

COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2024-2025

Date (4.30pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
25 April	Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Draft) Final Report 	Cllr Clare Gamble / Cllr Steve Nelson / Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE / Neil Mitchell
23 May	CANCELLED	
13 June	Monitoring: Action Plan - Outdoor Play Provision Monitoring: Progress Update – Tree Asset Management Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Draft) Scope and Project Plan 	Graham Clingan Dale Rowbotham Marc Stephenson
11 July	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBC Community Safety and Regulated Services 	Sharon Cooney / Stephen Donaghy / Leanne Maloney-Kelly
26 September	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBC Town Centres Development • SBC Public Health / CGL 	Iain Robinson / Marc Bould Sarah Bowman-Abouna / Mandy MacKinnon / Oliver Metcalf
24 October	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland • Cleveland Police Minutes of the Safer Stockton Partnership (March, May & July 2024)	Matt Storey John Wrintmore / Andy Evans
28 November	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleveland Fire Brigade • Town Councils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Billingham ○ Ingleby Barwick ○ Thornaby ○ Yarm Minutes of the Stockton Home Safety Association (March & June 2024)	Alan Turner Cllr Helen Atkinson / Dee Smith (written submission) Cllr Phil Genery / Cllr Mark Fairbairn (written submission)
19 December	CANCELLED	
9 January	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Forums / Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Norton (TBC) ○ Stockton 	Jason Maxwell

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yarm (TBC) ● SBC Adults, Health and Wellbeing <p>Minutes of the Safer Stockton Partnership (October 2024)</p>	Lesley Tart
23 January	<p>Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Catalyst / VCSE Sector ● Other Local Authority Initiatives ● Ward Councillor Survey Feedback <p>Domestic Abuse: Duties to Victims</p>	<p>Lucy Owens Sharon Cooney</p> <p>Sarah Bowman-Abouna / Mandy MacKinnon</p>
27 February	Monitoring: Progress Update – Tree Asset Management	Dale Rowbotham / Mark Nozedar
27 February (informal – after formal meeting)	<p>Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Summary of Evidence / Draft Recommendations 	Sharon Cooney
27 March	<p>Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● (Draft) Final Report 	Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE / Carolyn Nice / Sharon Cooney

2024-2025 Scrutiny Reviews

- Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

Monitoring Items (scheduled / to be scheduled)

- Fly-Grazed Horses (Progress Update) – TBC
- Tree Asset Management (Progress Update) – Feb 25
- Outdoor Play Provision (Progress Update) – TBC (mid-2025)

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](#). Government is consulting on part two of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Review, with Councils giving input into the Local Government Association’s (LGA) response – there is appetite amongst Councils for a more fundamental look at the partnership duty landscape and how CSPs work with Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).

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- **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 Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Draft Bill](#)) has recently (May 23) been published, which will introduce new requirements for those responsible for certain public premises or events to take protective security measures to mitigate against terrorist attacks. Also known as Martyn’s Law, this will likely have a number of implications for Councils. Further details can also be found on [the Home Office’s Martyn’s Law factsheet](#). The LGA has recently (Apr 23) published [a case study highlighting how Manchester Council](#) has embedded the principles of Martyn’s Law into their licensing process.
- **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 2024, the Home Office [published data on the number of potential victims of modern slavery](#) referred into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) or via the Duty to Notify (DtN) process in 2023. 17,004 potential victims of modern slavery were referred to the Home Office in 2023. The number of referrals for females were at their highest on record, as were the number of referrals for child potential victims. The most common nationality referred in 2023 was UK.
- **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).
- **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

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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.

- **Fire & Rescue:** [State of Fire & Rescue 2022](#) - His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire and Rescue Services Annual Assessment of Fire and Rescue Services in England. Arson and deliberate fire setting remain a significant issue for Cleveland Fire Brigade with Cleveland being the arson capital of the UK – in October 2022, Cleveland Fire Brigade [appealed for everyone to become a FireStopper in a new bid to reduce arson and violent attacks on Firefighters](#).
- **Shoplifting:** Police to treat shoplifting like organised crime (BBC online article published in October 2023): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-67191793>. In November 2024, it was reported that incidents of shoplifting had reached a 20-year high, according to figures recorded by the police. A survey of shopkeepers by the Association of Convenience Stores found that 94 per cent felt that the problem had worsened in the last 12 months: [Sky: 'We need help': Workers say shoplifting is 'out of control' after surge in brazen thefts](#).
- **Dangerous Dogs Act 1991:** The Government has added the XL Bully breed type to the list of dogs banned under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in England and Wales. From 31 December 2023, breeding, selling, exchanging, advertising, rehoming, gifting, abandoning, and allowing an XL Bully dog to stray will be illegal, and these dogs must be muzzled and on a lead in public. From 1 February 2024 it will be a criminal offence to own an XL Bully in England and Wales unless the owner has a Certificate of Exemption. [Defra has published further information about how to prepare for the ban which will be updated regularly](#), and they will continue engagement with stakeholders. In March 2024, the LGA wrote to Council chief finance officers on behalf of DEFRA about new burdens funding relating to the XL Bully Ban for 2023-24.
- **Licensing:** [Legislation has been introduced into Parliament to amend the Licensing Act 2003](#) so that it is easier to get changes to licensing hours for special events or occasions, such as significant sporting events, through Parliament. The Bill is more concerned with parliamentary process than the contents of the Licensing Act itself. The Local Government Association (LGA) understands this legislation has Government support, so is likely to complete its parliamentary stages and become law. The British Beer & Pub Association has [produced advice for licensees showing European Championship football matches](#) – this is an update of the previous World Cup guidance.
- **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) have established a forum to share best practice and act as a platform for government changes in relation to domestic and related death homicide. So far there has been one meeting and 132 people have volunteered to take part.
- **Float to Live campaign:** The [RNLI's Float to Live campaign](#) took place on 21 May 2024. The ['float to live' message has saved lives](#), and the RNLI is keen for Councils to support the campaign to raise more awareness amongst local communities. It has produced [a free social media toolkit](#) which may be of interest to Council communications team.
- **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.

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- **Khan Review:** Dame Sara Khan has published her [independent review into social cohesion and resilience](#). Recommendations include the establishment of a new Office for Social Cohesion and Democratic Resilience (OSCDR), a 5-year Social Cohesion and Democratic Resilience Strategy (SCDR) and Action Plan, and that Government should better engage with Local Authorities over actions that could undermine social cohesion – for example in relation to asylum dispersal.
- **Taxi Licensing:** An [HMRC consultation](#) ended on 8 August 2024 on the VAT implications of court judgements that proposes abolishing the current licensing system, which differentiates between Taxis and PHVs, and moving to a single-tier system. The LGA will respond.
- **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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#).
- **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/>.