APPENDIX 1

CLEVELAND FIRE BRIGADE

Arson Reduction Strategy

2020 - 2024

People

Strategic Area	Arson Reduction Strategy
Authored by:	Steve Johnson Area Manager Prevention & Protection
ELT Approved:	
FBU Consultation:	
Unison Consultation:	
Executive Committee Approved:	
Strategy Register Review Date:	August 2024
Implementing Officers:	AM – Prevention & Protection AM – Emergency Response GM – Head of Emergency Response SM – District Managers SM – Health & Wellbeing Manager Community Liaison Officers

ARSON REDUCTION STRATEGY

1 STATEMENT OF INTENT

1.1 Cleveland Fire Authority (CFA) is committed to reducing arson and deliberate fires, and the various impacts that it brings to bear on people, local communities, local businesses, partners and the environment.

1.2 Legislative and Government expectations form the national drivers for this strategy with the need to improve home, business and neighbourhood safety forming our local drivers. These have guided the production of this strategy with the intention to reduce economic losses and reverse the increasing levels of arson within our communities and the resulting unplanned demands on our, and our partners resources.

1.3 We have assessed our local issues and the impact of arson. This strategy highlights the local case for change, recognising that arson is not only a fire service issue, and sets out our future approach for sustainable change where we aim to work more collaboratively and through partnership agreements with our four Safer Partnerships to develop localised, coordinated and multi-agency driven plans to deal with Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and arson. Through analysis of our incident profile we will initially focus on the four main causes of deliberate fires affecting Cleveland all year round, with targeted campaigns implemented during the specific demand spikes experienced during school holiday periods.

1.4 We have streamlined our inputs into an arson reduction toolkit against the four components of the Governments Serious & Organised Crime Strategy (Prevent – Protect – Prepare – Pursue), this will assist partners to develop a clear localised multi-agency approach. Through the Safer Partnerships, we will encourage the greater use of 'Powers' under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act 2014.

1.5 We will monitor the development of the NFCCs Arson Reduction Toolkit and make full use of elsewhere developed working practices, initiatives and activities where these would assist with existing or newly emerging trends or issues in Cleveland. Likewise we will contribute to the sharing of good practice where activities are successful in reducing the impacts of arson.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Arson is the crime committed under the Criminal Damage Act 1971.
Deliberate fire setting is the human behaviour employed in committing the crime.

2.2 Arson endangers life, damages property and causes destruction to the local environment, it also brings blight to neighbourhoods that has a detrimental effect on people, communities and local authorities.

Consequences encountered in Cleveland range from needless loss of life and tragedy that families are left to deal with; injuries to people requiring sustained medical and health interventions to deal with the physical and mental effects of burns; and the associated financial costs from property losses, insurance claims, local authority repairs and replacements.

2.3 National 'drivers' include the National Framework Document for Fire & Rescue Services in England 2018 where Government expectations specifically cite the targeting of arson and deliberate fire-setting in section 2.4, and; Section 5.1 of the National Fire Chiefs Council's Strategy 2017/20 where it incorporates collaboration and partnership working to reduce risk, in particularly focusing joint efforts against arson and deliberate fire-setting.

The NFCC's Arson Reduction Strategy 2018-2022 promotes and combines these with the Governments Serious & Organised Crime Strategy to assist partnership alignment of strategic objectives that contribute to a shared aim of improving community safety and reducing the unplanned economic impacts that arson brings with it.
This strategy transfers national drivers into to local action.

2.4 At a local level, CFB's demand profile saw us attending 3,656 deliberate fires in 2018-19. This made up 84.9% of our total fires attended that year. The national average for UK FRSs is 50.5%. When comparing the deliberate fire rate per 10,000 population, the national average is 15. Cleveland has the worst overall Fire & Rescue Service rate of 65; Middlesbrough having the highest rate of our four Local Authority areas – with a rate of 83.3; Redcar & Cleveland 77.6; Hartlepool 67.4, and Stockton with 40.8.
This highlights CFB and the four Local Authorities disparity and long running issue with arson.

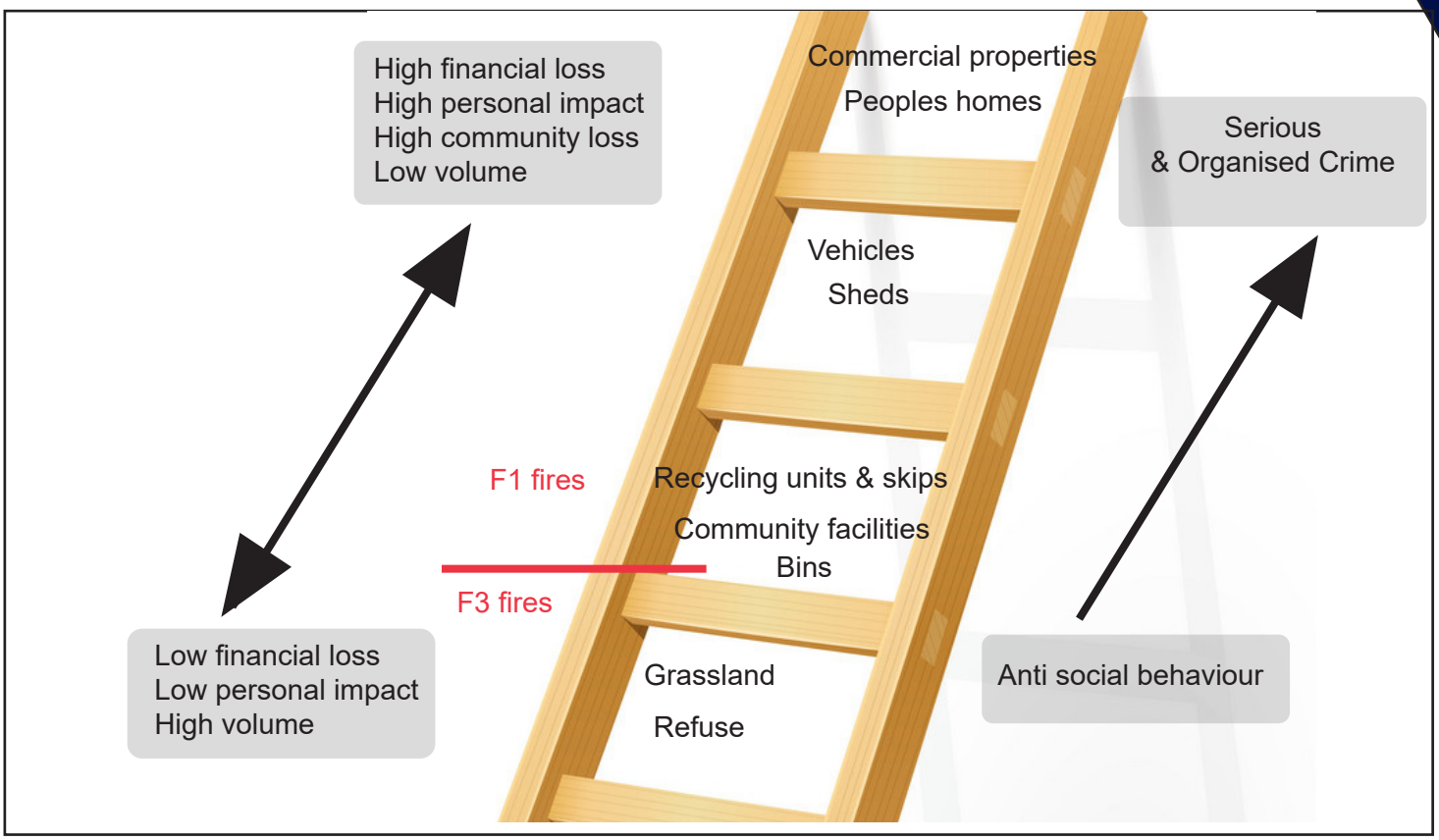
2.5 Our strategic approach for the duration of this strategy is to enter into Partnership agreements with each of the four local Crime & Reduction Partnerships who co-ordinate local multi-agency responses to issues affecting our neighbourhoods.

2.6 As a standalone Fire Brigade, we have no legal powers that could be invoked and we can provide limited inputs to making communities safer from arson. Collaboration and Partnership working is essential to maximise the effectiveness of changing people's behaviours and realising community improvements.

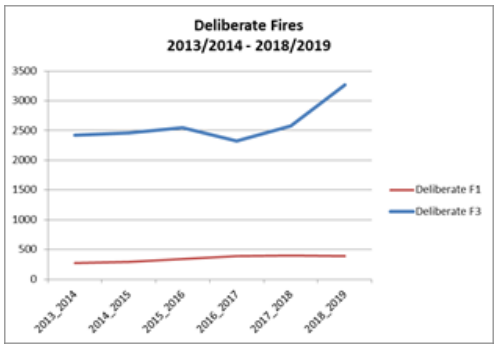
3 WHERE ARE WE NOW

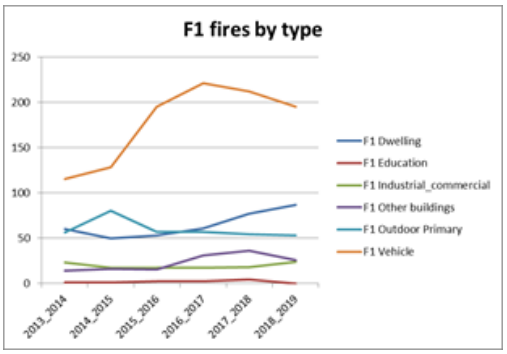
3.1 **Cleveland wide profile:**

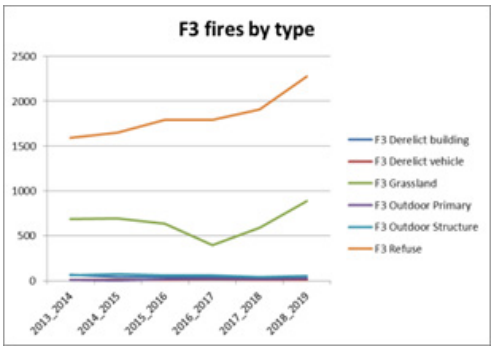
3.1.1 Deliberate fires accounted for 84.9% (3,656) of all fires CFB attended (4,302) in 2018-19. The impact of these vary across incident types;



3.1.2 From 2009 to 2013 deliberate fires saw slight reductions. Since 2013-14 they have been back on the increase, rising from 2,687 to 3,656 in 2018-2019. This is a 5 year increase of 36%.

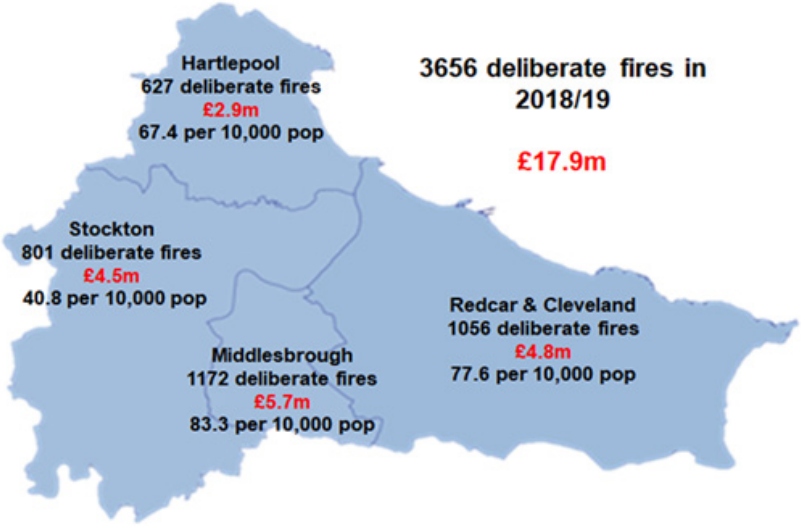






3 WHERE ARE WE NOW

3.1.3 The 'blight' caused by arson has an economic cost. This cost can be determined using the 'CLG economic cost of fires values 2004' (brought up to date using inflation values). The directly calculable cost for Cleveland; based on the 3,656 incidents attended in 2018-19 was £17.9m.

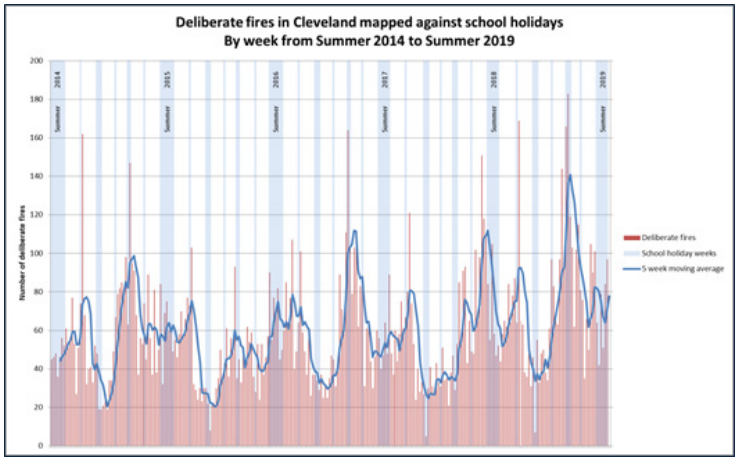


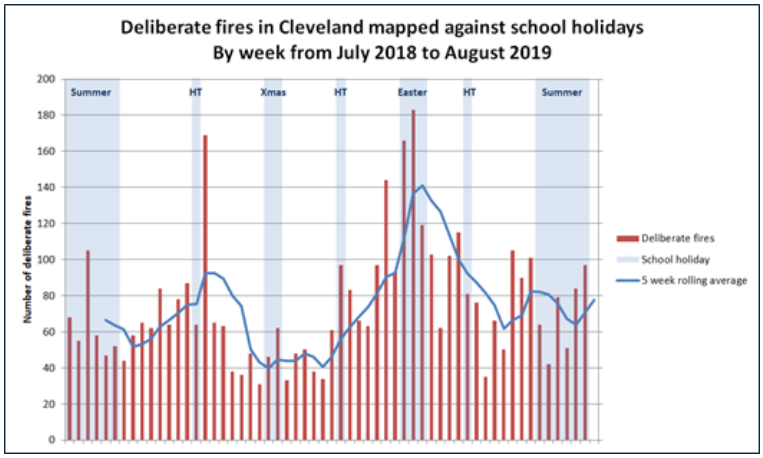
3.1.4 The four main incident types involving arson that affect us locally involve;

1) Refuse (including rubbish, fly-tipped materials and wheelie bins)
2) Grassland
3) Vehicles
4) Domestic dwellings / unoccupied properties

3.1.5 Included within the unoccupied premises incident type is an increasing rate of void commercial properties that has a larger community impact from larger fires. These have been small in number but required larger multi-agency resource deployments to deal with and consequential restoration of community normality.

3.1.6 Repetitive spikes in demand are clearly apparent during the school holiday periods;





3 WHERE ARE WE NOW

3.2 **Local Authority area profiles:**

3.2.1 **Middlesbrough**

- Middlesbrough District has the highest rate of arson in Cleveland (1,172) accounting for 32% of CFB's total deliberate fires.
- Middlesbrough has 84.7 deliberate fires per 10,000 population. This is the highest rate across Cleveland
- The economic cost to Middlesbrough from arson is £5.7m
- The 3 main arson issues in Middlesbrough involve refuse, grassland and vehicles.
- The main hotspot areas responsible for Middlesbrough's arson are in Hemlington and Central wards (see appendix A for location maps)

3.2.2 **Redcar & Cleveland**

- Redcar & Cleveland has the second highest rate of arson (1,056), accounting for 29% of CFB's total deliberate fires.
- Redcar & Cleveland has 78.2 deliberate fires per 10,000 population.
- The economic cost to Redcar & Cleveland from arson is £4.8m
- 2 main arson issues affect Redcar & Cleveland, these involve refuse and grassland.
- The main hotspot areas responsible for Redcar & Cleveland's arson are South Bank and Grangetown wards (see appendix B for location maps)

3.2.3 **Stockton**

- Stockton has the second lowest rate of arson (801), accounting for 22% CFB's total deliberate fires.
- Stockton has the lowest rate of 40.8 deliberate fires per 10,000 population
- The economic cost to Stockton from arson is £4.5m
- 3 main arson issues affect Stockton, these involve refuse, grassland and vehicles. The main hotspot areas responsible for Stockton's arson are Newtown and Stockton Town Centre (see appendix C for location maps).

3.2.4 **Hartlepool**

- Hartlepool has the lowest occurrence rate of arson (627), accounting for 17% CFB's total deliberate fires
- The economic cost to Hartlepool from arson is £2.9m
- 2 main arson issues affect Hartlepool, these involve refuse and grassland.
- The main hotspot areas responsible for Hartlepool's arson are De Bruce, Headland & Harbour and Manor House (see appendix D for location maps).

4 WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE BY 2024

By 2024 we aim to have reduced the incidence of arson across Cleveland; and reduced the impact that these fires have on the local environment, our local people, communities, businesses and local authorities.

Strategic Aim

The aim of this strategy is to create safer and more enjoyable neighbourhoods to live, work and play in.

5 HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET THERE

5.1 Strategic Objectives

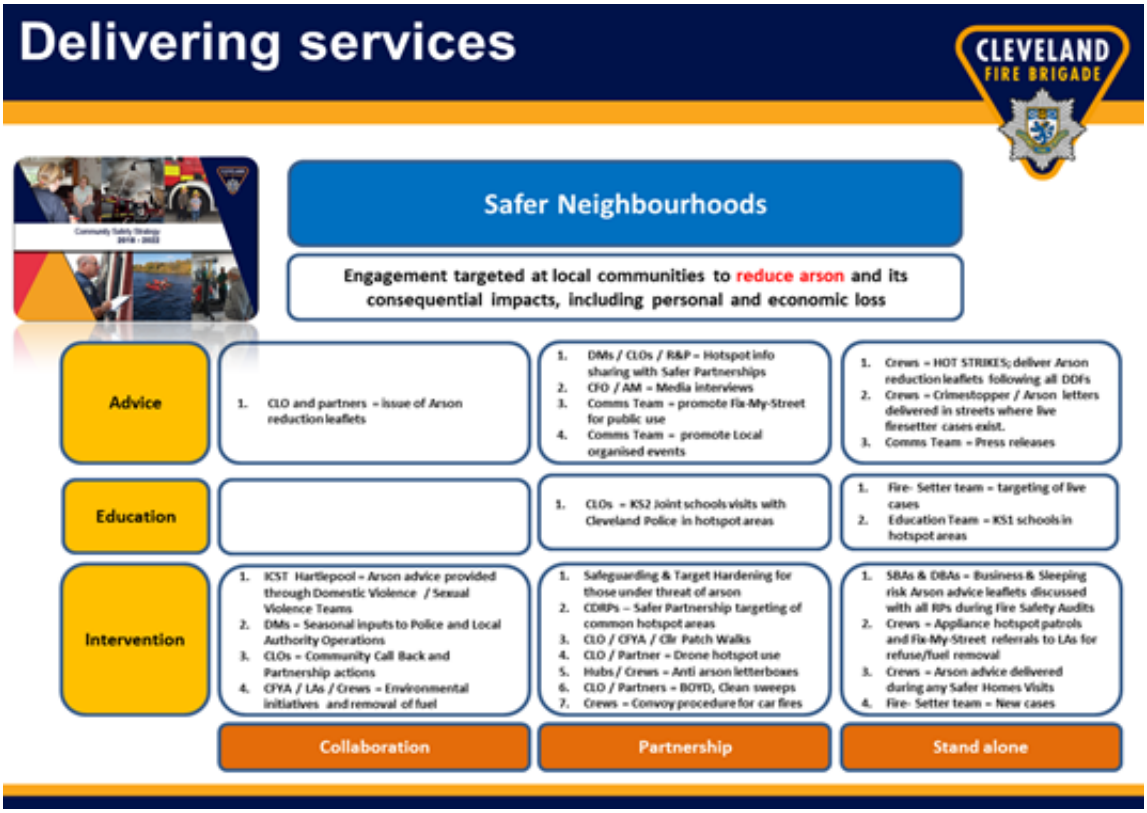
1. We will use our Engagement Framework to maximise effectiveness through working in Collaboration, Partnership and if necessary as a single agency, with Communities, Businesses and Partners

2. We will enter into Partnership Agreements with all four Safer Partnerships and support and empower each to devise and drive local multi-agency action plans, encouraging greater use of legal powers available to Police and Local Authorities.

3. We will work collaboratively and in partnership using the JESIP Joint Decision Model for multi-agency problem solving, joint understanding the links that arson has with ASB up to serious and organised crime, sharing information and intelligence that will assist in the identification of appropriate solutions and interventions to meet local needs.

4. We will provide advice, education and where required take proportionate interventions to reduce the risk of arson, providing enabling tools and mechanisms that will develop community empowerment and pride in local areas.

5. We will further develop and implement an integrated arson intervention toolkit to prevent, protect and respond more effectively to deliberate fires.



5 STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

5.2 This Arson Reduction Strategy is supported by our Engagement Framework, and directly links with our Community Safety Strategy and the strategic themes of Safer Homes , Safer Buildings and Safer Neighbourhoods & Environment. Under each of these we aim to;

Safer Homes
SH1; have reduced deliberate fires and other emergency incidents occurring in the home

Safer Buildings
SB1; have reduced the number of deliberate and accidental fires in commercial or public buildings
SB3; have reduced the commercial, economic, environmental and social impact of fires

Safer Neighbourhoods & Environment
SN1: have reduced the loss of life, number and severity of injuries resulting from deliberate fire
SN2: have reduced the numbers of deliberate fires
SN3: have reduced the commercial, economic, environmental and social impact of deliberate fires

5.3 **Local and National alignment**

Local Performance Indicator sets (LPIs) seek year on year reductions for all deliberate fires under the strategic themes of Safer Homes, Safer Buildings and Safer Neighbourhoods.

The NFCCs Arson Reduction Strategy seeks year on year reductions against all deliberate incident types using a 5 year rolling average.

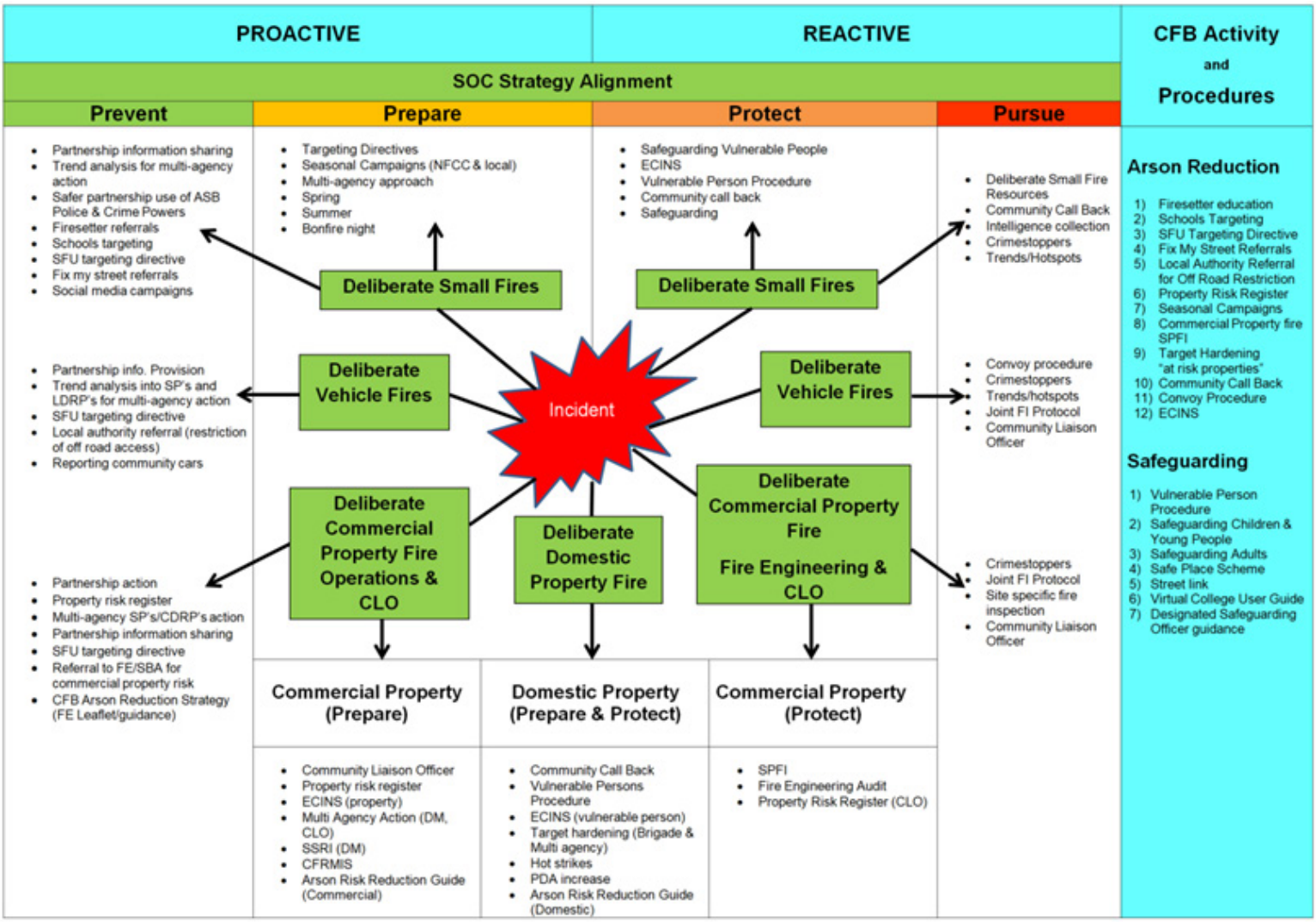
Through achieving reductions against our LPIs we will contribute to the overall national reductions.

5 STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

5.4 Toolkit

Our arson reduction procedures and guidance notes have been reviewed, updated and streamlined to focus on the 4 main incident types that affect the Cleveland area; refuse, grass, vehicle and property fires (including void properties).

Their alignment under the 4 'Ps' of the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy for illustration purposes are shown below in what is our 'toolkit' for arson reduction;



6 MONITORING & MEASURING SUCCESS

6.1 Our corporate suite of indicators include local performance indicators for arson under the Community Safety Strategy within the indicator sets of 'Safer Homes', 'Safer Buildings' and 'Safer Neighbourhoods & Environment'.These are monitored on a monthly basis at District level and a quarterly basis at a Directorate and Corporate level.

6.2 In line with the NFCC Arson Reduction Strategy we will also use a rolling 5 year average to monitor the position of arson reduction and the overall success of this strategy.

6.3 Local Performance indicators are contained within the corporate suite of indicators and provide specific indication on the success of our inputs to each strategic theme.

6.4 A 5 year rolling average takes account of unusual peaks and troughs to provide us with a more accurate baseline and rolling picture of performance.

6.5 5 year statistics for baseline

	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019
F1 Dwelling	60	50	53	61	77	87
F1 Education	1	1	2	2	4	0
F1 Industrial commercial	23	17	17	17	18	24
F1 Other buildings	14	16	15	31	36	26
F1 Outdoor Primary	56	80	57	57	54	53
F1 Vehicle	115	128	195	221	212	195
F3 Derelict building	67	38	42	41	22	27
F3 Derelict vehicle	6	6	10	12	6	7
F3 Grassland	689	691	635	397	589	885
F3 Outdoor Primary	4	2	12	19	12	18
F3 Outdoor Structure	58	71	57	59	38	54
F3 Refuse	15944	1651	1793	1795	1910	2280
Grand Total	2687	2751	2888	2712	2978	3656

6 MONITORING & MEASURING SUCCESS

	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019
Fatality in deliberate fire	2	0	0	0	0	1
Injury in deliberate fire	2	3	5	5	3	1

6.6 **5 Year rolling average position**

Measure	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	
1. Total deliberate fires	[2803.2]	[2997]	↑
2. Fatalities resulting from deliberate fires	[0.4]	[0.2]	↓
3. Deliberate dwelling fires	[60.2]	[65.6]	↑
4. Deliberate vehicle fires*	[174.2]	[190.2]	↑
5. Deliberate F1 (Other)	[103.6]	[105.4]	↑
6. Deliberate secondary fires	[2465.2]	[2635.8]	↑
7. Deliberate Industrial & Commercial fires	[18.4]	[18.6]	↑

This 5 year rolling average position will be reported into the NFCC Arson Lead for UK combined presentation to the Home Safety Committee.

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An EIA has been completed on this strategy and no adverse impacts were identified that would require a full EIA to be completed. Copy of the completed EIA have been lodged with HR.

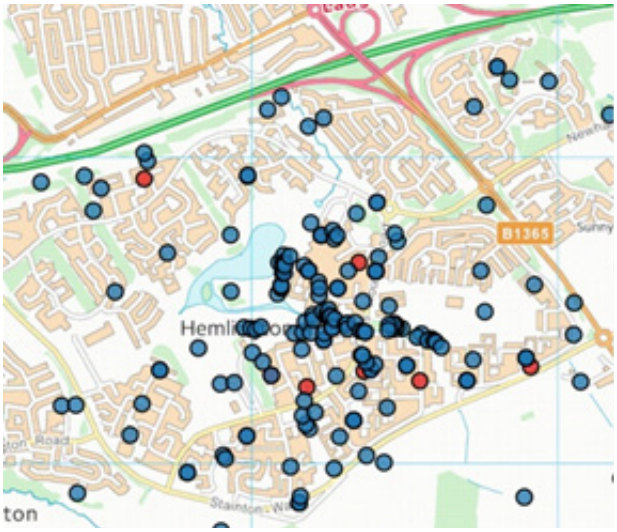
APPENDIX A

LOCAL AREA PROFILE MAPS:

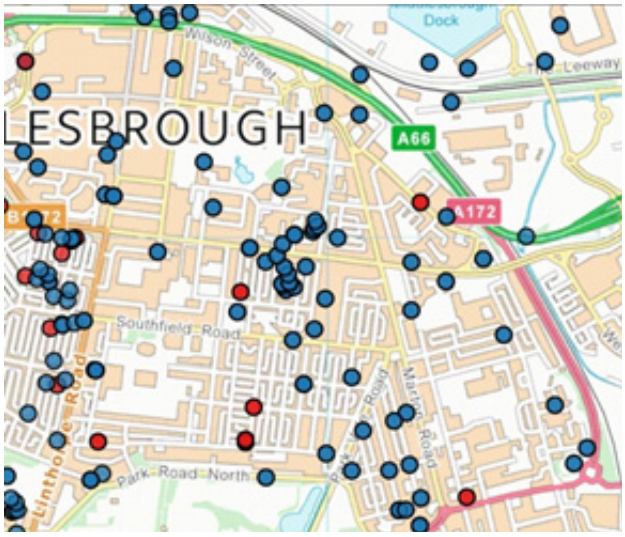
MIDDLESBROUGH

Main locations:

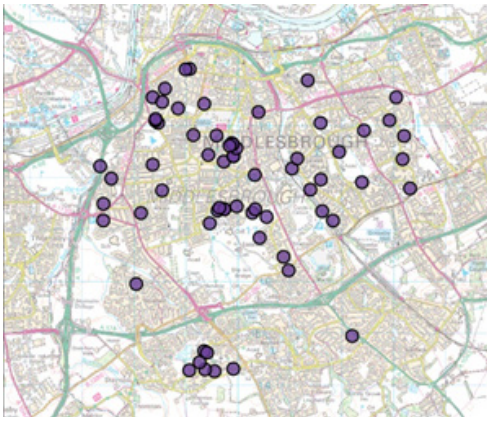
Hemlington



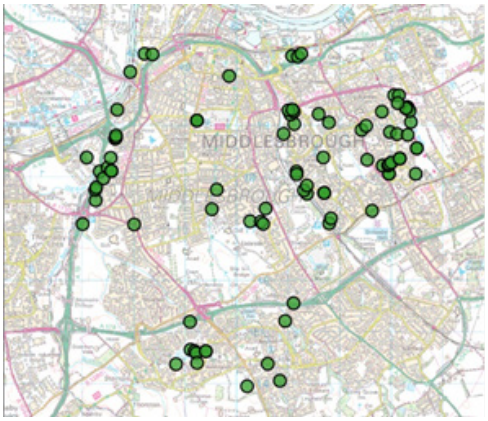
Central



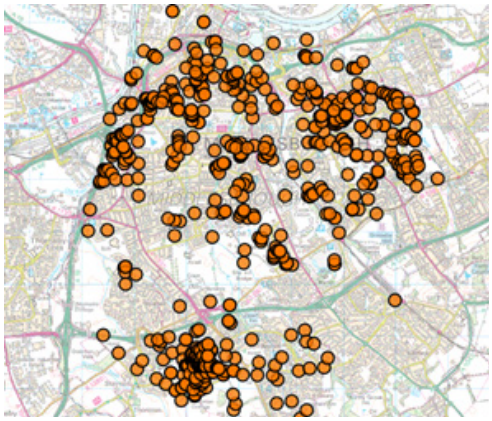
F1 vehicle fires



Refuse fires



Grassland fires



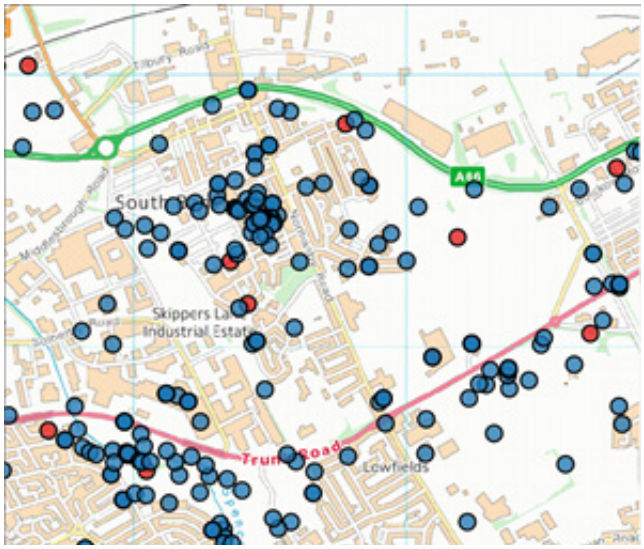
APPENDIX B

LOCAL AREA PROFILE MAPS:

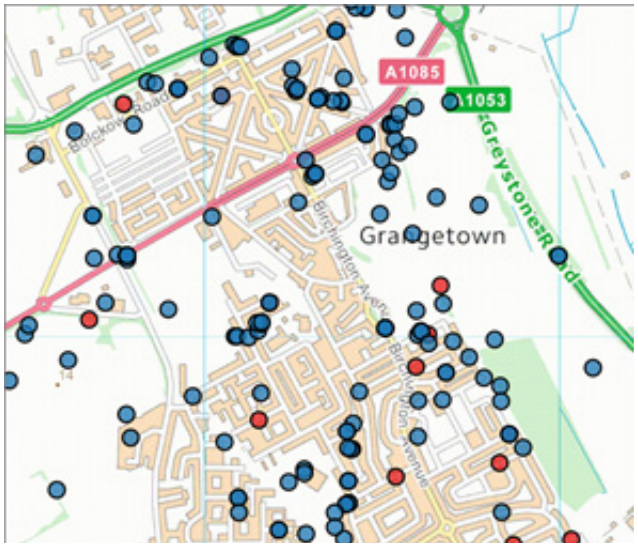
REDCAR & CLEVELAND

Main locations:

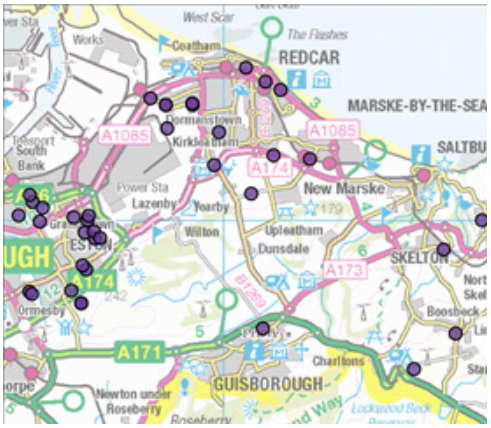
South Bank



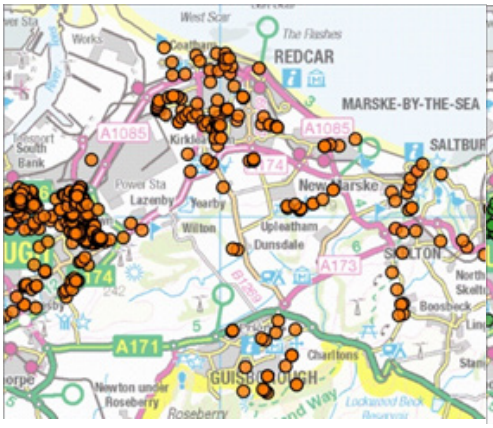
Grangetown



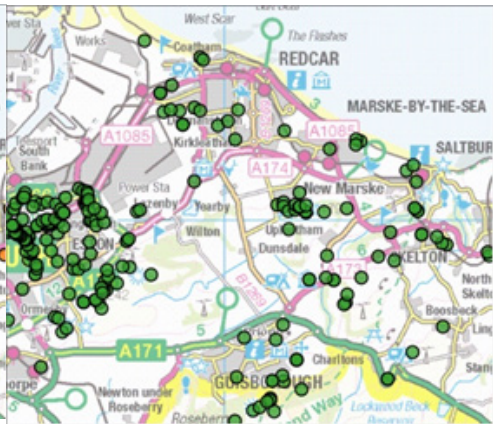
F1 vehicle fires



Refuse fires



Grassland fires



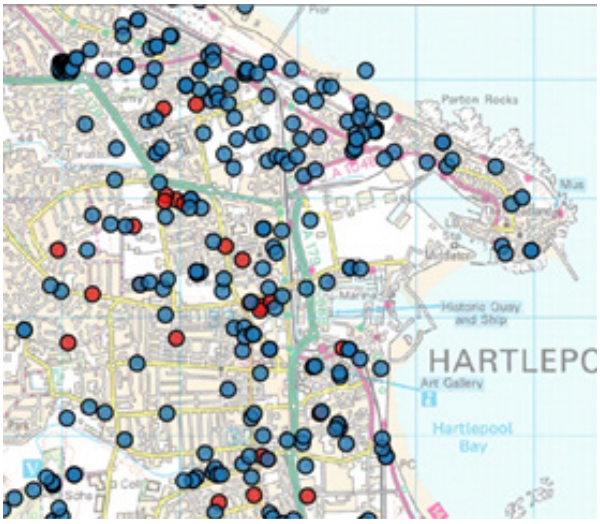
APPENDIX C

LOCAL AREA PROFILE MAPS:

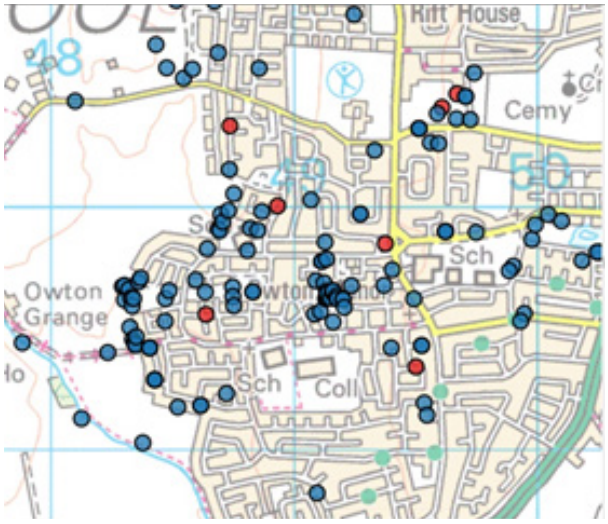
HARTLEPOOL

Main locations:

De Bruce, Headland & Harbour

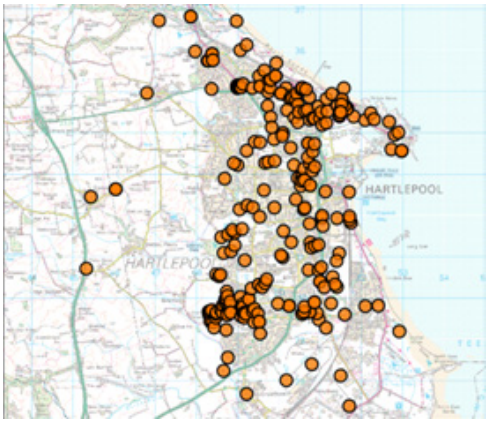


Manor House

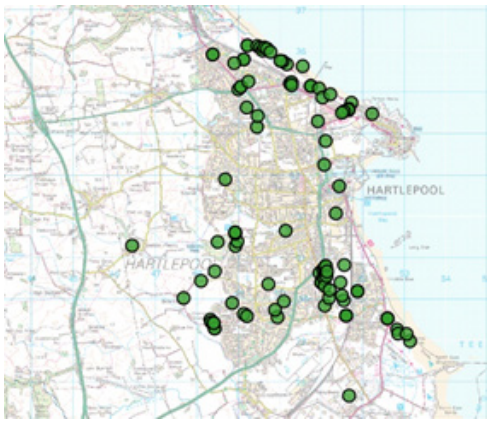


F1 vehicle fires

Refuse fires



Grassland fires



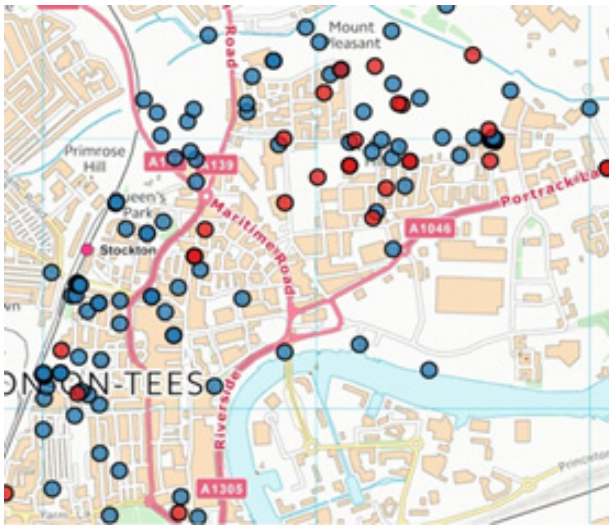
APPENDIX D

LOCAL AREA PROFILE MAPS:

STOCKTON

Main locations:

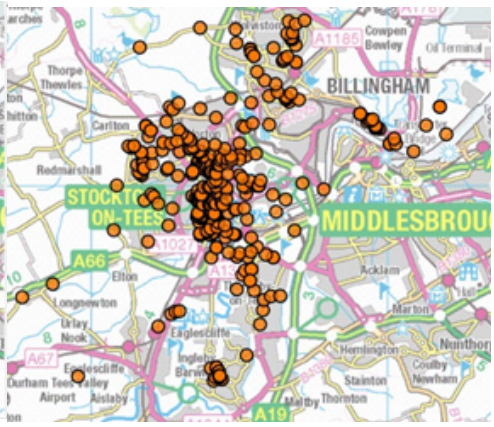
Stockton Town Centre



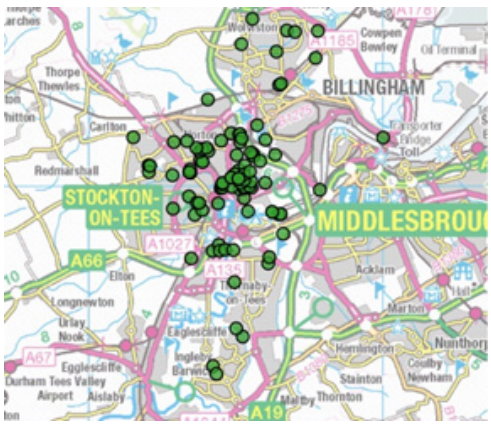
Newtown

F1 vehicle fires

Refuse fires



Grassland fires



REDCAR & CLEVELAND
BOROUGH COUNCIL

HARTLEPOOL
BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLEVELAND
POLICE

CLEVELAND
FIRE BRIGADE

Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Middlesbrough
moving forward