

Councillor McNicholas

Proposed Priorities for Scrutiny Board 2026/27



**Cleaner
neighbourhoods**



Safer communities



**Protecting young
people and high streets**

Priorities at a Glance

Three priorities. One clear narrative: visible delivery, partnership action and protection through effective regulation.

1

Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Visible Local Enforcement

What success looks like

Residents should see a more visible enforcement presence, better focus on hotspot locations, CCTV solutions and clearer accountability for local environmental issues.

Key message

“We are investing in visible frontline enforcement, better use of evidence and targeted solutions to keep neighbourhoods cleaner, safer and more welcoming.”

2

Community Safety and Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

What success looks like

Residents should benefit from greater visibility, stronger reassurance, improved support for victims and more coordinated action with partners.

Key message

“We are working with communities and partners to make neighbourhoods safer and improve confidence in local services.”

3

Protecting Communities: Tobacco, Vapes and Reclaiming Our High Streets

What success looks like

Residents should be reassured that the Council is preparing to protect young people, tackle illegal sales and support safer, thriving high streets.

Key message

“We want to protect young people, support responsible traders and reclaim our high streets from illegal sales and rogue premises.”

Cabinet Member narrative

“These priorities focus on cleaner neighbourhoods, visible local enforcement, tackling anti-social behaviour, protecting young people and reclaiming our high streets through effective regulation and partnership action.”

Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Visible Local Enforcement

What is it?

A clear priority around fly-tipping, environmental crime and the rollout of a ward-based enforcement model, including Compliance Officers, Neighbourhood Support Officers and targeted CCTV solutions where they support evidence gathering.

Why are we doing it?

Residents consistently raise cleaner neighbourhoods, visible action and environmental crime as issues that affect confidence in local areas.

Resident impact

Residents should see a more visible enforcement presence, better focus on hotspot locations, proportionate CCTV solutions and clearer accountability for local environmental issues.

Cabinet Member message

“We are investing in visible frontline enforcement, better use of evidence and targeted solutions to keep neighbourhoods cleaner, safer and more welcoming.”

Supporting narrative

This priority brings together recent investment, visible enforcement and a stronger focus on fly-tipping and environmental crime. The core message for Scrutiny is that the Council is moving from reactive response alone to a more visible, prevention-led and intelligence-led approach, with proportionate CCTV solutions including V-Ceptor solar CCTV towers and pods being explored to strengthen evidence in fly-tipping cases.

Key delivery milestones

Q1 Ward-based model and deployment approach confirmed; priority hotspots identified.

Q2 Fly-tipping campaign aligned with enforcement activity; CCTV solution options scoped for evidence-led hotspots.

Q3 Review enforcement outcomes, hotspot activity, CCTV evidence learning and emerging resident feedback.

Q4 Annual impact review and future recommendations for sustained neighbourhood improvement.

Community Safety and Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

What is it?

An emphasis on expanding the Community Safety Warden service, to provide a visible reassuring presence in our public spaces, strengthening partnership working and improving the response to anti-social behaviour.

Why are we doing it?

Residents want to feel safe and supported in their communities, and persistent ASB can significantly affect confidence and quality of life.

Resident impact

Residents should benefit from greater visibility, stronger reassurance, improved support for victims and more coordinated action with partners.

Cabinet Member message

“We are working with communities and partners to make neighbourhoods safer and improve confidence in local services.”

Supporting narrative

This priority is about reassurance and partnership. It gives the Cabinet Member a clear narrative around visible wardens, ASB Help Pledge delivery, victim support and stronger partnership action on issues that matter most to communities.

Key delivery milestones

Q1

Community Safety Warden expansion and ASB priorities confirmed.

Q2

ASB Help Pledge and resident-facing reassurance activity promoted.

Q3

Partnership performance and hotspot activity reviewed; community feedback considered.

Q4

Outcomes assessed and community safety priorities refreshed for the following year.

3 Protecting Communities: Tobacco, Vapes and Reclaiming Our High Streets

What is it?

Preparing the Council to use new responsibilities and a coordinated, multi-agency approach to tackle illegal tobacco, vapes, rogue premises and criminal exploitation on high streets.

Why are we doing it?

There is growing concern about illegal sales to children, illicit goods and high street premises being exploited by organised crime, undermining legitimate traders and community confidence.

Resident impact

Residents should see targeted enforcement, safer high streets, protection for young people and stronger support for responsible businesses.

Cabinet Member message

“We want to protect young people, support responsible traders and reclaim our high streets from illegal sales and rogue premises.”

Supporting narrative

This priority links the Tobacco and Vapes Act with the wider Reclaim the High Street agenda. It provides a clear Scrutiny narrative around protecting children, disrupting illicit trade, improving community confidence and coordinating Trading Standards, Police, Licensing, Planning, Environmental Health, Highways, Economic Development and communications activity.

Key delivery milestones

Q1 Task and Finish Group, intelligence gathering, hotspot mapping and partner engagement.

Q2 Business, landlord and community awareness, with targeted compliance activity.

Q3 Joint enforcement and disruption activity; review illegal sales and priority premises trends.

Q4 Impact report, lessons learned and refreshed high street delivery plan.