



PLEASE NOTE THAT PRAYERS WILL BE HELD AT 6.50PM BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL.

THE MAYOR REQUESTS THAT ANY MEMBER WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN PRAYERS BE IN ATTENDANCE BY NO LATER THAN 6.45PM.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the Borough Council of Newcastle-under-Lyme to be held in the **Queen Elizabeth II & Astley Rooms - Castle House, Barracks Road, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 1BL** on **Wednesday, 24th January, 2024** at **7.00 pm**.

BUSINESS

7 STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Pages 5 - 8)

To receive a statement by the Leader of the Council on the activities and decisions of Cabinet and items included on the Forward Plan.

8 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (Pages 9 - 10)

Reports are attached for the Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee and the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee.

9 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES (Pages 11 - 12)

Reports are attached for the Licensing and Public Protection Committee and the Planning Committee.

The Audit and Standards Committee has not met since the last meeting.

11 QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS (Pages 13 - 14)

Yours faithfully

Chief Executive

NOTICE FOR COUNCILLORS

1. Fire/Bomb Alerts

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately, following the fire exit signs..

Fire exits are to be found at the side of the room leading into Queens Gardens.

On exiting the building Members, Officers and the Public must assemble at the statue of Queen Victoria. DO NOT re-enter the building until advised to by the Controlling Officer.

2. Mobile Phones

Please switch off all mobile phones before entering the Council Chamber.

3. Notice of Motion

A Notice of Motion other than those listed in Procedure Rule 14 must reach the Chief Executive ten clear days before the relevant Meeting of the Council. Further information on Notices of Motion can be found in Section B5, Rule 4 of the Constitution of the Council.

Officers will be in attendance prior to the meeting for informal discussions on agenda items.

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STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL TO FULL COUNCIL – 24th JANUARY 2024

Submitted by: Councillor Simon Tagg

Portfolio: All

Wards affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To provide an update to Members on the activities and decisions of Cabinet, together with the Forward Plan.

Recommendation

That the statement of the Leader of the Council be received and noted.

Reasons

To update Council Members on the activities and decisions of the Leader and Cabinet and to allow questions and comments to be made on the Statement.

1. **Cabinet Meetings**

Cabinet met on 5th December 2023 and 16th January 2024, detailed below is a selection of decisions and other actions of the Leader and Cabinet since the last Leader's Statement.

2. **Walleys Quarry update**

Cabinet received an update from officers about a worsening situation at Walleys Quarry landfill following a significant increase of foul odours since November last year. The Council received 203 complaints in December alone, surpassing the total for both 2022 and 2021, with a total of 319 complaints by mid-January.

Cabinet has urged the Environment Agency to use its closure powers to address the persistent issues at the landfill and expressed disappointment at the Prime Minister's lack of response (at time of writing) to a call for a public inquiry into the EA's management of the situation as the primary regulator for the site.

Cabinet also supported increasing a 'Walleys Quarry contingency fund' to £300,000 as part of budget proposals for 2024/25 for legal costs as part of any abatement notice action should the Council's Environmental Health officers deem it necessary.

3. **Technology Strategy 2023-2028**

Cabinet endorsed a new Strategy which sets out the Council's vision for technology and how the Council will continue to utilise it to enable enhanced service delivery to residents and also drive efficiencies across the organisation. The Strategy also sets out the importance of making it easy and inclusive for residents to use online services as a method of interacting with the Council whilst continuing to provide a choice of telephone and in person access for those who do not have access to digital technologies.

4. **Chatterley Valley West**

Cabinet received a report about plans for a high-tech jobs cluster at Chatterley Valley West business park. It is hoped that Lucideon, a leader in materials technology, could become the flagship tenant, anchoring a technology cluster with other similar companies in neighbouring units.

The Chatterley Valley West project, backed by £3.6 million from the Kidsgrove Town Deal and £3.5 million from Staffordshire County Council, has the potential to generate up to 1,700 jobs. The overall Kidsgrove Town Deal, successfully bid for by the Borough Council, includes £16.9 million investment for various initiatives which are fostering local economic growth and providing health and wellbeing for residents such as funding towards the refurbishment of Kidsgrove Sports Centre.

5. **Borough Local Plan Consultation Responses and Next Steps**

Cabinet received a further update on the Borough Local Plan detailing the ongoing review of thousands of comments submitted during the public consultation on potential locations for homes, businesses, community amenities and preserved green spaces. The aim is to achieve sustainable growth, promote investment and secure spaces for leisure, healthcare, education, and transport facilities into the 2040s.

The update report again emphasised the necessity of a Local Plan to prevent a free-for-all scenario for developers.

Cabinet has asked independent consultants to review calculations for the number of homes required during the period of the Plan taking into account the latest national planning guidance.

The Council is following the Government's procedure for implementation of a new Local Plan and Full Council in July will be asked to support the final draft followed by a further public consultation before the Plan is submitted for the Planning Inspector's evaluation before the end of 2024.

6. **Staffordshire County Council Urban Grass Cutting Contract Delivery**

In response to residents' requests for more frequent highway grass verge maintenance, the Council is set to deliver the grass cutting contract on behalf of the County Council from March this year with an enhanced level and quality of cuts. This will also allow coordination with existing mowing work and litter picking in the borough to further enhance the maintenance process. This initiative not only addresses residents' concerns but also reflects the Council's broader commitment to improve overall environmental aesthetics and safety.

7. **Health Inequalities Grant Projects**

Cabinet endorsed a report outlining over £400,000 in initiatives aimed at addressing health inequalities in the Borough. The funds, secured through a successful bid to the County Council, will be allocated to 10 wards where health disparities exist. The focus includes resolving issues related to poor housing conditions, such as damp and mould, infestations, and targeted exercise programs for individuals recovering from illnesses. The financial support, stemming from Covid Outbreak Management Funding, will be distributed across three key areas: a health and care hardship fund for local organisations to address urgent health issues, reinforcement of existing health and wellbeing programs, and targeted interventions to improve housing conditions. The Council aims to act swiftly, with the potential for project extensions based on assessed demand and collaborating with partners to ensure the funds make a meaningful impact in communities.

8. **850 Legacy**

At the start of 2024 we can now look back on a wonderful year of 850 celebrations. We brought our communities and partners together with many events across the year to celebrate our Borough's rich history including film shows and concerts enjoyed by 5,600 residents to special exhibitions that attracted over 44,000 visitors. Events such as the Tri-Services Day, Astley's Homecoming, Jazz and Blues weekend, themed markets, and Brampton Medieval Day brought thousands of visitors to our town.

The 850th anniversary propelled our Britain in Bloom entry to be crowned 'best of the best,' earning a national award for the first time. The creation of new events, projects, and sponsorships ensures a lasting legacy for the Borough, exemplified by initiatives like the inaugural 'Borough Heroes Awards,' the planting of the 850 Lyme Forest, subway art and improvements to Queens Gardens and the sponsorship of Aspiration Keele to inspire local students. The collaborative efforts extended beyond official celebrations with local organisations and community groups initiating their own 850-themed events, reflecting the widespread enthusiasm and engagement.

My heartfelt thanks extend to our partners, sponsors, museum and council staff plus volunteers whose dedication and hard work made these celebrations a resounding success.

Looking forward, we are now working to ensure a legacy including: 2024 Borough Heroes awards, the Annual Chris Malkin Memorial History Lecture, a time capsule, promotion of the blue plaque scheme, reformation of a Civic Society, and the installation of a life-size statue of Queen Elizabeth II in Queens Gardens

The last year truly was a great year of celebration, fostering a spirit of community, joy and pride that we eagerly anticipate carrying forward into the future of our loyal and ancient Borough.

9. **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan can be found at: -

[Forward plan - Cabinet Forward Plan - 1 January to 30 April, 2024 – Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council \(newcastle-staffs.gov.uk\)](https://www.newcastle-under-lyme.gov.uk/cabinet-forward-plan-1-january-to-30-april-2024)

Councillor Simon Tagg
Leader of the Council

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SCRUTINY COMMITTEES CHAIR'S REPORTS

Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee

The Committee met on 27 November, 2023 and the following matters were considered:

- The regular reports from the County Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Police, Fire and Crime Panel and notes of a meeting with the Integrated Care Board were considered.
- The Committee considered the latest report to Cabinet on odour issues at Walleys Quarry.
- The Committee Considered a report on Newcastle Town Centre – Community Safety Partnership
- The Committee considered a review of the Environment Strategy and the Road Map to Net Zero
- The Work Programme was discussed and Members requested that the following items be added to the Work Programme:

-Childhood Obesity and Leisure centre Activities.

-NHS Dentistry Provision

-Resurfacing of tennis courts (where there are no more than two courts)

Cllr Ian Wilkes

Chair

Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee

The last meeting was held on the 7th December 2023 at 7.00pm

The subject matter scrutinised by members was as follows -

- Town Deal and Future High Street Funds update
- Planning Enforcement update report
- Borough Local Plan Update
- Social Housing within the Borough
- Work Plan

The next meeting will be held on the 18th March 2024

Cllr Gary White

Chair

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REGULATORY COMMITTEES CHAIR'S REPORTS

Licensing and Public Protection Committee

The Licensing and Public Protection Committee met on the 12th December 2023 and the following items were discussed and considered:

There were no reports in relation to Licensing matters.

The Committee received Public Protection reports for:

- Private & Hackney Carriage Fees & Charges 2024-25
- Amendment of Taxi Licensing Policy Provisions in relation to Tinted Windows
- Environment Act 1995 – Part IV Local Air Quality Management – Annual Status Report 2023

The committee agreed and noted the recommendations that were set out in the Public Protection reports

There has been one Licensing sub-committee and two Public Protection sub-committee meetings since the last Full Council meeting and the minutes were received.

Cllr Joan Whieldon
Chair

Planning Committee

The committee have met twice since the last Full Council meeting. The meetings are summarised below.

5th December 2023

There were only two substantive items on the agenda that evening. The first application was for major development - Land of Lamphouse Way, Wolstanton Newcastle, application number 22/00796/FUL for 43 dwellings. The principle of development had previously been established by a previous outline application for 64 units, application number 19/00301/OUT. The debate focused on the merits of the S106 agreement and the sustainability of the location. The committee supported the application subject to conditions.

The second substantive item was for an application for major development that had existing permissions but under reserved matters sought approval for site access - Chatterley Valley Development Site Peacock Hay Road, application number 23/00818/REM. This was also passed by the committee subject to conditions.

Next followed a minor application for a change of use from an existing business to a residential building at The Old Hall, Poolside, Madeley, application number 23/00769/FUL. this was resolved to approve.

Another application for other development was approved by the committee. This included the properties 23-25 Merrial Street, Newcastle Under Lyme, application number 23/00882/ADV. This related the intensity of the illuminated signage.

The committee also received a bi-monthly update on the land at Doddlespool Betley, which was included in the supplementary report that evening. It was resolved to bring a report back in 2 months' time.

There were 2 Tree preservation order applications. One being, land at Former Tagedale Quarry, Loggerheads, Eccleshall Road- 221 (2023), the other being land at Appleton Drive, Whitmore - 224 (2022). Both were agreed.

4th January 2024 meeting

There was one substantial item of major development at Ham Baker Slow Control. Garner Street, Etruria, S.O.T. Application number 23/00694/FUL

This concerned a retrospective application for a change of use from a B2 to a B8 site as the business was operating already on the site as a B8 site. The access was via the A53 Garner Street, Etruria road on the Eastern Boundary adjoining Stoke-on-Trent.

The committee were concerned that a retrospective application was not the preferred route but balanced the cost, harm and benefit of the application as it would continue to support the safeguarding of continued employment in the area and was voted unanimously to support, on this occasion.

The next item on the agenda related to application number 23/00892/DEEM3 (which was previously approved in October, 2023). The Car Park, Meadows Road, Kidsgrove. The application was to approve the minor change to the layout and form of parking and the new Community Hub on the site. This was considered reasonable and relevant by the committee and was approved.

The last item of business the committee were asked to accept was a report update on the land at Boggs Cottages, Keele and the enforcement action from a breach of planning control at this location. It was resolved to bring a report back to committee in two months' time.

Cllr Paul Northcott
Chair

QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

To the Deputy Leader of the Council:

1. It was encouraging to see the report that went to Health Scrutiny Committee and was publicised on the Council website about the reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre. This helps to counter some of the negative comments that sometimes surround the Town Centre

Can the Deputy Leader please highlight some of the initiatives that have been implemented to bring about this reduction?

Cllr Andrew Parker

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To the Leader of the Council

2. I am sure the Leader is familiar with German U Boat (SM U118) that washed onto Hastings' beach on 15 April 1919. But, for others, two coastguard officials, showed visitors around the submarine daily over several months. Visitors complained about the smell of 'rotting food'. The two officials died in December 1919 and February 1920, respectively: not due to 'rotting food' but due to their prolonged exposure to low levels of chlorine gas. Visitors had no lasting effects. Here we are dealing with Hydrogen Sulphide: but the principle is the same, given Hydrogen Sulphide is poisonous. Therefore, will the Leader, in pressing for a Public Inquiry, insist the relevant authorities consider the long-term health risks, of our residents', our Council Tax payers, prolonged exposure to the stink from Walley's Quarry?

Cllr Robert Bettley-Smith

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To the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centre's and Growth

3. The subway that connects Liverpool Road has been closed since the start of the Development of the new car park on the Ryecroft development site.

Residents young and old living to the north of the town Centre especially in my ward Cross Heath are crossing over a busy dual carriage way to gain access to our Town Centre. Alternatively they have to walk 500 metres to cross by the bottom of West Brampton or walk down the north side of the A34 cross Knutton Lane go under the subway to Bridge Street and walk up the steep bank to the town Centre. Our residents, many of them elderly, have expressed some frustration because when they walk to the Town Centre to shop and support local businesses or meet up with friends there are forced to make a long detour or cross over a dangerous dual-carriageway. In addition the fencing around the site has created a blind bend for drivers when joining Ryecroft from Liverpool Road. Making the junction very dangerous.

Please can the portfolio holder please advise on when is the Liverpool Road/Ryecroft subway going to be re-opened for pedestrians to access the

Town Centre safely, and secondly, please can a communication be put on the website to update residents of on-going works.

Cllr John Williams
