centres was recognised within several key SBC strategy documents, a number of which (e.g. Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Community Safety Strategy, and Inclusive Growth Strategy) had been updated and published since the Committee concluded its review.

Learning from *Operation Shield* (a Stockton town centre initiative (referenced within the revised Community Safety Strategy 2025-2027) which aimed to improve safety through enhanced visibility, proactive engagement, and co-ordinated responses to issues such as anti-social behaviour (ASB) and vulnerability) was informing how similar principles could be adapted in other town centres, proportionate to their scale and need (e.g. feasibility discussions were ongoing over whether Stockton’s ‘Reducing the Strength’ campaign should also be rolled out in Norton town centre).

- 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): Aided by the identification of a Single Point of Contact (SPoC) from relevant SBC departments, the Council engaged enthusiastically with local partners to improve footfall into the Borough’s town centres. Several mechanisms enabled this collaboration including the Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP), Stockton Business Improvement District (BID), Security Forum, *Operation Shield*, Pub Watch, Shop Watch, and daily partnership meetings. SBC Community Safety officers had contributed and led on problem-solving projects to address issues in both Thornaby and Billingham town centres, liaising with the police, housing providers, fire service, SBC Town Centre Regeneration, and SBC Public Health.

SBC Community Safety was embedded into event planning considerations (e.g. Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF), Yarm Fair) and was represented at meetings to maximise the annual events and markets programme which provided further opportunities for increased footfall / exposure to town centre environments. Presentation data showed higher footfall in April 2026 compared to May 2025 for all six town centres apart from Norton (which remained the same) – Billingham, Thornaby and Yarm had seen significant rises compared to nearly a year ago, whilst a more modest rise had been experienced in Ingleby Barwick.

- 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)): There was a specific 'town centres' element within the Regeneration and Inclusive Growth, and Regulatory Services, annual communications plan which made consistent use of a host of communication platforms and engaged external media stakeholders to proactively market the Borough's six town centres and promote positive developments, including community safety. Example campaigns included the Stockton waterfront urban park, Thornaby regeneration schemes, Norton High Street improvements, Yarm improvements, *Operation Shield*, Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs), 'Reducing the Strength', events held in the town centre such as Stockton and Darlington Railway (S&DR) and SIRF, markets promotion, court cases, and closure orders where there had been positive action around ASB and criminality.
- 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): Examples of engagement with BMBF, and its impact on service delivery, included consultation on the Community Safety Strategy 2025-2027, consideration of feedback on what made young people feel safe within town centres, and BMBF participation in Family Fun Days and the 'Takeover Day' within SBC Community Safety and Regulated Services.
- 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): Following the introduction of identical PSPOs in Stockton and Norton town centres in April 2023, there was an immediate 52% reduction in reported begging incidents in Stockton town centre (2023-2024). Initial deterrence was effective, largely due to warnings and the threat of legal action. Reports of street drinking, and action taken to address this, increased.

However, over time, the deterrent effect diminished, with public perception suggesting 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 (as well as with key SBC staff and partners), with feedback incorporated into the revised, and now different, PSPOs for both Stockton and Norton which went live in April 2026. Importantly, vulnerable people continued to be directed to relevant support services.

- 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): A report had been received from the OPCC for Cleveland which showed mixed results concerning crime and ASB. Suggesting that areas with higher levels of serious violence were more resistant in responding to efforts to lower ASB, data indicated that Norton saw a 2.63% reduction in ASB, and Billingham a 10.17% reduction. However, Stockton town centre had experienced a 5.88% increase in ASB (July 2025 – March 2026).

- Recommendation 9 (Cleveland Police ensures incidents reported to them by the business community are captured and reflected within its own crime / ASB recording systems): A force-wide governance structure was in place for retail and business crime, and the recently completed strategic retail crime plan, supported by a 4P delivery plan (Prevent, Pursue, Protect, Prepare), established a consistent framework for engagement, information-sharing, and co-ordinated activity across partners. Cleveland Police actively encouraged reporting of retail and business crimes which not only assisted with detection but also built intelligence for effective crime prevention initiatives to be developed. Various partnership-focused initiatives had led to a 17.8% drop in shop thefts in Stockton town centre during the preceding six months from December 2025.
- 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)): There was clear evidence of multi-agency improvements being made to better resource town centre environments (e.g. *Operation Shield*, the Cleveland Police 'Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee' (a neighbourhood policing uplift programme), and OPCC support). Given the increased demand in Stockton town centre and the regeneration project at the waterfront, the Council had committed to not only maintaining daily foot patrols within the town centre but increasing the team by an extra two in summer 2026. These patrols would contribute to a consistent and visible uniformed presence, providing reassurance to residents, visitors and businesses, whilst also supporting early intervention and problem-solving.
- 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) and 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)): Work was actively underway to explore and apply best practice approaches to improving engagement with individuals experiencing addiction-related needs within town centres – this was being progressed through the Council's Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP) Programme. A decision was recently made to pursue a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) of professionals, both clinical and lived experience, from statutory bodies and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations, to improve and encourage access to support and recovery for those suffering from alcohol and drugs addiction.

Commending the progress made since the agreement of the Action Plan linked to the Committee's previously completed review, Members acknowledged the work of the OPCC for Cleveland in relation to retail crime, though noted that the police often felt let down by the courts which were handing down inappropriate / lenient sentences to shoplifters, meaning these individuals were soon committing crimes again. In response to a Committee query on whether this issue needed to be raised with relevant authorities, SBC officers supported the relaying of any feedback on the challenges being faced as a result of decisions made by courts.

With reference to 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) and the seven House of Multiple Occupation (HMO) applications refused since 2022, Members asked if the Council provided support to those proposing such developments (e.g. around good management). SBC officers stated that the Council's Planning Team gave advice around HMO applications and that these were sometimes re-submitted after SBC guidance.

Highlighting the perception that it was a no-crime area, the Committee noted that there was little mention of Ingleby Barwick within the information provided despite there being recent incidents of arson and shoplifting. SBC officers offered to feed back any identified issues to the relevant Cleveland Police Neighbourhood Police Team (NPT) and would ensure Ingleby Barwick featured more prominently in the next update to the Committee.

Members returned to the rolling 12-month graph included within the *Operation Shield* slide of the presentation and sought clarity over which area/s this pertained to. SBC officers explained that the graph illustrated the drop-off in reported ASB within Stockton town centre compared to April 2025, most likely because of the revised PSPO which was now active within that space.

Observing that there were only three weeks until the opening of the new Stockton waterfront urban park, the Committee sought assurance that appropriate plans were in place to ensure community safety around this key development. SBC officers reiterated the use and visibility of dedicated personnel (numbers of which would be boosted for specific events (e.g. Armed Forces Day)), and the Council would continue to work / plan with police, mindful that deployment to this new park should not adversely impact other areas of the Borough.

AGREED that the Welcoming and Safe Town Centres progress update be noted and the assessments for progress be confirmed as stated.

CSS/14/25 Scrutiny Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget

The second evidence-gathering session for the Committee's review of Community Participation Budget (CPB) and Ward Transport Budget (WTB) considered a further submission from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Community Safety, Environment and Culture directorate. Presented by the SBC Highways Manager, and supported by the SBC Highways, Transport and Design Manager, information covered the following:

- Project Delivery (Schemes in progress)
 - WTB: A total of 36 schemes were in progress (nearly half of which were now in the programme for delivery, with the remainder being almost evenly split between the 'investigate / consult', 'further information required', or 'awaiting programming' stages), totalling just over £175,000. 44% of these were in relation to parking restrictions, 42% for highway engineering, 11% for traffic calming, and 3% for resurfacing.
 - CPB: 95 schemes were currently being worked through (the vast majority of which were now in the programme for delivery, with a very small number either still being investigated / consulted upon or requiring further information), totalling just over £165,000. 57% concerned planting projects, 15% for CCTV, 8% in relation to boulders and bollards, 4% for bins, and 4% for benches. The

remaining 12% was marked 'other' for projects involving different themes / categories.

- Project Delivery (Proposals not taken forward): There had been 48 proposals not taken forward in the last 14 months (covering the full 2024-2025 financial year and the 2025-2026 financial year to date). 21 were not progressed for reasons such as cost eligibility or a lack of evidence (e.g. a demonstrable safety issue), 17 had technical constraints (e.g. the proposal conflicted with another planned scheme), and 10 did not proceed due to other priorities (e.g. re-direction of funds to alternative schemes). It was important to note that significant officer time / resource was required on an application even if a decision was subsequently made not to proceed.
- Eligibility Criteria
 - CPB: Schemes should focus on local community and environmental improvements, must demonstrate local need and community benefit, and must be feasible and deliverable. Decisions to proceed with proposals which created ongoing revenue or maintenance costs were limited, and some schemes required third-party maintenance arrangements.
 - WTB: This budget was restricted to transport, safety and accessibility schemes and must be supported by evidence (e.g. safety data / speed surveys). Proposals required full technical assessment and design, and must be safe, compliant and deliverable on the highway network. The WTB was not suitable for non-transport or revenue-based schemes.
- Project Summary (Spend profile): As previously stated, CPB schemes costing just over £165,000 and WTB schemes totalling just over £175,000 were in development and committed, whilst the cost of those projects that were not progressed came to nearly £432,000. It was emphasised that any underspend in relation to either budget reflected schemes that were either in development or constrained by delivery factors, not by a lack of demand / interest.
- Revenue Implications: Proposed new schemes had the potential to create ongoing revenue costs which may in turn influence eligibility. Examples of such projects (and associated revenue implications) included the installation of CCTV (requiring monitoring costs), planting (needing maintenance / watering), bins (to be emptied / serviced), road markings (necessitating periodic refresh and enforcement), and speed indicator devices (creating energy costs, with mobile devices needing to be rotated to different locations).
- Benchmarking: Comparisons with other North East Local Authority Member-related budget schemes demonstrated variance in the level of funding available, along with differences in governance and control, and project eligibility / purpose. A graphic highlighted the budget models, key features and key constraints of similar schemes operated by Hartlepool, South Tyneside, Durham, Northumberland, Doncaster and Stockton-on-Tees Councils.

Although funding models differed quite considerably between these six Local Authorities, there were common challenges around revenue and maintenance pressures, expectations versus deliverability, and officer capacity and competing priorities. Highways-related projects were becoming increasingly evidence-led (a national trend), but Member budgets did allow for some flexibility (albeit within

limits). It was felt that the current model in Stockton-on-Tees provided a balance between project flexibility and control, but that SBC was experiencing similar challenges to other Local Authorities in terms of operating such budget schemes.

OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBER-RELATED BUDGET SCHEMES

Supplementing the latter part of the SBC Community Safety, Environment and Culture directorate presentation, a paper highlighting further Member-related budget schemes offered by Local Authorities across the country (including links for further detail) was summarised.

Again, whilst it was recognised that funding allocations and processes / governance differed from the SBC model, it was also apparent that these schemes were very transparent to the public. Councils elsewhere provided individual Ward Councillor spend (City of Stoke-on-Trent), a breakdown of projects funded along with photographic evidence (Hillingdon), and interactive maps of projects completed through their current scheme (Royal Borough of Greenwich).

WARD COUNCILLOR SURVEY

Quantitative feedback received thus far in relation to the previously issued SBC Ward Councillor survey was tabled for information (it was noted that the survey deadline was tomorrow (Friday 29 May 2026)). As of 22 May 2026, there had been 21 responses from SBC Elected Members – it was subsequently agreed to extend the survey deadline to Friday 12 June 2026 to provide an opportunity for further views to be submitted.

TOWN / PARISH COUNCILS AND LOCAL RESIDENT SURVEYS

Proposed survey questions for Town and Parish Councils were tabled for approval – these were subsequently agreed and would be circulated to relevant contacts after this meeting.

Proposed survey questions for local residents were tabled for approval – these were subsequently agreed and would be circulated to existing engagement mechanisms via the SBC Community Engagement Team after this meeting.

AGREED that:

- 1) the information submitted by the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Community Safety, Environment and Culture directorate be noted.
- 2) the deadline for responses to the Committee's survey for SBC Ward Councillors be extended by two weeks (to Friday 12 June 2026).

CSS/15/25 Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP) – Previous Minutes (January & March 2026)

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP) meetings which took place in January and March 2026.

AGREED that the minutes of the Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP) meeting which took place in January and March 2026 be noted.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair stated that the executive summary of the Committee’s final report following its review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse had been presented to the SBC Executive Scrutiny Committee where several recommendations were highlighted (including the call for options to be explored in order to secure funding for the continuation / enhancement of Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) services within local health settings).

WORK PROGRAMME 2026-2027

Consideration was given to the Committee’s current work programme. The next meeting was due to take place on 2 July 2026 where the final evidence-gathering session was scheduled for the ongoing Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget review.

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

Chair:

This page is intentionally left blank

Scrutiny Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget

Summary

The third evidence-gathering session for the Committee's review of Community Participation Budget (CPB) and Ward Transport Budget (WTB) will consider a presentation from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Digital Services and Systems department regarding a new, streamlined process for submitting requests. Initial feedback from both the Town / Parish Councils and local residents surveys will also be relayed.

Detail

1. As referenced in previous evidence sessions for this review, a new online case management platform for Members to submit and track proposed CPB and WTB-related schemes was currently in development.

A presentation in relation to these new processes has been prepared and is included within these meeting papers. Relevant officers from the SBC Digital Services and Systems department are scheduled to be in attendance to give a summary of this submission and address any subsequent Committee comments / questions.

2. Following agreement of the questions at the last Committee meeting in May 2026, surveys were issued to the Borough's Town and Parish Councils, and to local residents via existing SBC community engagement mechanisms, requesting views around this scrutiny topic. Initial feedback will be relayed to this meeting.
3. 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>

4. 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

Ward Transport Budget (WTB) & Community Participation Budget (CPB)

A new, streamlined process for submitting requests

Presented by:

Natalie Sargeant

Customer Development Lead

Digital Services & Systems

WTB & CPB

Online form introduction

Simple to use

A new online form has been designed to provide a consistent way of submitting new ward transport requests



Provides the right information first time

The form gathers the details needed to help assess requests more effectively, reducing the need for follow-up emails and requests for further information



Better visibility and management

Requests are securely recorded and managed by officers through a single end to end process, improving the management and tracking of requests from submission through to outcome



WTB & CPB

Where to access the online form

The form will be easily accessible in the members area of the intranet



Search...

Support, benefits and engagement

Recruitment and induction

Training and development

Working for the Council

Services

Members

[Home](#)

Members

Useful documents and links to information which members may require.



Staff directory

Find what each service within our Council covers, a member or officer and contact details for Parish and Town Councils and local Members of Parliament (MPs).



Committee Structure and Membership

The Council's Committee Structure, the details of each of the Committees, and details of the Joint and Outside Bodies Members are appointed to.



Ward information

[Ward Transport Budget >](#)
[Ward Boundary Maps 2023 >](#)



Search...

Support, benefits and engagement

Recruitment and induction

Training and development

Working for the Council

Services

Members

[Home](#) / [Members](#) / [Ward information](#)

Ward Transport Budget

The Ward Transport Budget is a small allocation of the Council's Local Transport Plan budget that is allocated on a ward-by-ward basis to undertake potential projects identified to address transport related issues raised by the local ward councillors.

Further details of this budget can be found in the [guidance document](#).

To submit a new issue to be investigated please complete the form.

[Ward Transport Budget Application >](#)



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

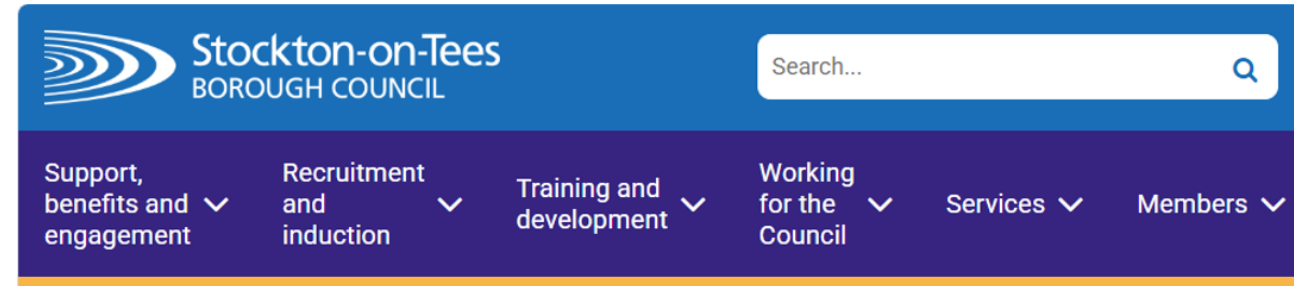
24/06/2026

3

WTB & CPB

Online form – Introduction page

- The Introduction page explains the purpose of the form and what information will be needed before submission
- Uses the same look and feel as other Council online forms, providing a familiar experience



Stockton Intranet

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

Use this service to:

- raise a new request for a transport-related issue through the Ward Transport or Community Participation Budget fund

Request takes around 5 minutes.

What you'll need

- a description of the issue, including the location, what is happening and who it involves

If you have any evidence of the issue, you can upload it with this request.

[Start now >](#)

WTB & CPB

Reporting new issues

- Submit new issues for investigation
- You only need to tell us about each issue once to avoid duplication

The screenshot shows the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Intranet. At the top is a blue header with the council's logo and name, a search bar, and a navigation menu with links to 'Support, benefits and engagement', 'Recruitment and induction', 'Training and development', 'Working for the Council', 'Services', and 'Members'. Below the header, the page is titled 'Stockton Intranet' and 'Raise a request through the Ward Transport or Community Participation Budget fund'. The form asks 'Is this a new issue?' with radio button options for 'Yes' and 'No'. At the bottom of the form are 'Back' and 'Continue' buttons.

Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Search...

Support, benefits and engagement ▼ Recruitment and induction ▼ Training and development ▼ Working for the Council ▼ Services ▼ Members ▼

Stockton Intranet

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

Is this a new issue?

☐ Yes ☐ No

[< Back](#) [Continue >](#)

WTB & CPB

Issues within your ward

- The online form is intended for reporting issues within your ward boundary
- Issues outside your ward can easily be raised by the relevant ward member



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Search...

Support,
benefits and
engagement

Recruitment
and
induction

Training and
development

Working
for the
Council

Services

Members

Stockton Intranet

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

Is the issue in your ward?

☐ Yes

☐ No

< Back

Continue >

WTB & CPB

Ward member agreement

- Where a ward has multiple members, requests should be agreed by all ward members before submission to prevent any delays



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Search...

Support,
benefits and
engagement

Recruitment
and
induction

Training and
development

Working
for the
Council

Services

Members

Stockton Intranet

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

Do you have approval from other members in your ward to make this request?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ I am the only ward member

< Back

Continue >

WTB & CPB

Providing issue information

- Providing detailed information helps the request to be assessed more efficiently
- You can include things like what is happening, how often, who is affected and where it's located

**Stockton-on-Tees**
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Search...

Support,
benefits and
engagement ▼

Recruitment
and
induction ▼

Training and
development ▼

Working
for the
Council ▼

Services ▼

Members ▼

Stockton Intranet

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

Provide details of the issue
Describe the problem and its location. Include as much detail as possible

You can enter up to **1000** characters

< Back

Continue >

WTB & CPB

Resolving the issue

- Share any ideas or suggestions you might have for resolving the issue
- Suggestions are optional and will be considered as part of the assessment process

Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Search...

Support,
benefits and
engagement

Recruitment
and
induction

Training and
development

Working
for the
Council

Services

Members

Stockton Intranet

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

Do you have any suggestions for how this issue could be resolved?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Tell us how you think the issue could be resolved

You can enter up to 1000 characters

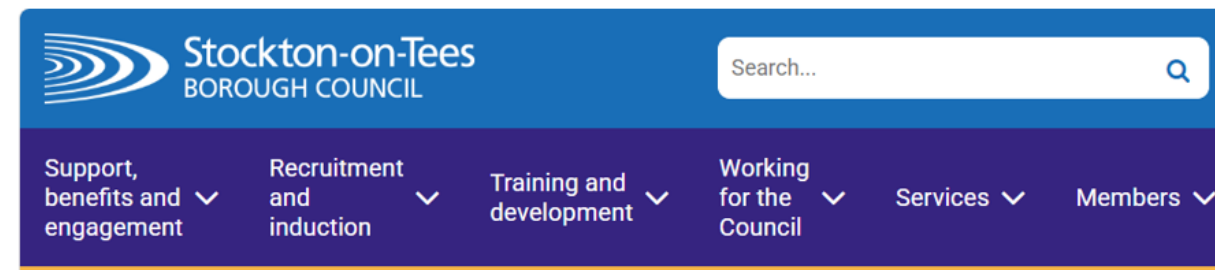
< Back

Continue >

WTB & CPB

Uploading evidence

- Easily upload files you think are relevant, such as photos of the affected site or location
- Photos, documents or correspondence can help provide additional context



Stockton Intranet

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

Supporting evidence

i This is supporting evidence: 1

You can upload a maximum of 6 files

Upload your supporting evidence

Select one file under 10MB

Choose File No file chosen

Add more evidence +

< Back

Continue >

WTB & CPB

Final check before submitting

- An easy to follow ‘Check your answers’ page allows you to review your answers before submission
- Return to any section to update information if needed

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

Check your answers

Your details

First name	Test
Last name	Member
Ward name	Test Ward
Email address	Test.Member@test.gov.uk

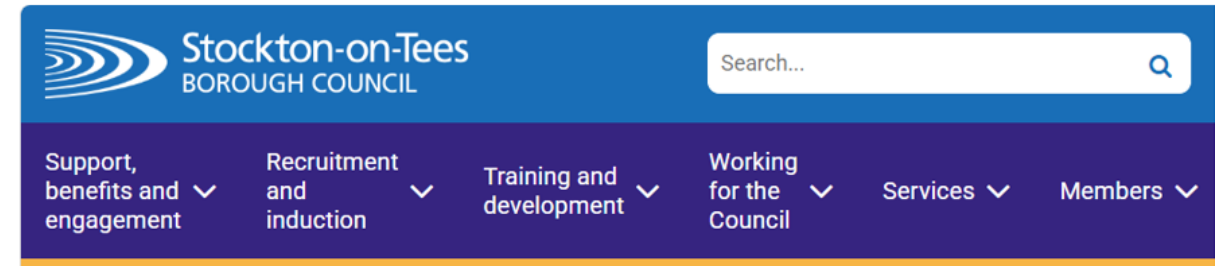
Details of the request

Is this a new issue?	Yes	Change
Is the issue in your ward?	Yes	Change
Do you have approval from other members in your ward to make this request?	Yes	Change

WTB & CPB

Confirmation

- Receive instant confirmation that your request has been successfully submitted
- A unique reference number is provided to help track the request
- A confirmation email is automatically sent for your records



Stockton Intranet

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

Request complete

Your reference is - 4233-6981-7560-6551

We have sent you a confirmation email.

What happens next

We've sent your application to the Highways team.

The Highways team will contact you either to confirm details of the project, or to ask for more information within 14 days.

WTB & CPB

What happens next?

- Requests are securely transferred into the Council's case management system
- All request details and supporting evidence are stored together in one place
- Having everything in one place helps officers assess, track and manage requests efficiently



This page is intentionally left blank

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 Digital Services and Systems • Town / Parish Council Survey • Local 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

This page is intentionally left blank

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 / Mandy MacKinnon Sharon Cooney / Richard Bradford Simon Milner / Andrew Corcoran
2 July	Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget - SBC Digital Services and Systems - Town / Parish Council Survey Feedback - Local Resident Survey Feedback	Natalie Sargeant
30 July	Review of Alley Gates (Draft) Scope and Project Plan	TBC
30 July (informal)	Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget Summary of Evidence / Draft Recommendations	Phil Hardie / Simon Milner
1 October	Overview and Performance Report: Adults, Health & Wellbeing (Regulated Services & Emergency Planning) (TBC)	Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE / Carolyn Nice / Marc Stephenson

COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2026-2027

Date (4.30pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
	Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget (Draft) Final Report Review of Alley Gates - TBC	Cllr Paul Rowling / Craig Willows / Phil Hardie / Simon Milner
22 October	Air Quality: Annual Update Review of Alley Gates TBC	Stephen Donaghy
26 November	Review of Alley Gates TBC	
17 December	Review of Alley Gates TBC	
28 January 2027	Review of Alley Gates TBC	
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) – TBC (early-2027)
- Children affected by Domestic Abuse (Progress Update) – TBC (early-2027)

COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2026-2027

OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES / UPDATES

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

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

- **Serious Violence Duty:** The Duty (Aug 22) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-2021-factsheets/police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-2021-serious-violence-duty-factsheet> and associated guidance (Dec 22): https://www.gov.uk/government/news/efforts-to-tackle-serious-violence-and-homicide-stepped-up?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=66d44b4c-9d22-4f1d-aed7-517818847183&utm_content=immediately. The Home Office plan to update the guidance to the Serious Violence Duty (SVD) – the LGA will be giving views (Councils have contributed to this).
- **Martyn's Law:** The Home Office has [released new guidance materials](#) to support public understanding of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025—commonly known as Martyn's Law—by publishing a myth buster and a one-page leaflet aimed at clarifying the Act's scope and dispelling common misconceptions.

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

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 it 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

COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2026-2027

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

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

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

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

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

- **Youth Offending:** *Turnaround* is a voluntary youth early intervention programme led by the Ministry of Justice. The programme provides multi-year grant funding to Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) across England and Wales until March 2025, enabling them to intervene earlier and improve outcomes for children on the cusp of entering the youth justice system. The eligibility criteria for *Turnaround* includes; children involved in anti-social behaviour (ASB) – ranging from coming to notice for repeated involvement in ASB up to and including receiving a Civil Order for ASB. The Ministry of Justice is encouraging all community safety teams to engage with their local YOT Manager or Management Board to discuss a referral pathway for eligible children so they can be offered support via *Turnaround*.
- **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,

COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2026-2027

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](https://www.gov.uk). These changes have been made following the recommendations of the Victims' Commissioner's 2024 report, "[Still living a nightmare: Understanding the experiences of victims of anti-social behaviour](#)". Key updates include:

- Enhanced recommendations for victim participation and support throughout the ASB Case Review process.
 - Clearer guidance on the role of a single point of contact for victims
 - Stronger emphasis on the use of independent chairs for case reviews.
 - Alignment with the Victims Code to ensure victims of criminal ASB are referred to support services, regardless of whether criminal charges are pursued.
 - Additional guidance on the interface between ASB and safeguarding, including domestic abuse and exploitation.
- **CONTEST:** In July 2023, the Government published its [updated counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST](#), which judges that risks from terrorism are rising. In related matters, SBC rolled-out mandatory staff training around the Prevent and Protect duty at the end of April 2023. In March 2024, the Government [published a new definition of extremism](#), updating the one in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and to reflect the evolution of extremist ideologies and the social harms they create. The Government also recently published a [progress report one year on from the publication of the Independent Review of Prevent](#). This sets out that 30 of the 34 recommendations are now complete, including updated statutory guidance, training and the assessment framework, the launch of a new [Standards and Compliance Unit \(STaCU\)](#) to handle complaints and provide oversight.

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

- **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](#).

COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2026-2027

- **Shoplifting:** Police to treat shoplifting like organised crime (BBC online article published in October 2023): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-67191793>. In November 2024, it was reported that incidents of shoplifting had reached a 20-year high, according to figures recorded by the police. A survey of shopkeepers by the Association of Convenience Stores found that 94 per cent felt that the problem had worsened in the last 12 months: [Sky: 'We need help': Workers say shoplifting is 'out of control' after surge in brazen thefts](#).
- **Dangerous Dogs Act 1991:** The Government has added the XL Bully breed type to the list of dogs banned under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in England and Wales. From 31 December 2023, breeding, selling, exchanging, advertising, rehoming, gifting, abandoning, and allowing an XL Bully dog to stray will be illegal, and these dogs must be muzzled and on a lead in public. From 1 February 2024 it will be a criminal offence to own an XL Bully in England and Wales unless the owner has a Certificate of Exemption. [Defra has published further information about how to prepare for the ban which will be updated regularly](#), and they will continue engagement with stakeholders. In March 2024, the LGA wrote to Council chief finance officers on behalf of DEFRA about new burdens funding relating to the XL Bully Ban for 2023-24.
- **Licensing:** [Legislation has been introduced into Parliament to amend the Licensing Act 2003](#) so that it is easier to get changes to licensing hours for special events or occasions, such as significant sporting events, through Parliament. The Bill is more concerned with parliamentary process than the contents of the Licensing Act itself. The Local Government Association (LGA) understands this legislation has Government support, so is likely to complete its parliamentary stages and become law.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE Work Programme 2026-2027

[to inform their plans to introduce a licensing scheme for the retail sale of tobacco](#) (Councils are encouraged to respond by 3 December and the LGA will also be submitting a response).

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

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

The Tobacco and Vapes Act now has Royal Assent. The law introduces stronger enforcement powers, including the ability to implement a retail licensing scheme and tackle illicit tobacco and vape sales. The English Devolution Act also has received Royal Assent – this will introduce more robust national standards in taxi and PHV licensing, as well as national enforcement powers, and will introduce cumulative impact assessments in gambling licensing.

The Government has also announced a draft Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) Bill in the King's Speech, setting out the most significant overhaul of taxi and PHV legislation in more than a century. The LGA will work with Government to develop the Bill.

- **Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs):** The LGA and DAC conducted a survey regarding DHRs - [the results can be found on the LGA website](#). The LGA, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and Domestic Abuse Commissioner (DAC) formed a Domestic and Related Deaths Review (DARDR) forum for those who are involved in commissioning DARDRs or DHRs. There are currently 195 members of the forum from Councils, police, Offices of Police and Crime Commissioners and health. The forum set up a task group to give recommendations to government to consider in the forthcoming output from a review of DARDRs. The second phase will begin shortly where access to qualified chairs and costs will be considered.

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

- **Fires involving e-bikes and e-scooters:** The Office for Product Safety & Standards (OPSS) has written to heads of trading standards, asking that, where resources and prioritisation allow, Trading Standards services identify and inspect bike repair businesses and where possible inform OPSS of their findings.
- **Social Cohesion:** Dame Sara Khan has published her [independent review into social cohesion and resilience](#). Recommendations include the establishment of a new Office for Social Cohesion and Democratic Resilience (OSCDR), a 5-year Social Cohesion and Democratic Resilience Strategy (SCDR) and

COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2026-2027

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.
 - **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.

COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2026-2027

- **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 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.

COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE Work Programme 2026-2027

- **Deepfakes and Synthetic Media:** The LGA's [Deepfakes and Synthetic Media Unpacked](#) is a short, accessible video series introducing what deepfakes and synthetic media are, why they matter for local government and what practical steps officers and councillors can take to reduce potential risks.
- **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.