



**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 September, 2025** at **7.00 pm**.

#### **B U S I N E S S**

- |           |   |                        |
|-----------|---|------------------------|
| <b>5</b>  | <b>APPOINTMENT OF SECTION 151 OFFICER</b>   | <b>(Pages 5 - 8)</b>   |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b>   | <b>(Pages 9 - 12)</b>  |
|           | To receive a statement by the Leader of the Council on the activities and decisions of Cabinet and items included on the Forward Plan.                      |                        |
| <b>10</b> | <b>REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES</b>   | <b>(Pages 13 - 14)</b> |
|           | a) Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee<br>b) Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee<br>c) Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee |                        |
| <b>11</b> | <b>REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES</b>   | <b>(Pages 15 - 16)</b> |
|           | a) Planning Committee<br>b) Licensing and Public Protection Committee   |                        |
| <b>13</b> | <b>QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b>   | <b>(Pages 17 - 18)</b> |

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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## NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

### CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

24<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**Report Title:** Appointment of Service Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer

**Submitted by:** Service Director for Strategy, People and Performance

**Portfolios:** All

**Ward(s) affected:** All

<b><u>Purpose of the Report</u></b>	<b><u>Key Decision</u></b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
To seek the Council's formal agreement to the appointment of the Service Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer.			
<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>  That Council:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Approves the appointment of Craig Turner as the Council's Service Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer</li> <li>2) That Mr Turner be appointed on a salary of £63,510.68 per annum with an additional £10, 000 per annum Statutory Officer allowance</li> </ol>			
<b><u>Reasons</u></b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Under Pt VIII of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council has a statutory duty to appoint a Section 151 Officer.</li> <li>2) In line with the constitution; the appointment of the Council's Section 151 Officer is a matter for decision by full Council</li> </ol>			

#### 1. **Background**

- 1.1 The Council has carried out an external and internal recruitment campaign to recruit its new Service Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer. There were 4 applicants from both within the local authority sector and others. A panel drawn from the Employment Committee conducted a final interview on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025.
- 1.2 The Interview Panel, chaired by the Leader of the Council, and acting as a sub-committee of the Employment Committee reached the unanimous decision to recommend to Full Council that Mr Turner be appointed as the new Service Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer.

- 1.3 Full Council is now asked to formally agree to the appointment of Mr Turner as Service Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer.

## 2. **Issues**

- 2.1 The current Section 151 Officer, Sarah Wilkes has resigned to take another role external to the Council, and will leave the Authority in October 2025. The Council has a statutory obligation to employ a Section 151 Officer.

## 3. **Recommendation**

That Council:-

- 3.1 Approve the appointment of Mr Turner as the Council's Service Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer such appointment to commence from 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025.
- 3.2 That Mr Turner be appointed on a salary of £63,510.68 per annum with an additional £10, 000 per annum Statutory Officer allowance.

## 4. **Reasons**

- 4.1 Under Pt VIII of the Local government Act 1972 the Council has a statutory duty to appoint a Section 151 Officer.

## 5. **Options Considered**

- 5.1 A full and robust selection process was undertaken with Mr Turner emerging as the preferred candidate.

## 6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 6.1 Under Pt VIII of the Local government Act 1972 the Council has a statutory duty to appoint a Section 151 Officer.

## 7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 The selection process undertaken was fair and equitable.

## 8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 8.1 There are no additional costs associated with this appointment, which is within the Council's establishment.

## 9. **Major Risks & Mitigation**

- 9.1 No risks identified

## 10. **UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)**



## 11. One Council

11.1 Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council ☒  
*We will make investment to diversify our income and think entrepreneurially.*

One Digital Council ☒  
*We will develop and implement a digital approach which makes it easy for all residents and businesses to engage with the Council, with our customers at the heart of every interaction.*

One Sustainable Council ☒  
*We will deliver on our commitments to a net zero future and make all decisions with sustainability as a driving principle*

11.2 The management and leadership of an effective Finance function is required to support all financial and efficiency decisions which fall within the remit of the above programmes.

## 12. Key Decision Information

12.1 Not applicable

## 13. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

13.1 Not applicable

## 14. List of Appendices

14.1 None

## 15. Background Papers

15.1 None

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## **STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL TO FULL COUNCIL – 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025**

**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 Meeting**

Cabinet met on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, detailed below is a selection of decisions and other actions of the Leader and Cabinet since the last Leader's Statement.

#### **2. Walleys Quarry Landfill Odour Issues**

In August, four odour complaints were received by the Council. So far in September there has been one complaint, indicating that the works carried out on site are reducing the odours and emissions. These measures being implemented by the Environment Agency (EA) will continue over coming months and be monitored as we enter the Autumn/Winter period.

Following the resolution of last Full Council, the then Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs was asked to provide a timetable for a public inquiry into the actions of the EA through the Walleys Quarry process and for confirmation that he would provide a guarantee that all costs of remediation would be met by UK Government. At time of writing, no response has been received from Ministers, and I have written to the new Secretary of State to seek an urgent response and her commitment to moving forward with restoration of the site.

The Member of Parliament for Newcastle-under-Lyme was asked for specific assistance in getting the relevant Government departments and agencies to engage with the multi-agency co-ordinating group; to call for Government to play an active role in the safe restoration of the site; and to join calls for a public inquiry into the site and its regulation. There has to date been no response.

The Chief Executive at the EA was asked to commit real and lasting financial support for the restoration of the site; that continuous monitoring would continue to be in place; and for a public meeting to be held. EA officers have advised that the monitoring equipment around Walleys Quarry (MMFs) will be retained in situ for the foreseeable future. Commitment to a public meeting and a meeting of the Liaison Committee is still being sought.

Multi-agency officer meetings will commence this month on how to secure the effective management, monitoring and restoration of the site over the long term, together with ensuring effective public engagement and communication.

The Council will continue to press for a solution which sees permanent capping and restoration of the site and will challenge vigorously any options to reopen the site as an operational waste facility.

3. **Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026-27 to 2030-31**

The Council continues to take a prudent and forward-looking approach to its financial planning, as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy driven by our long-standing Efficiency Board process. Despite ongoing uncertainty around the Government's financial settlement, a budget will be prepared responsibly to ensure the Borough remains resilient and well-positioned to deliver core services and strategic priorities while keeping Council Tax low.

The MTFS outlines a clear framework for managing resources, addressing inflationary pressures, and investing in regeneration, environmental sustainability, and community safety and wellbeing. We are committed to maintaining a balanced budget while protecting frontline services, and we will continue to engage with Government to secure the funding our residents deserve. As always, our budget-setting process will be transparent, evidence-led, and focused on delivering value for money across the council's services.

4. **Kidsgrove Town Deal Update and Contract Awards**

The Kidsgrove Town Deal continues to progress, with the Town Deal Board endorsing key projects including: New enterprise units on The Meadows with public realm improvements, a new Community Learning Hub at the King's CE Academy and improved canal access, these initiatives will breath further new life into the town. We've already seen the positive impact of completed projects like the refurbishment and reopening of the sports centre, the well-used pump track at Newchapel and job opportunities at Chatterley Valley West. The Council remains committed to ensuring every pound of the £16.9 million Town Deal funding delivers real value for the Kidsgrove area.

Following necessary revisions due to the lack of government funding for remediation of ground conditions, the railway station refurbishment is proceeding with a focus on modernising the existing building and enhancing accessibility. This revised scheme ensures that Town Deal funding is retained and directed towards meaningful local improvements. The Town Deal remains a vital catalyst for regeneration in Kidsgrove, and I welcome the continued collaboration with partners to realise its full potential.

5. **Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Local Plan 2020-40**

Cabinet received an update about progress with the Local Plan. Officers have been working with the Planning Inspectorate to move the process forward. Following the public hearings held in May and June, the Inspector has confirmed that the Borough Council has met its legal obligations and has proposed a realistic timetable for development. The Inspector has accepted the case for limited release of land from the Green Belt under exceptional circumstances to support job creation and housing needs.

Officers have now supplied further detail to support the Inspector's final decisions. Importantly, the Inspector has also acknowledged our commitment to protecting key areas such as Lyme Park and maintaining appropriate car parking provision in the town centre. This is a complex and rigorous process, but one that is essential to securing long-term certainty for our residents, businesses and communities while protecting green space across Newcastle-under-Lyme. Given the Government's demand for 2,000 extra houses this will be more difficult to achieve in future Local Plans. We remain focused on delivering a sound and sustainable Local Plan that reflects local priorities and supports future sustainable growth.

## 6. **Forced Local Government Reorganisation (FLGR) Update**

The Borough Council continues to stand firm against Stoke-on-Trent City Council's deeply controversial proposal to merge our Borough with Stoke-on-Trent into a 'North Staffordshire Unitary'. This reckless plan threatens to erase 852 years of local history, identity, and independence. I've made our position crystal clear in our dealings with Stoke, other Councils and the government and will continue to fight for the interests of our residents.

Stoke-on-Trent's financial instability is well known, having required a £42.2 million government bailout earlier in the year. Merger would risk Newcastle Borough residents being forced to absorb Stoke's debt and dysfunction, undermining the sound financial management we've worked hard to maintain.

Unfortunately, Members of Parliament who represent the Borough voted recently for the very legislation that enables forced council mergers. This was followed quickly by chaos in the government with the Deputy Prime Minister, Angela Rayner, the architect of this merger policy, forced to resign over breaches of the ministerial code and subsequently in the reshuffle the whole ministerial team working on FLGR was sacked. I believe this gives the government the perfect opportunity to think again about this unpopular policy.

Residents across Newcastle Borough have given a resounding thumbs down to FLGR with over 8,500 people signing a petition. I'm proud to be leading the fight to Save Our Borough on behalf of the Council. We demand honesty, transparency, and respect for our community - not backroom deals and forced mergers. Our Borough residents deserve better.

## 7. **Financial and Performance Review Report – First Quarter 2025-26**

Cabinet received a report detailing first Quarter performance. 78% of measures achieved their targets with 11 showing an improvement on the same period last year.

A review of targets for 2025/26 ensures performance metrics remain in line with the Council Plan, and the rightfully high expectations of residents.

Officer sickness absence is at its lowest rate for four years, reflecting the efficiency of the Council's wellbeing initiatives and proactive support for staff welfare. Residual waste collections continue to be low with a high percentage of successful collections noted. A very slight dip in the percentage of materials collected for composting and recycling is explained by the dry summer leading to less garden waste.

The majority of projects continue to progress as expected with a number reaching completion in the quarter; we continue to see strong engagement in our Civic Pride Campaign and both Town Deal programmes continue towards delivery.

## 8. **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan can be found at: -

[Browse plans - Cabinet, 2025 | Modern.gov | Connexus](#)

**Councillor Simon Tagg**  
**Leader of the Council**

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## **Scrutiny Committee's Chairs' reports**

### **Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee met on Thursday 11th September and received updates on the Borough Local Plan; Town Deal and Future High Street Funds and a report on the Civic Pride (Empowering Our Communities) Strategy.

Members asked questions and made pleasant comments on how the updates were received and all recommendations for the reports were agreed.

The Committee will meet again on 15th December

Cllr Andrew Parker

Chair

### **Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee**

The Health, Wellbeing and Environment Committee met on 15th September.

Members received an update on the activities of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee.

An update was given on the situation at Walleys Quarry and the report noted.

An update was delivered on the Council's Civic Pride Strategy and positive feedback given by the committee.

The final report of the Parks Task & Finish Group was received and the recommendations of the report approved by the committee to go to Cabinet.

A verbal update was received on the Council's Animal Welfare Charter.

Members heard a report on the Community Safety Partnership joint working on crime and anti-social behaviour in the Borough. The future work programme was discussed.

Cllr Rupert Adcock

Chair

### **Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee met on 4 September to scrutinise the Medium Term Financial Strategy and to consider the administration's Civic Pride (Empowering our Communities) Strategy, a report on which has been received by each of the Council's scrutiny committees.

Members reviewed the quarterly performance report for the first quarter and gave comments on the revisions made by cabinet to the performance indicators for the present financial year.

The Committee also received scheduled update reports on the Commercial Strategy, and the Town Deals and Future High Streets Fund programmes. The Committee will meet again on 4 December.

Cllr Mark Holland  
Chair

## **Regulatory Committee's Chairs' reports**

### **Planning Committee**

The Planning Committee has met twice since the last full Council meeting:- 12 August and 9 September.

The following items were considered:

#### **12 August:**

- Land North of Mucklestone Wood Lane and East of Rock Lane, Loggerheads. 25/00352/REM
- Morston House, The Midway, Newcastle. 25/00438/FUL.
- Hartshorne Potteries Ltd. Rosevale Road, Crackley, Chesterton. 25/00443/FUL.
- 5 Boggs Cottage, Keele 14/00036/207C3.

#### **9 September:**

- Land at Moss Lane Madeley. 24/00619/FUL.
- Former site of the Zanzibar, Marsh Parade, Newcastle. 25/00349/FUL
- Land adjacent Fairgreen Road, Baldwins Gate. 24/00833/OUT
- Council Depot, Knutton Lane, Newcastle. 25/00120/DEEM3
- Car Park, Meadows Road, Kidsgrove. 25/00345/DEEM3
- Land North of Mucklestone Wood Lane, Loggerheads. 25/00505/OUT
- 35 Clayton Road, Newcastle. 25/00485/FUL
- Land West of Hazeley Paddocks, Keele. 25/00574/PIP
- Land East of Hazeley Paddocks, Keele. 25/00575/PIP
- Land at Doddlespool, Betley. 17/00186/207C2.

Cllr Paul Northcott  
Chair

## **Licensing and Public Protection Committee**

The Licensing and Public Protection Committee met on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

At the meeting Members, received the following Licensing Report:

- Draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2025/30

The Committee discussed a number of aspects of the reports and agreed to the proposed recommendations that were set out in those reports.

The minutes for the Sub Committee, held on 4<sup>th</sup> June were received and noted as a correct record.

The following Public Protection reports were also considered:

- Food Safety Service Plan 2025/26 and Review of Performance in 2024/25
- Revocation of the Kidsgrove Air Quality Management Area
- Revocation of the May Bank, Wolstanton & Porthill Air Quality Management Area
- Taxi Licensing Framework consultations 2025
- Taxi & Private Hire Licensing Policy 2026/30

The Committee discussed a number of aspects of the reports and agreed to the proposed recommendations that were set out in those reports.

The Public Protection Sub Committee met on two occasions; 7<sup>th</sup> May and 11<sup>th</sup> June.

The minutes for the Sub Committees were received and noted as correct records

Cllr Joan Whieldon  
Chair



## QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### To the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Environment:

1. In the summer of 2023 I contacted officers as a result of residents' complaints regarding bins left out all week in narrow terraced areas. This anti social behaviour causes obstruction and hazards to anyone using the pavement, particularly wheelchair users and those pushing prams & pushchairs. It also makes the area look very untidy.

Around this time The Sentinel ran an article about the City of Stoke-on-Trent issuing fixed penalty notices to habitual offenders. Officers informed me they were setting up a similar scheme and I was asked to identify hot spots, which I did including Kinsey St, West Street and George Street. Fellow councillors inform me this is a problem in other wards.

However, to my knowledge no fixed penalty notices have yet been issued. Could the portfolio holder give us an update please?

**Cllr. Jacqueline Brown**

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### To the Leader of the Council:

2. Deakins Yard (formerly the Sky Building) has been in the news again recently, following the Health & Safety Executive's decision to block the opening of the student flats due to safety concerns. Can the Leader of the Council provide an update on any further developments?

The Labour MP for Newcastle, in media interviews, stated that he wants answers as to why this student flats development was granted permission. Does the Leader agree with me that he should be looking closer to home to find those answers?

**Cllr. Andrew Parker**

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