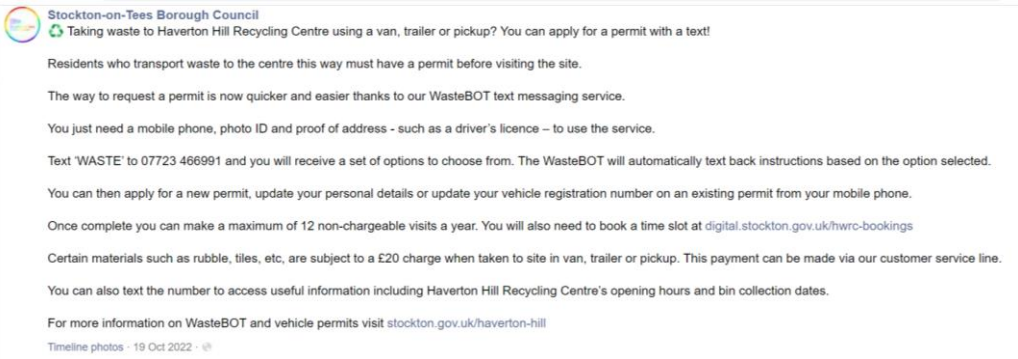


APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Bonfires on Public Land

SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE	
Review:	Bonfires on Public Land
Link Officer/s:	Marc Stephenson (now Sharon Cooney)
Action Plan Agreed:	March 2023

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.

Recommendation 1:	To supplement Cleveland Fire Brigade’s (CFB) annual promotion of fire safety ahead of the bonfire season, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) reviews its own public engagement approach to reinforce this messaging across all available communication mechanisms, emphasising dangers of bonfires and impact on local residents.
Responsibility:	SBC Head of Community Safety
Date:	March 2023
Agreed Action:	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council will review its own public engagement program to ensure it supports that of Cleveland Fire Brigade around key safety messaging over the bonfire period.
Agreed Success Measure:	<p>Clear evidence that the SBC and CFB have a shared approach to community engagement on key safety messages during the bonfire period.</p> <p>Examples of shared messaging and engagement a range of platforms are evident.</p>
Evidence of Progress (March 2023):	<p>This is evidenced in the collaborative approach taken alongside Cleveland Fire Brigade. Environmental Crime Officers worked alongside CFB using data to identify sixteen locations most vulnerable to deliberate fire setting. These residents received a letter promoting responsible disposal of waste materials. A variety of methods were used to communicate key messages across the Borough, including Social Media (see below) and letter drops to local residents.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">  <p>Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Taking waste to Haverton Hill Recycling Centre using a van, trailer or pickup? You can apply for a permit with a text!</p> <p>Residents who transport waste to the centre this way must have a permit before visiting the site.</p> <p>The way to request a permit is now quicker and easier thanks to our WasteBOT text messaging service.</p> <p>You just need a mobile phone, photo ID and proof of address - such as a driver's licence – to use the service.</p> <p>Text 'WASTE' to 07723 466991 and you will receive a set of options to choose from. The WasteBOT will automatically text back instructions based on the option selected.</p> <p>You can then apply for a new permit, update your personal details or update your vehicle registration number on an existing permit from your mobile phone.</p> <p>Once complete you can make a maximum of 12 non-chargeable visits a year. You will also need to book a time slot at digital.stockton.gov.uk/hwrc-bookings</p> <p>Certain materials such as rubble, tiles, etc, are subject to a £20 charge when taken to site in van, trailer or pickup. This payment can be made via our customer service line.</p> <p>You can also text the number to access useful information including Haverton Hill Recycling Centre's opening hours and bin collection dates.</p> <p>For more information on WasteBOT and vehicle permits visit stockton.gov.uk/haverton-hill</p> <p><small>Timeline photos - 19 Oct 2022 · 📷</small></p> </div>

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Bonfires on Public Land



Social Media

A joint social media campaign was run entitled '4 Ways You Can help Us'
The Press Release had 150 views
The Facebook post reached 3000 users
The Tweet reached 2000 users through direct users and retweets
The LinkedIn post reached 415 users
The Instagram story had 700 views
We also shared Cleveland Fire Brigade's post;
The Facebook share reached 8500 people
The Retweet reached 900 users

Letter to residents

Dear Resident,

Waste storage and Disposal

As we approach bonfire season, the Civic Enforcement Service want to take this opportunity to remind residents of the appropriate way to store and dispose waste lawfully.

Fly tipping costs local authorities millions of pounds each year to remove but it also has a detrimental impact on both our community and environment. You can help us tackle this problem.

Bonfire season creates a potential risk of people setting deliberate fires especially on large communal green areas, which creates an added strain on our Emergency Services. Along with the additional pressures on services, fly tipping waste is a criminal offence and can leave you subject to a fine of an unlimited amount and imprisonment of up to 5 years.

Our Enforcement officers will be proactively patrolling locations and any waste that is fly tipped will be removed and investigations will be conducted which may lead to prosecutions.

As always we want our community to enjoy the season, stay safe and be aware of the strain this illegal activity has on our environment, neighbourhoods

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Bonfires on Public Land

and our emergency services. We encourage residents to attend planned, safe and scheduled events.

What if I have waste to remove?

If you have waste that needs removing, we encourage residents to recycle where possible and utilise the facilities the council have to offer

Care for your area offer a Bulky Waste collection service which can be arranged online at <https://www.stockton.gov.uk> or via telephone 01642 391959.

Your local household Waste Recycling centre SUEZ recycling and recovery UK, is located on Haverton Hill Road, TS231PY. You can book a slot at your convenience using the following site - <https://digital.stockton.gov.uk/hwrc-bookings>

Registered waste carriers can take your waste and dispose of it appropriately. You can find a registered waste carrier on the following government website. <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers> - but be sure to obtain a waste transfer note.

What checks do I need to make?

The relevant checks of waste carrier licences can be done online on the Environment Agency's website or waste carriers register at <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>. If you do not have the waste licence registration number, searching for the business name or their commercial trading name is a useful alternative.

A waste carrier must have the correct waste licence to transport or remove any waste, and they must complete a waste transfer note. Be sure to check that the licence is in date and valid for the type of waste that you need removing.

How can I discharge my liability?

If the relevant checks are not done, and subsequently your waste is fly tipped you are liable to be investigated contrary to Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 for the duty of care of your waste. You need to ensure that you obtain a signed waste transfer note from the person who is removing your waste and request to see their waste carrier's licence. It is recommended you make a note of their waste carrier's number. For more information regarding what should be on waste transfer notes and your requirements visit - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1991/2839/made>

How do I report Fly Tipping, waste accumulation or someone who I believe to not be a waste carrier?

We are working closely with Cleveland Fire Brigade to prevent any fly tipping occurring and subsequently being set alight for the purpose of this season and to prosecute those responsible. This residential area has been highlighted from

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Bonfires on Public Land

	<p>the council's statistics and Cleveland Fire Brigade as a location where these incidents have previously taken place. Therefore, we urge anyone who witnesses fly tipping occurring or a waste accumulation in gardens to contact the Civic Enforcement Service on 01642 528439 or via email at Civic.Enforcement@stockton.gov.uk</p> <p>Together we can work to prevent fly tipping and illegal bonfires which impact on our community. Let's enjoy this season responsibly and protect our neighbourhoods, emergency services and environment.</p> <p>Yours Sincerely,</p> <p>Civic Enforcement - Environmental Crime Co-ordinators.</p>
<p>Assessment of Progress (March 2023): (include explanation if required)</p>	<p>1 (Fully Achieved)</p>
<p>Evidence of Impact (March 2023):</p>	<p>There were 13 deliberate F1 incidents and 48 F3 incidents during the reporting period of 10 October to 06 November 2022, of which 43 had deliberate causes, 3 smoking materials, 1 radiated heat and 1 child accidental.</p> <p>In the four-weeks prior 12 September to 09 October 2022 there were 6 deliberate F1 incidents and 51 F3 incidents (of which 48 had deliberate cause, 1 radiated heat, 1 unknown and 1 smoking materials).</p> <p>During the same period 2021/22 (11 October to 07 November 2021) there were 11 deliberate F1 and 56 F3 incidents (of which 53 deliberate cause, 2 radiated heat and 1 smoking materials).</p> <p>This is a demonstrable decrease of deliberate incidents for this year's Bonfire period since 2021/22 when the country still had some pandemic measures in place. There are also less deliberate fires than the reporting period immediately prior.</p>

<p>Recommendation 2:</p>	<p>In terms of communicating to the wider public, SBC considers adopting the Shrewsbury Town Council approach in emphasising a zero tolerance towards unauthorised bonfires (including contact routes for permission to light a bonfire on public land and the potential consequences for failing to seek permission).</p>
<p>Responsibility:</p>	<p>SBC Head of Community Safety</p>
<p>Date:</p>	<p>February 2023</p>
<p>Agreed Action:</p>	<p>Stockton Borough Council will undertake further research into this approach, identifying and applying where reasonable best practice.</p> <p>Consideration given to the legal viability of allowing approved bonfires to take place on public land.</p>

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Bonfires on Public Land

Agreed Success Measure:	Assurance made to the committee that SBC has contacted other areas including Shrewsbury Town Council to learn more about their approach. Evidence that processes have been put in place (or considered) for legitimate bonfire to take place.
Evidence of Progress (March 2023):	Lead officer for this initiative has been absent and so the work has been reallocated. An appointment to discuss the ability to restrict Bonfire locations with Legal Department has been made and elements of the approach will be rolled out in advance of this year's Bonfire period. This will be adopted as a Joint Action Group agenda item and it is anticipated SBC will be adopt a similar approach in advance of Bonfire season 2023. Other research has also been undertaken around best practice and this will also be applied accordingly.
Assessment of Progress (March 2023): (include explanation if required)	1 (Fully Achieved)
Evidence of Impact (March 2023):	Not applicable.

Recommendation 3:	SBC reinforces existing communication arrangements with both CFB and Cleveland Police for them to report details of dispensed combustible materials for collection (both during and outside the bonfire season).
Responsibility:	SBC Head of Community Safety
Date:	November 2022
Agreed Action:	SBC provide a clear and simple method for CFB and Cleveland Police to report combustible materials for timely collection at all times of the year.
Agreed Success Measure:	Clear evidence of a simple and defined process that is in place to allow partners to report combustible items for removal. Supporting evidence of this process being used is captured and reported back to committee.
Evidence of Progress (March 2023):	During the bonfire season, CFB and Police had direct access to Control Room via radio and telephone to report any issues. Police and CFB Control Rooms also had direct access to Control Room to immediately report combustible items. Reports from CFB and Police were not captured individually as Operation Autumnus runs as a multi-agency operation. This capability is retained throughout the year. An online reporting system was implemented for use by all agencies and the public and has proven to be a success as the request can be created at the scene using the online form. This generates a job which can be directly accessed by enforcement to pick up/attend and action.

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Bonfires on Public Land

	<p>This has proven to be efficient as it gives the options to include pictures of the waste and pinpoint the location of the waste on a map making it easier for the officer investigating. This has encouraged members of the public to report waste. CFB recently reported waste issues/fires at a location in Stockton. This was attended by our enforcement team and actioned resulting in a Fixed Penalty Notice for duty of care and also raised a hot spot area for dumping waste.</p> <p>This sharing of information is vital and has proven to have a positive impact, although at present there is no reporting mechanism for separating reports from different agencies and sources.</p>																				
<p>Assessment of Progress (March 2023): (include explanation if required)</p>	<p>1 (Fully Achieved)</p>																				
<p>Evidence of Impact (March 2023):</p>	<p>Reports are allocated via the GOSS system to the department most suited to dealing (eg. CFYA, Environmental Health, Trading Standards).</p> <p>The table below represents incidents allocated to Community Safety for Bonfire Season:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #e1eef6;"> <th style="text-align: left;">Row Labels</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Oct</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Nov</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Grand Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>016 Setting Fires</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>017 Inappropriate use of fireworks</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>018 Assist Fire Brigade</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #e1eef6;"> <td>Grand Total</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">43</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>As a continuation of this recommendation moving forward, for Autumn 2023 the team will explore opportunities for data capture and collaboration across internal and external teams.</p>	Row Labels	Oct	Nov	Grand Total	016 Setting Fires	9	3	12	017 Inappropriate use of fireworks	21	9	30	018 Assist Fire Brigade		1	1	Grand Total	30	13	43
Row Labels	Oct	Nov	Grand Total																		
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017 Inappropriate use of fireworks	21	9	30																		
018 Assist Fire Brigade		1	1																		
Grand Total	30	13	43																		

Recommendation 4:	SBC continues to support CFB and Thirteen Housing Group in undertaking leaflet-drops to identified bonfire hotspot neighbourhoods within the Borough regarding fire safety and reporting routes for anti-social behaviour / associated disorder.
Responsibility:	SBC Head of Community Safety
Date:	November 2022
Agreed Action:	<p>SBC to continue and where reasonable increase its support of CFB and Thirteen Housing Group in bonfire hotspots within Stockton on Tees.</p> <p>SBC continues to deal robustly with instances of ASB and disorder during this period.</p>


APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Bonfires on Public Land

Agreed Success Measure:	<p>Clear evidence of partnership working taking place to reduce the levels of deliberate fire setting and improve safety.</p> <p>Clear evidence of a strategy to tackle seasonal ASB and disorder is in place.</p>
Evidence of Progress (March 2023):	<p>A new approach to partnership working has been developed which is prepared by Environmental Crime Officers, with a clear strategy to deal with ASB hotspots, fire safety and reporting routes for the bonfire, this is demonstrated through the Operation Bonfire approach, implemented in 2022 and will be further developed throughout the year. The approach looks to build on the existing work done historically around this period of high demand but also incorporates recommendations from the review.</p> <p>It is acknowledged following the scrutiny review and debrief from last year's operation that there could have been more 'joined up' work with Housing and Youth Outreach in the approach to the Bonfire period 2022. Individual organisational restructures and a retreat from partnership working during the pandemic contributed to a somewhat disjointed approach in comparison to pre-pandemic operations. This has been addressed for 2023, via the planning process and overseen by the Joint Action Group.</p> <p>CFB and Thirteen are partners on the JAG, which meets monthly. The partnership work to tackle ASB and deliberate fires continues both inside and outside of Bonfire season in order to achieve sustainable, long-term changes in behaviour rather than just during the approach to October and November.</p> <p>So far this year, two joint walkabouts have taken place, one is planned for Holmes Estate, Thornaby on 9th March and more will be arranged regularly via the JAG. Involved agencies include Community Safety, Environmental Health, Thirteen, CFYA, Police and CFB.</p> <p>The 'walkabouts' have taken place in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primrose Hill • Tilery <p>Rubbish accumulation, graffiti and community needs such as garden tidy ups etc were identified and shared with relevant partners. Community intelligence was also gathered and shared with relevant partners and this process will continue as business as usual moving forward.</p>
Assessment of Progress (March 2023): (include explanation if required)	1 (Fully Achieved)
Evidence of Impact (March 2023):	<p>Information about the dangers, consequences, potential costs and the likely penalties under section 33 of The Environmental Protection Act 1990 were outlined in letters sent to 453 properties in the identified hotspot areas on 17th October 2022. The letters also highlighted the strain on our emergency services and informed householders how get combustible items removed correctly and minimise the risk of any waste being set alight. Details of how to report any waste accumulations they may see in the area to the Authority were included.</p>

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Bonfires on Public Land

	In the period from the letter drop to 6 th November, there were 13 waste accumulation incidents and 56 fly tips reported and investigated by the team.
Recommendation 5:	To further deter the construction and lighting of unauthorised bonfires, SBC identifies any alternative sites within the Borough where official bonfires may be able to be facilitated in the future.
Responsibility:	SBC Head of Community Safety
Date:	November 2022
Agreed Action:	SBC will monitor and where reasonable advertise diversionary events including official bonfires to deter the practice on public land.
Agreed Success Measure:	Evidence of a communication / engagement strategy which accounts for advertisement of diversionary activity during this period.
Evidence of Progress (March 2023):	<p>There is continued work to identify and accurately track bonfire hotspots and this will continue throughout the year and approaching 2023 season.</p> <p>During Autumn 2022, the Authority conducted a Social Media campaign on the approach to Mischief Night and Bonfire Night, advertising many diversionary activities to attract families, children and Young People to alternative sites and activities, including the Halloween Spooky Walk that coincided with Mischief Night. Bearing in mind that not all bonfires and ASB in the season take place on 5th November, work was undertaken with SBC Youth Workers to divert young people throughout the period.</p> <p>The Shrewsbury Town Council approach is being explored and our own strategy being developed based on this for implementation in Autumn 2023. Environmental Crime Officers have been tasked with engagement activity over the next few months to identify appropriate sites and discuss with residents and businesses.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
Assessment of Progress (March 2023): (include explanation if required)	2 (On-Track)

APPENDIX 1
PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Bonfires on Public Land

Evidence of Impact (March 2023):	<p>The data for 'Recommendation 1' demonstrates the achieved reductions in deliberate fire-setting for Bonfire Season.</p> <p>An update on the implementation of an approach similar to The Shrewsbury Town Council method will be presented to the Committee in due course. Autumnus 2023 will incorporate a collaborative approach with Youth outreach and schools.</p>
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Assessment of Progress Gradings:	1 Fully Achieved	2 On-Track	3 Slipped	4 Not Achieved
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