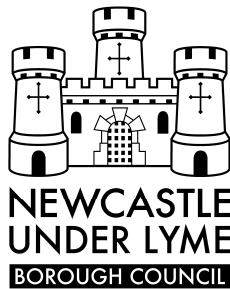


Public Document Pack



Dear Sir/Madam,

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the Borough Council of Newcastle-under-Lyme to be held in the **Civic Offices, Merrial Street, Newcastle Under Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 2AG** on **Wednesday, 28th November, 2012 at 7.00 pm**

ALL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE MAYOR AND MAYORESS FOR DRINKS IN THE MAYORS PARLOUR FOLLOWING THIS MEETING.

BUSINESS

- 1 **Apologies**
- 2 **Declarations of Interest**
- 3 **Signing of the District Deal for Newcastle under Lyme**
- 4 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 12TH SEPTEMBER 2012** (Pages 1 - 8)
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th September 2012.
- 5 **Minutes of the Member Development Panel 25th September 2012** (Pages 9 - 14)
- 6 **Minutes of the Standards Committee held on 1st October 2012** (Pages 15 - 18)
- 7 **Mayors Announcements**
- 8 **STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL** (Pages 19 - 20)
To receive a statement by the Leader of the Council on the activities and decisions of Cabinet and items included on the Forward Plan.
- 9 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**
Questions are to be submitted to the Mayor at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Any questions deemed urgent must be agreed by the Mayor before the meeting.
- 10 **Progress on Deferred Question and Petitions** (Pages 21 - 28)
- 11 **VERBAL UPDATES OF THE CHAIRS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

- a) Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee
- b) Transformation and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- c) Active and Cohesive Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- d) Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- e) Economic Development and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- f) Health Scrutiny Committee.

12 VERBAL UPDATES OF CHAIRS OF THE STATUTORY COMMITTEES

- a) Planning Committee
- b) Licensing Committee
- c) Public Protection Committee

13 Reports From Officers

14 Revised Gambling Policy December 2012 (Pages 29 - 30)

15 Parliamentary Boundary Review Consultation - Revised Boundaries October 2012 (Pages 31 - 68)

16 MOTIONS OF MEMBERS - PROCEDURE RULE 12

A notice of motion must reach the Chief Executive ten clear days before the relevant meeting of the Council.

17 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS (Pages 69 - 72)

To receive from Members any petitions which they wish to present to the Council pursuant to Procedure Rule 18 in the Councils Constitution.

18 URGENT BUSINESS - PROCEDURE RULE 7

To consider any communications which pursuant to Procedure Rule 7 are, in the opinion of the Mayor, of an urgent nature and to pass thereon such resolutions as may be deemed necessary.

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. Do not stop to collect personal belongings, do not use the lifts.

Fire exits are to be found either side of the rear of the Council Chamber and at the rear of the Public Gallery.

On exiting the building Members, Officers and the Public must assemble at the front of the former Hubanks store opposite to the Civic Offices. DO NOT re-enter the building until advised to by the Controlling Officer.

2. Attendance Record

Please sign the Attendance Record sheet, which will be circulating around the Council Chamber. Please ensure that the sheet is signed before leaving the meeting.

3. Mobile Phones

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

4. Tea/Coffee

Refreshments will be available at the conclusion of the meeting, or in the event of a break occurring, during that break.

5. Notice of Motion

A Notice of Motion other than those listed in Standing Order 19 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 5, Standing Order 20 of the Constitution of the Council.

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COUNCIL

Wednesday, 12th September, 2012

Present:- The Mayor David Becket – in the Chair

Councillors Miss Walklate, Mrs Cornes, Welsh, Mrs Johnson, Studd, Mrs Burnett, Clarke, Mrs Beech, Hambleton, Howells, Cairns, Boden, Matthews, Olszewski, Mrs Hambleton, Wemyss, Wilkes, Mrs Williams, Williams, Mrs Astle, Fear, Hailstones, Mrs Hailstones, Allport, Eagles, Kearon, Taylor.J, Waring, Miss Olszewski, Lawton, Holland, Bailey, Miss Cooper, Jones, Miss Reddish, Robinson, Mrs Shenton, Mrs Simpson, Snell, Sweeney, Tagg, Mrs Bates, White, Miss Mancey, Eastwood, Miss Baker, Mrs Peers, Plant, Stubbs, Taylor.M, Turner and Mrs Winfield

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Bannister, Cllr Mrs Heames, Cllr Mrs Heesom and Cllr Cooper.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **MINUTES**

That the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th July be approved as a correct record.

4. **MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor welcomed Mr Peter Shore as the Mayors Attendant, Mr Gordon Vernon as Mace Bearer. It was also confirmed that a contractor had now been appointed to act as Mayoral Driver.

The Mayor stated that Derek Myatt was making good progress following his operation. Geoffrey Durham was also making progress following a stroke but was expected to be away from work for a few more months at least.

All Members requested that their good wishes be sent to Geoffrey and Derek.

The Mayor also reported that Cllr James Bannister had been involved in a serious accident and again sent the good wishes of the Council to Cllr Bannister.

The Mayor had spent a lot of time with young people this summer and was very impressed by apprenticeship schemes in the area.

There would be a sponsored walk from Betley to Halmer End on Sunday 23rd September, leaving Betley Village Hall at 10.30am.

There would be a carol service in Betley on 16th December 2012 and the Mayors Ball would be held on 22nd March 2012.

The Mayor also drew Members attention to the Save the Staffords petition that he had recently sent out to all Members. The Mayor thanked Members for the returned petitions and confirmed that 700 signatures had been received to date.

Cllr Jones moved that a card be sent to Geoffrey Durham sending the best wishes of the Council to be signed by the Group Leaders. This was seconded by Cllr Snell.

Cllr Snell moved that a fitting tribute be made to Derek Myatt, this would be organised by Cllr Snell and the Mayor. This was seconded by Cllr Cairns.

Cllr Studd moved that the Councils best wishes be sent to Cllr Bannister, this was seconded by Cllr Miss Mancey.

5. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

Cllr Jones had submitted the following question:

'Following the previous administration's plans to improve the public realm for the market and develop the old Sainsbury's site, and given the recent increase in the number of empty units in the Town Centre, what is this present administration planning to do to make use of channels such as the Reporter and the website to promote our Town Centre?'

It was confirmed that a new Town Centre Partnership website would be set up and run by the Partnership.

Cllr Jones raised a supplementary question in relation to other channels of communication that were available such as the Reporter newspaper and questions whether members were aware of these channels.

It was confirmed that the Council was aware of these channels and they would be used where and when appropriate.

Cllr John Taylor submitted a question requesting confirmation from the Portfolio Holder regarding the balance on the usable capital reserve account. The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Budget Management stated that the usable Capital reserve account was £773k and the forecast at year end was 1million.

Cllr Taylor raised a supplementary question and queried whether this was sufficient to meet the Councils needs and questioned the current position with the Icelandic Bank. The Portfolio Holder stated that he would provide a full written response regarding this.

Cllr M Olszewski had submitted a question for the Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities requesting confirmation of the current level of spending allocated for Disabled Grant Facilities and what changes in funding had taken place over the last three years. Cllr Olszewski also asked a supplementary question in relation to the impact that this could have on the Council's statutory requirements.

The Portfolio Holder stated that the level of spending in the previous year had been 750k and this had not been sufficient. Therefore the £83,000 allocated for this year would also not be enough. The Council had a moral and legal responsibility regarding these grants and it was confirmed that applicants could take action against the Council through the ombudsman.

Grants were available up to £30,000 and were aimed at allowing disabled residents to live in their own houses, the Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities stated that this was very important, the Government was in support of the scheme and had not cut it in order to help keep people out of hospital.

The Portfolio Holder stated that the Council faced significant challenges with the ageing population, poor health, increase in disabled residents and increase in grants. The spend for 2010/11 had been £850,000 and it had been thought that £760,000 was insufficient at the time it was set. All applicants this year were on a waiting list. The Government had given Newcastle an additional £67,000 at the start of the year but the previous administration had removed £67,000 from the budget at the last Annual Council. The commitment from the previous year was £677,000.

Cllr Clarke submitted a question requesting clarification as to the budget deficit for the 2011/12 financial year and details as to what had caused this shortfall.

The Portfolio for Finance and Budget Management stated that there was a shortfall of £163,000 which was mainly due to areas such as Income generation, car parking fees and planning applications.

Cllr Clarke asked a further question regarding what provision was in place to make this sustainable. The Portfolio Holder stated that a full breakdown would be provided in writing.

Cllr Johnson had submitted a question to ask what provisions had been made to ensure the Council was a listening Council, taking on board the concerns of local people. The Leader stated that the Council was committed to public events throughout the Borough. Cabinet Panels would be established to provide a robust codified consultation process, protocols were being set up and discussions would be held.

6. CABINET REPORT FROM LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Snell presented the Cabinet report from the Leader of the Council. The Leader had written to the LEP regarding the concerns raised at the last meeting in relation to representation on the Board. No response had yet been received but there had been a meeting between leaders on 3rd September where representation had been discussed.

It was noted that there was an error in the Local Plan Consultation and that the date should be 1 October rather 1 November.

Town Centre Partnerships

Cllr Sweeney stated that he had noted the leaflet from Rob Wallace and questioned whether the Council had written any more labour policies for Rob Wallace. The Leader confirmed that there would not be any repetition of this.

Cllr Jones queried what was meant by a Portas Partner Town. The Council had not been successful in its second bid to become a Portas Town but Cllr Snell stated that those who were not chosen had been invited to be partners if they had support from the local MP. The Council would have access to support and resources but not cash. Paul Farrelly has agreed to support this.

Cllr Jones asked a supplementary question regarding when this was likely to happen. Cllr Snell responded that this had not yet been established but it was hoped that it would take effect as soon as possible.

Cllr Howells asked a question regarding what the employment brief was for the Town Centre Manager including the Job Description, targets, budget and whether the cost would be within the £30,000.

Cllr Snell responded that there would be a brief from the Partnership Board and advice from the private sector regarding this. £30, 0000 would be enough for the rest of the year and discussions were being held regarding obtaining funding for the future. The budget would be discussed around the needs of the partnership not the Council. Targets would be published for Members to scrutinise and to ensure that the Councils contribution was being used effectively. A full written answer regarding this would be provided.

Community Interest Company

Cllr Tagg welcomed Mr Mitchell as Chair, questioned whether there would be a representative from the taxi trade involved and when the CIC would be up and running.

Cllr Snell stated that the Partnership was all but done; the membership had been suggested by Mitchell in consultation with the portfolio holder. Any one could be a member of the strategic board and Cllr Boden would look into the possibility of a member of the taxi trade be included.

Cllr Tagg raised a supplementary question regarding whether the Partnership would be taking on the Council's agenda. Cllr Snell confirmed that the Partnership was aware of the agenda and that processes were in line and would be taken on if all parties were in agreement. Cllr Loades requested assurance that Board had an executive member. Cllr Snell confirmed that a portfolio position had a place on the Board. Cllr Loades further queried whether a report on findings would be made and whether a Chief Executive was to be appointed. Cllr Snell agreed that here would be a written answer to this supplementary questions.

Cllr Loades further requested assurance that the money paid to the CIC was grant money rather than a loan or other financially risky funding. A response to this would be provided in writing.

High Speed 2

Members queried what was meant by softer opposition. Cllr Snell stated that Cabinet had taken on board scrutiny comments regarding High Speed 2 and that the Government had committed to Lichfield thus making it prudent for the Council to dialogue regarding this. Members requested that if it was decided to take this approach it be discussed with the Full Council as Members wanted to be part of the process due to the fact that it was a flat objection last time.

Cllr Holland stated that he did not think there would be any economic benefits and that there would not be a station built in this area, he questioned what the benefits could be. Cllr Snell stated that the plan would not be endorsed if there were no economic benefits and the Council would revert to a flat objection but this would be discussed with Members first.

Cllr Jones questioned how this approach could show the Council wanted a station or no HS2 it at all. Cllr Snell stated that this was a pragmatic approach not weakness. If the plan showed no benefits then the Council would revert to a strong objection but we were currently in a better negotiating position than just saying no. Cllr Howells queried whether the Leader had considered loss of services if the service was built with no station. Cllr Snell stated that this was a more manoeuvrable position. Cllr Howells added a supplementary regarding whether the Council had received correspondence from Government on this issue. Cllr Snell confirmed that we had.

Cllr Sweeney raised concerns regarding a 2/3rds reduction of services to Stoke and what benefits this could have. Cllr Snell stated that it was too early to ascertain this.

Older People

Cllr Howells expressed concern that this had not been advertised properly and queried whether the Leader was aware that only 10 houses had taken opportunity of it. Cllr Howells requested information on what was planned to increase opportunity. Cllr Snell responded that if any members had more constituents eligible then to please let him know.

Cllr Howells asked why the service had not been advertised in Parish Councils and 1 Stop Shops. Cllr Snell stated that he was keen to explore all ways of communication and that Cllr Howells comments would be noted.

Cllr Miss Cooper queried whether the service would be means tested and whether the Leader thought that the handyman response scheme was effective. Cllr Snell confirmed that the service was means tested as it was an extension of the existing scheme and that £10,000 had to be enough for 200 people. Any complaints regarding the Handyman scheme needed to be taken up with officers. Cllr Robinson requested that the Leader keep Members briefed on the parish communications.

Cllr Cornes queried whether the service included private households. Cllr Snell confirmed that it did. Cllr Cornes further queried whether Aspire property dwellers could benefit from the scheme. Cllr Snell stated that Aspire had a parallel scheme and that a report on this would be circulated.

Cllr Fear asked the Leader whether he welcomed the reduction in red tape; Cllr Snell confirmed that he did. Cllr Fear queried whether there would be new tests and expressed concern that these could lead to upset being caused.

Cllr Snell stated that there would not be new tests and that he believed changes would be to the rolling programme, the Council would continue to be sensitive.

Local Plan Consultation

Cllr Jones requested clarification regarding whether residents were allowed to nominate any site for inclusion. The Leader confirmed that residents could nominate to any site and it would be subject to consideration.

Locality Cabinet

Members queried whether the open sessions would allow questions on any issue or just agenda items. It was confirmed that Cabinet Members would be available for all questions and issues for an hour before the actual Cabinet meeting, in the meeting rules would however apply.

Cllr Robinson queried whether meetings of the Cabinet would to move around the Borough. Cllr Snell confirmed that meetings were already planned for Madeley and Whitmore.

Cllr Howells requested information on the additional cost that locality Cabinet meetings would have. A written answer would be provided regarding this.

7. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Written reports were submitted for meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and the Transformation and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee. No questions were raised.

The Active and Cohesive Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee had met the previous week and discussed a report produced by the Bateswood Working Group and had requested an update on the allotments review. The Chair also stated that the Committee wanted Cabinet to look into the possibility of re-establishing a school of sport in North Staffordshire as there had been one previously and there were many talented young people in the area deserving of support from the Council.

The Chair of the Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee stated that a small working group would be set up to scrutinise the move of Fenton Magistrates court to Newcastle under Lyme.

The Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee expressed the Committees concerns regarding the apparent lack of a tendering exercise regarding the appointment of an organisation to deliver Local HealthWatch in Staffordshire, the Chair would be reporting back to the County Health Select Committee regarding this.

The Leader requested that the Health Scrutiny Committee keep an eye on the ongoing issues regarding the Accident and Emergency Department in Stafford.

Resolved: That the reports from the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees be received.

8. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE STATUTORY COMMITTEES

The Chair of the Planning Committee stressed the importance of people submitting their views regarding planning applications even if they thought the outcome a foregone conclusion.

The Planning Committee had raised concerns at the last meeting regarding the City Councils SPD proposals relating to the A500 and the Committee would make these concerns clear to the City Council.

The Chair of the Licensing Committee outlined the meetings of the Licensing Sub Committee that had taken place since the last Full Council meeting.

A briefing note was submitted by the Chair of the Public protection Committee with regards to the delimitation of Hackney Carriage vehicles. Some Members considered that the topic of delimitation should be discussed by Full Council; the Mayor requested that all Members be kept informed of the ongoing situation and if required a written report could be provided.

9. **PROGRESS ON DEFERRED QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

Cllr Studd asked a supplementary question following his question regarding the situation with Gatedale Ltd. at the previous meeting. Cllr Studd asked whether a Council representative had met with the receivers and if so would Members be able to be kept informed regarding developments.

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Town Centres confirmed that there had been such a meeting and that Members would be kept informed.

10. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12**

The Treasury Management Annual Report for 2011/12 was submitted and Members were asked to approve the Actual Prudential Indicators contained within the report.

The Council had adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management Code of Practice. This required an Annual Report to be made to the Council concerning Treasury Management activities after the end of each year. In addition the Prudential Code for Capital Finance required that the Actual Prudential Indicators for the year be reported to and approved by the Council.

The recommendations were moved by Cllr Stubbs and seconded by Cllr Olszewski. The Leader questioned whether all correspondence regarding investment in Heritable Bank would be published and it was confirmed by the Portfolio Holder that this would be the case.

Cllr Howells questioned if the Cabinet were unhappy with the performance of Jubilee 2. It was agreed that a written answer would be provided to this question. It was also thought by some members that the report was too judgemental and political and that some phrases regarding this should be removed.

The recommendations were put to a vote with 30 for, 9 against and 8 abstentions.

Resolved: (a) That the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2011/12 be received.

(b) That the Actual Prudential Indicators contained within the report be approved.

11. **MOTIONS OF MEMBERS**

A motion had been submitted in relation to Regional and Local Public Sector Pay. Cllr Snell moved the motion and it was seconded by Cllr Studd.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Holland who stated that there were no Government plans as yet only a decision to look at the evidence; therefore it would

not make it harder (as set out in the proposal) for schools and other public services to recruit and retain good quality professionals. Cllr Holland highlighted that this did not mean the Council should not voice concern or write to the suggested recipients. This was seconded by Cllr Sweeney who stated that a debate could not be held when what was proposed was still unknown.

Cllr Jones stated that the Council needed to show that it did not want to change the principles of public sector pay and that a strong message was needed now to head off any future decisions. Many Councillors agreed that pre-emptive action was needed as the possibility was enough to lower morale amongst workers. Other Councillors considered that it would be better to wait and debate the proposals in a considered way once the facts were fully understood.

A vote was taken on the amendment with 12 for and 39 against.

A vote was taken on the original motion with 38 for, 0 against and 12 abstaining.

Resolved: (a) That the Council write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Chief Secretary to the Treasury stating this council's opposition to plans for regional and localised public sector pay.

(b) That the Council write to all local MPs outlining concerns about the impact that this policy would have on services and the local economy.

(c) That the Council sign up to the Pay Fair campaign and raise awareness of the implications and risks of this policy locally, regionally and nationally.

12. **RECEIPT OF PETITIONS**

A petition was submitted that had been signed by 418 Bignall End residents regarding the Issues and Options paper. The petition would be presented to the relevant planning officer and an update would be provided at the next meeting of Full Council.

Resolved: That the petition be received and an update provided at the next meeting.

13. **STANDING ORDER 18 - URGENT BUSINESS**

14. **EXCLUSION RESOLUTION**

THE MAYOR DAVID BECKET
Chair

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Tuesday, 25th September, 2012

Present:- Cllr Loades – in the Chair

Councillors Boden, Miss Cooper and Kearon

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Miss Olszewski and Cllr J. Williams.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2012 be agreed as a correct record.

The Chair of the Member Development Panel confirmed that with regard to item 7 on the minutes, clarification was required regarding the location training. With regard to item 8, the Chair would obtain more information regarding the risk strategy and Member's risks. Both of these would be actioned for the next meeting.

4. MEDIA TRAINING - REQUIREMENTS AND OVERVIEW

The Member Development Panel considered the Media Training that was scheduled for 29 October 2012. The Head of Communications sought a steer from the Panel and advised that the training had been run before, but the attendance had not been good. It was questioned whether the training should be for all Members, or for key Members only. The Chair of the Panel confirmed that from the information provided on Member's Personal Development Plans, there was a desire to receive media training from all Members. It was felt that newspaper reporters giving tips would be beneficial.

The Head of Communications referred to brief notes that had already been produced regarding interacting with the media and asked if these should be made available to all Members which the Panel agreed to. The Chair considered that there could be two training sessions. One based upon the existing notes and one specifically focussed on interacting with reporters. These should be evening sessions; 29 October would remain and would be for the first session with the second session to follow. The Head of Communications would brief the Chair of the Member Development Panel. It was noted by Members that there was a radio studio in the Civic Offices and this could be used for media training.

Members considered that the training documents should be distributed to Members in advance and their receipt should be acknowledged. The documents could then be referred to in advance by Members.

The Head of Communications considered that the existing document would be utilised for 29 October and there should be one session. Local journalists should be

involved in the training session, with the training taking place in the Council Chamber.

Members of the Panel referred to previous media training that they had received where they had done a spoof television and radio interview and how they had found this very useful in seeing what they did well during interviews and what not so well.

The duration of the training session was discussed. The length of the session was dependent upon what content was desired and the number of attendees. The Head of Communications considered that the document could be distributed and considered by Members prior to the training session and could be referred to quickly. There could then be interviews and a review of these. The whole session could probably be delivered in an hour and a half.

The Chair asked the Panel whether the training should be for every Member. The Panel agreed that it should be. The Chair suggested that another session could be run in the New Year for Members who were unable to attend the October session. Good records needed to be kept of the attendees.

RESOLVED: (a) That the media training go ahead on 29 October 2012.

5. MEMBERS ICT TRAINING PLAN

The Council's ICT Operations and Development Manager informed the Member Development Panel that 28 members had returned their Data Protection Act administered registration forms. There was a possibility that some members were already registered and it had been requested on the letter sent to Members that Officers be informed if Members were already registered. The Chair requested they receive a list of the returned forms.

There had been nine attendees at the Data Protection Act training. There had been four sessions with a small attendance at each. The Chair requested a list of the nine Members that had attended the training. The Chair questioned whether the training had frightened Members. The ICT Operations and Development Manager considered that the training had provided more eye opening moments rather than scared Members and considered that another session could be provided if necessary. The Chair concurred that another session may be necessary, but feedback was required from the attendees and non-attendees. There was concern from the Panel regarding the lack of attendance and the importance of Members attending the Data Protection Act training.

There was a specific Data Protection training course on StEP (Staffordshire E-Learning Portal). The ICT Operations and Development Manager would send all members of the Panel a link to this training.

The Panel also gave consideration to Outlook training and it was considered that this could be covered in one hour. Eight Members could be accommodated in the ICT training room. It could be done in advance of major meetings or as independent sessions. The Panel agreed that the training should be delivered as independent sessions. The Chair requested a briefing of the training in the first instance.

6. THE PAPERLESS MEMBER

The Council's ICT Operations and Development Manager informed the Member Development Panel that the cost of printed materials, excluding the cost of staff was £60,000 per annum. The cost including staff was £81,952 per annum. The courier service cost £6,240 per annum and the print recharge to Member Services was £41,437 per annum.

The Chair of the Panel considered it cost effective to start going paperless subject to review of costs etc. It was suggested that a summary of figures was required and a date set for trialling a 'paperless member'. It was necessary to firm up the exact print costs and to ascertain the costs for Member's or public documents. It needed to be clarified what Member costs were. There would be a proposal at the next meeting with a solution for a trial to paperless members.

The Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities considered that they had signed up to be a paperless member when they were first elected. It was not physically possible to balance a laptop in the Council Chamber as there was not enough space. It would be necessary to consider the practical elements of going paperless. It was also felt that there would need to be a list of what a member would be expected to receive in the early stages of going paperless, so they could check that they had received everything that they should have done. It would be necessary to consider different systems. There may be hidden costs and these would need to be considered. Live links would be needed within documents to make it quick and easy to use documents in meetings. There would need to be the function to jump to a bookmark.

More detail would be provided for the panel at the next meeting. The Chair of the Panel questioned whether Staffordshire County Council was paperless. They were partially paperless and had the facility to be paperless. There was consideration that agendas might be a problem, this would be considered at the next meeting. The ICT Operations and Development Manager would send out an email to ascertain Member's use of ICT. It would assess Members on a basic level. There were no objections from the Panel with regard to this.

Members questioned whether the savings would be if all Members were paperless, if some Members were paperless and some were not there would still be costs. It was confirmed that the saving would be if all Members were paperless and all Members would have to paperless for the idea to work. A system would be required for the most technophobic of users.

7. TRAINING ON THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Chair asked the question whether training was required on the consultation process. It was felt that it was required and that Members needed to be aware and get involved in the consultation process.

The Panel agreed that a prompt sheet would be the best way forward. It should be kept simple and there should be no training session unless absolutely necessary. Members were at the forefront of consultation and it was important to purport to the public what was happening at the Council.

RESOLVED: That a prompt sheet be created for Members on the consultation process.

8. CHAIR BEST PRACTICE

The Chair informed the Members Development Panel of the intention to attend a meeting of all committees to observe best practice that is taking place.

There were no objections from the Panel, however Members noted that care should be taken not to be personal.

Chairs of committees had been written to, notifying them of the intention to attend one of their meetings. There would be no names mentioned when the results of the Chair Best Practice were brought back to the 31 January 2013 meeting of the panel.

RESOLVED: That Chair Best Practice be conducted and the results be reported at the 31 January 2013 meeting.

9. MEMBER USE OF OFFICE SPACE

The Panel considered whether office and meeting room space available for the day to day use of elected Members was adequate, or if improvements were required.

It was questioned whether the current space available was worthwhile, effective and useable at the present time. Space needed to be made more efficient if possible. It was considered that Members needed to be asked what their thoughts were regarding the issue.

There were no objections from the Panel for a review of Member office space. It was noted that there was a drop in room for Members by ICT.

The Chair requested a list of rooms that were available to Members.

RESOLVED: That a list be compiled of the rooms available for Member use and a review be conducted if it is considered necessary.

10. REPORTS TO FULL COUNCIL FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Panel considered whether Members on outside bodies should report to Full Council.

It was considered that it was for Members to ask should they want to know anything about an outside body and it should not be focussed on the Member who sits on the outside body. The Chair proposed a report for the next meeting from Link to Officers. It was also considered that space could be made available on the Member's website for outside body updates.

The Panel resolved that outside body updates should be included on the Full Council agenda.

RESOLVED: That outside body updates be included on the Full Council agenda.

11. MEMBER'S WEBSITE

The Panel gave consideration to the Member's website. It was suggested by the Chair that the front page of the website should have a space where questions or information could be logged such as the dates of training sessions.

The Chair of the Panel suggested that the Member's website could incorporate a Member's forum. Members could use this forum to make suggestions as to what they want the Panel to look at, and it could be used to provide updates from the Panel and Officers.

The responsibility of the Member's website was split between the Head of Communications and the ICT Operations and Development Manager. The template had been set up by the Communications Department and the Head of Communications was of the opinion that the template was adequate. There was concern that Members did not make enough use of the website and were accessing their emails from other areas. It would seem that some Members were able to access their emails directly and it was considered that all Members should be accessing their emails through the Member's website.

The website could be used to promote training courses e.g. the media training course could be advertised on the website a week before it was due to take place. The website should be more user friendly. There was space at the top of the home page where the logo was that could be used for useful content. The website should be improved first; Members should then be asked what they wanted from their website.

The Panel considered that improvements to the website were constrained by the content management system. This was confirmed by the Head of Communications. The current content management system was nine years old and a new website was being designed for implementation by the end of March. The question was then raised whether it was prudent to focus efforts on a new web page.

RESOLVED:

12. URGENT BUSINESS

There was discussion regarding the suggestion raised at the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee meeting on 24 September 2012 that there may be a requirement for more scrutiny meetings.

The Chair posed the question to the panel as to whether more meetings were required or if it would produce a duplicated work load. The Panel agreed that more scrutiny meetings were not required. There was a need for more working groups.

RESOLVED: That more meetings of the scrutiny committees were not required.

Chair

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STANDARDS

Monday, 1st October, 2012

Present:- Councillor Terry Turner – in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Heesom and Taylor.J

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cairns, Cooper and Mrs Hambleton.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 March 2012 be approved as a correct record.

4. **THE LOCALISM ACT 2011- THE AMENDED REGIME - THE NEW CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS**

Consideration was given to a report submitted by the Council's Monitoring Officer advising Members that the Council had, at its meeting in July, adopted a new Code of Conduct for elected and co-opted members indicating that the Council would continue to have responsibility for dealing with Standards complaints made against elected and co-opted members of this Council as well as of town and parish councils.

The Council had also adopted arrangements for dealing with complaints of alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct both by district and parish councils members. The arrangements, that were set out in an appendix to the officer's report, gave details of the process for dealing with complaints of misconduct and the sanctions which may be invoked against a Member found to have breached the provisions of the adopted Code of Conduct.

The new regime would contribute to the overall ethical wellbeing of the Council and help to encourage a culture of high standards in which the Council and public could have confidence.

The Committee took the opportunity to discuss independent membership and agreed that more than one independent member should be appointed and members were advised that Mr D Wood MBE was willing to continue to fill one of those positions.

A discussion also took place on the size of panels appointed to deal with complaints against Members and it was felt that the Committee as a whole should sit to consider each individual complaint rather than attempting to convene smaller panels made up of members of the Committee that, in the past, had been difficult to arrange.

In conclusion, the Committee was advised that a number of Members had still to complete and return their disclosure of pecuniary interests forms which was in breach

of the Code of Conduct. It was agreed that Members should be reminded of the need to return the forms as quickly as possible and that failure to do so was in breach of the Code of Conduct.

Resolved:- (a) That the details submitted of the newly adopted Code of Conduct for Members and the arrangements for dealing with complaints be received.

(b) That the Committee as a whole be convened as and when necessary to deal with complaints made against Members considering alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct.

(c) That Mr D Wood MBE continue as an Independent Member and that the remaining vacancy be advertised in the local press.

(d) That Members be reminded of the requirement to complete and return their disclosure of pecuniary interest forms and that failure to do so is a breach of the Council's Code of Conduct.

5. GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE ON OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY ON PERSONAL INTERESTS

Consideration was given to a report submitted by the Council's Monitoring Officer outlining the contents of guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government entitled 'Openness and Transparency on Personal Interests'.

A copy of the guidance had been circulated to all Members of the Council in August 2012.

The Committee considered a flow chart prepared by the Monitoring Officer that, it was considered, would help members of the Council to decide whether they needed to disclose interests in a particular matter.

Resolved:- (a) That the advice contained in the above Government Guidance be received.

(b) That consideration of the flow chart be included as an item on the next agenda.

6. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee was asked to suggest areas of work for inclusion in its work programme for the current municipal year.

Resolved:- (a) That training for Members on social networking be included on the Committee's work programme for the current year.

(b) That parish councils be offered training on the new Code of Conduct regime from the Monitoring Officer with the caveat that the training can be delivered to individual parish councils or at one session to which all parish councils could be invited to attend.

(c) That Members be invited to contact the Chair of the Committee and/or the Monitoring Officer if they wish for other matters to be added to the work programme.

(d) That the work of the Committee be reviewed at its last scheduled meeting in the current municipal year (11 March 2013).

COUNCILLOR TERRY TURNER
Chair

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Cabinet Report to Council

Since the last report to full Council, Cabinet has met three times on 19th September, 17th October and 14th November 2012. This report enumerates activities from both the formal meeting and other activities being undertaken by portfolio holders.

1. Decisions of Cabinet can be found published

Given the volume of decisions made by Cabinet since the last meeting of the Council, it is not feasible to list all of them. As such, a complete list of decisions made by Cabinet can be found by following the links below. Paper copies are available upon request.

19th September 2012

<http://moderngov.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/documents/g1591/Decisions,%2019th-Sep-2012%2019.30,%20Cabinet.pdf?T=2>

17th October 2012

<http://moderngov.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/documents/g1592/Decisions,%2017th-Oct-2012%2019.00,%20Cabinet.pdf?T=2>

14th November 2012

At the time of writing this report, the decision sheet had not been published but a link will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

2. Borough Corporate Plan (19/09/2012)

The new Borough Plan was adopted by the Cabinet to reflect the political mandate held by the new administration. The plan also encompassed the recommendations regarding performance management and the move toward qualitative rather than quantitative monitoring of the Borough Council's activities.

3. Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnership (19/09/2012)

Following the success of the Newcastle Town Centre Partnership, Cabinet resolved to instruct officers to commence work on the formation of a Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnership which would be constituted in the same way as the Newcastle TCP with emphasis on engaging private sector partners.

4. Localisation of Council Tax Support (19/09/2012)

Cabinet approved the Borough's component of the County-wide consultation on the changes to Council Tax Support being forced on Council's by the Westminster Coalition. Under the Government's plans, Council's will become directly responsible for the administration of Council Tax Support. The Government have used this opportunity to reduce the budget by 10%, effectively cutting £835,000 in Council Tax Support from Newcastle Borough. A county-wide proposal has been endorsed by all Districts in the County as well as the City with an intent to avoid differences in neighbouring schemes. Full Council will be asked to ratify the final scheme in the New Year.

5. Refurbishment of St. Giles and St. Georges (17/10/2012)

Cabinet agreed to the marketing of the Building in its current condition with the removal of the requirement for any future proposal to contain public access. Cabinet also asked the officers to investigate the potential for Town Centre housing alongside the various other ideas being considered.

6. Review of integrated waste and recycling strategy (17/10/2012)

It was agreed that Cllr Beech would chair a cross-party Cabinet Panel to start work now on the future provision of the waste and recycling service ahead of the contract renewals in 2016. The Cabinet Panel will be tasked with assessing the potential options available and consider the benefits of each before making a report to both Cabinet and Scrutiny. The panel is not intended to replace the scrutiny process but instead provides an opportunity for wider member involvement from the earliest aspects of the process.

7. Allotment Review (14/11/2012)

Cabinet resolves to commission the Culture and Active Communities Scrutiny Committee to undertake a thorough review of the Council's current allotments service with the sole intention of ensuring that the Council is maximising the subsidy it provides and meeting the needs of the plot owners. Cabinet members sought an assurance from Cllr Cairns as Chair of the Scrutiny Committee that members with a specific interest in allotments or whom have allotments in their wards would be free to contribute to the review.

8. Portas/Town Team Partner £10,000

Following support from Paul Farrelly MP, Newcastle was selected as one of the Portas Partners towns and will receive £10,000 toward implementing some of the aspects of our (unsuccessful) Portas Pilot bid. The Cabinet would like to thank Paul for his support for the work we are undertaking in the Town Centre and the Town Centre Partnership. As a partner, the TCP and Borough Council can access the resources made available to the Pilot towns and share best practice.

9. Briefing to Police and Crime Commissioner Candidates

Cabinet members and Senior Officers have met with both candidates to brief them on the work the Council and our partners do and demonstrate our commitment to the wider Crime Prevention partnership work. It is hoped that whichever candidate is elected will recognise the importance of the work undertaken by the Borough Council in keeping local residents safe and secure and continue our funding accordingly.

Written Responses from the Leader of the Council to Questions raised at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th September 2012.

Question from Cllr John Taylor to Cllr Mike Stubbs

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm the current balance on the Usable Capital Reserve account?

Usable Capital Reserves account is £773k and is forecast to stand at £1million at the end of the financial year.

(Supplementary Question)

Is this enough to meet the needs of the Council and what is the position with the money held within the Icelandic Bank?

The plans inherited by this administration are insufficient to deal with the known capital expenditure. The cabinet will be meeting with members of the EMT to assess which projected can be value engineered to reduce costs and what expenditure can be postponed until a more sustainable source of funding is available.

Cllr Mark Olszewski to Cllr. Tony Kearon

Can the Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities confirm the current level of spending allocated for Disabled Facilities Grants and what changes in funding has taken place over the last three years?

The Borough has an ageing population, with a significant subset of residents developing significant mobility restrictions in later life. This is reflected in year on year increases in applications for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs), which fund necessary changes to the homes of disabled residents to facilitate ease of access.

DFGs are funded partly by borough council funds and partly by funds from central government. The increase in the number of residents qualifying for DFGs resulted in increases in the DFG, which peaked at £830,000 in 2010/11.

Despite continued increases in DFG applications and in the number of disabled residents in the borough, in 2011/12 the DFG budget was reduced to £760,000. This reduction was entirely a result of a reduction in the contribution made to the DFG by the borough council. This sum was not sufficient to cover DFG applications made during 2011/12, and the DFG budget for 2011/12 was fully committed by November 2011. Any applications made after that point were placed on a waiting list.

In January 2012, central government gave the borough council an extra £67,000 to cover DFG applications in the borough. The administration of the borough council at that point decided to treat this additional funding as

replacement funding, and withdrew £67,000 of borough council funds from the DFG budget. This meant that despite the extra £67,000 of government funding, no extra funds were available to help reduce the number of outstanding applications on the waiting list.

Despite the evidence that £760,000 was not a sufficient sum to cover the number of DFG applications submitted over a 12 month period, and despite the existence of the waiting list of applications from 2011/12, the borough council cabinet set a DFG budget for 2012/13 of £760,000.

In May 2012, the incoming administration inherited a DFG budget of £760,000 and a waiting list of DFG applications held over from 2011/12.

The new administration had to use funds from the 2012/13 DFG budget to clear up the waiting list from the previous year before it could begin to process claims for the current year.

This waiting list (DFG applications from 2011/12 that had still not been processed in May 2012) totalled £677,000. Once this waiting list had been cleared up, this left the current administration with a remaining DFG budget of £83,000 to fund DFG applications for 2012/13 (the equivalent of 10% of the funds which were available for DFGs in 2010/11).

It is fair to say that this will not be enough to fund DFG applications made by disabled residents in the borough during the current year.

(Supplementary Question)

What impact has this had on the Council's abilities to meet its statutory requirements for Disabled Facilities Grant?

750K is not enough and therefore £83k will certainly not be enough. We have a moral and legal obligation to deal with this problem and any inaction by the Council can be challenged by the ombudsman.

Cllr Mick Clarke to Cllr Mike Stubbs

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Finance, what the budget deficit was in the financial year 2011/12 and what were the main causes of this shortfall?

There was a £163,000 deficit on the 2011/12 budget which was caused by a decrease in revenue from car park, planning fees etc. This was a deficit on top of the £300,000 already included within the budget as cushion to any shortfall in revenue income.

(Supplementary Question)

What provision, from sustainable sources, has been made within the 2011/12 budget to accommodate these shortfalls?

There is none. The budget included unrealistic figures for income increases and raided the council's reserves to ensure a budget was seen to match

expenditure. The same figures have been included in the 2012/13 budget and there is no reason to presume that these revenue streams will prove to be any better in this year than last. The cabinet is undertaking a line-by-line review of the budget and we will be bringing forward proposals which have sustainable income sources to meet future expenditure.

Cllr. Hilda Johnson to Cllr. Gareth Snell

With the Council's new commitment to consultation, can the Portfolio Holder explain to the Council what provisions have been made to ensure this council is a listening Council, taking on board the concerns of local people?

The new administration has committed to being an open, honest and transparent organisation that listens to the views of the public. The Cabinet will be hosting meetings in communities providing residents with the opportunity to raise matters directly. The Cabinet will also be working with members of the Comms team to ensure we are doing all we can to engage with resident in a meaningful manner.

Written responses to other questions (These are not subject to a supplementary question).

Response from **Cllr. Snell** to **Cllr Howells** regarding monitoring of the Council's contribution to the Town Centre Partnership is effective.

The process for the recruitment for the Town Centre Manager is currently underway. When the successful candidate is appointed, the Newcastle Town Centre Partnership will provide targets and decide on KPIs against which the role will be judged. I will ensure that these are reported to the relevant Scrutiny Committee of the Council to ensure that oversight is applied and the Council can ensure our concerns are voice at Partnership meetings through the seat held by the Portfolio Holder.

Response from Cllr Snell to Cllr Loades regarding the role of Chief Executive Officer for the Town Centre Partnership CIC.

There will be no Chief Executive as such but the Company Directors will appoint a Chair of Directors. It is currently intended that this will be Mr Mitchell of T.C. Cornwell Ltd., 15 High Street, Newcastle under Lyme. The Council, through its nominee Director, has a vote in that process. With regards to funding, it is proposed that this be a grant.

Response from Cllr Snell to Cllr Cornes regarding the Aspire Housing's 'Handyperson Scheme' and its comparison with the Council's proposal.

Aspire Housing offer a Handyperson Scheme for their tenants. It is available to any tenant. The tenant pays for and provides the materials and the handyperson then fits them for free. Tenants can access the scheme through their neighbourhood officer. It is still intended that the contribution to the

separate Revival Handyperson scheme would allow Borough funds to be targeted to local older and vulnerable people.

Response from Cllr. Snell to Cllr. Howells after Cllr Howells asked “Are you unhappy with J2?”

No. Although the Cabinet are working on finding ways to cover the shortfall caused by the insufficient cleaning contract arrangements.

Response from Cllr. Snell to Cllr. Howells regarding the additional costs of holding a Cabinet meeting in Kidsgrove.

The meeting venue of the September Cabinet was provided free of charge by Kidsgrove Town Council. I would like to thank the Town Council for this act of generosity. The only costs which would have occurred as a result of the change of venue will be additional mileage claimed by those officers attending the meeting in Kidsgrove which is estimated to be approximately £50. However, to minimise this impact, Cabinet ensured that only those officers whose attendance was vital were requested to attend.

RAVENS PARK PETITION

Submitted by: Head of Planning and Development- Guy Benson

Portfolio: Planning, Regeneration and Town Centres

Ward(s) affected: Audley and Bignall End

Purpose of the Report

To advise Members of action taken by officers in respect of the petition submitted by the Ravens Park Resident Association in relation to the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan.

Recommendations

- (a) That the action taken by officers in respect of the Ravens Park petition be noted.
- (b) That the existence of the petition be reported to both the Planning Committee and Council in the context of the results of the full public consultation exercise, which has been recently undertaken in relation to preparation of the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan.

Reasons

To comply with the provisions of the Council's approved Petitions Scheme.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council has recently completed a full public consultation exercise in relation to the first stage of preparing the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan. A consultative document entitled 'Draft Issues and Options' formed the basis for this consultation.
- 1.2 During the consultation period, a petition was handed in at the Council meeting on 12 September, 2012, by Councillor Eddie Boden on behalf of the Ravens Park Residents Association. The petition signed by 418 people relates to seven areas of green space on the Ravens Park Estate. Six of the areas are in the ownership of the Borough Council and one is in private ownership. The sites were included in the "draft long list of Strategic housing sites for potential allocation" within the 'Draft Issues and Options' paper.
- 1.3 The petition is unusual in that the signatures are attached to 11 separate Response Forms, provided for the purposes of recording representations relating to the 'Draft Issues and Options' consultation paper. The responses, which have been provided in respect of; Issue 2: Non Strategic Sites; Issue 3 Development of Greenfield Sites and Issue 8: Open Space Allocations form the basis of the petition. In respect of Issues 2: Non Strategic Sites, the petitioners state that the seven areas of green space on the Ravens Park estate are not suitable for development. In respect of Issue 3: Development of Greenfield Sites, it is stated that the lack of brownfield sites (highlighted during the public consultation) does not justify the overcrowding of existing and established developed areas to the detriment of existing communities and the environment. In respect of Issue 8: Open Space Allocations, the petitioners state that the development of open spaces contravenes the Green Space Strategy.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 Your officers are able to give consideration to these comments through the process of preparing the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan. This will then be incorporated into a report on the outcome of the full public consultation exercise together with a 'Draft Options Report,' setting out the Council's draft site allocation proposals. The process is unlikely to be completed until late spring next year. The consultation results and 'Draft Options Report' will be reported to Planning Committee prior to going forward to Council for decision. A second stage of full public consultation will then take place.
- 2.2 A letter has been sent to the petition organiser advising that the contents of the petition will be given consideration as part of the process of considering representations received during the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan Issues and Options consultation, and other evidence that will need to be given due consideration under the statutory town planning process.

3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 That the petition and the action already taken by your officers be noted.
- 3.2 That the existence of the petition be reported to both the Planning Committee and Council in the context of the results of the full public consultation exercise, which has been recently undertaken in relation to preparation of the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan.

4. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

- 4.1 To comply with the provisions of the Council's approved Petitions Scheme.
- 4.2 To enable the comments made in respect of the seven areas of open space on the Ravens Park Estate to be considered in the context of both the representations received from all other consultees who responded to the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan Issues and Options consultation, and other evidence that will need to be given due consideration under the statutory town planning process.

5. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- Creating a cleaner, safer, and sustainable Borough
- Creating a healthy and active community

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 6.1 The Council has an approved petitions scheme, which sets out the procedure for consideration of petitions received from the local community.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

No adverse impact has been identified.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

There are no additional financial or resource implications arising from the recommendation.

9. **Major Risks**

None identified relating directly to this report.

10. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

Not applicable.

11. **Key Decision Information**

Not a key decision

12. **List of Appendices**

Paper copies of the petition will be available in the Members' Room prior to the meeting.

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GAMBLING ACT 2005 – STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

Submitted by: Democratic Services Manager

Portfolio: Safer Communities

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To advise Members of the recommended changes to the Gambling Policy as agreed by the Licensing Committee on 8th November 2012.

Recommendations

(a) That the current Challenge 21 policy be replaced by a Challenge 25 policy in the Gambling Policy for Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council.

(b) That the revised Gambling Policy be agreed.

Reasons

Under section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 the Council has a statutory duty to review its Gambling statement set out in the Gambling Policy before the end of December 2012.

1. GAMBLING ACT 2005 – STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

Background

Under section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 the statutory period for licensing policies is 3 years with the first period starting on 31 January 2007. The Council therefore has a statutory duty to review its Gambling statement set out in the Gambling Policy before the end of December 2012.

In preparing a statement for revision the Council must consult:

- The Chief Officer of Police for the authority's area
- One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the authority's area
- One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the authority's functions under the Gambling Act

Issues

The consultation period ended on 8th November 2012 and the Council received a total of 7 responses all of which were positive and in favour of the existing policy, 4 of the responses contained comments, 3 of which related to issues that can only be considered by the Gambling Commission and therefore fell outside of the remit of the Council.

The remaining comment received from Staffordshire Trading Standards requested that the Policy support a Challenge 25 policy in place of the currently suggested Challenge 21 policy referred to on pages 14 and 17 of the Gambling Policy.

The Licensing Committee were in support of this alteration to the Policy and as such the change has been reflected in the revised Gambling Policy which will be in force for 3 years from the date of this meeting.

3. Legal and Statutory Implications

Under section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 the Council has a statutory duty to review its Gambling statement set out in the Gambling Policy before the end of December 2012.

5. Background Papers

A copy of the revised Gambling Policy is available upon request from Members Services.

A copy of the original draft was distributed to all Members at the start of the consultation process.

Revised Parliamentary Constituency Proposals October 2012

Submitted by: Democratic Services Manager

Portfolio: All

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose

To inform Members of the revised Parliamentary Constituency proposals for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent.

Recommendations

That the report be received and the views of the Council sought.

1. **Background**

The Boundary Commission are currently conducting a boundary review on the basis of the new rules laid down by Parliament. These rules involve a reduction in the number of constituencies in England from 533 to 502, resulting in the number of constituencies in the Westlands reducing by five, to 54. The rules also require that every constituency apart from 2 specified exception must have an electorate that is no smaller than 72,810 and no larger than 80,473.

The Boundary Commission published its initial proposals in September 2012 and carried out two consultation exercises, attached to this report are the revised proposals for Newcastle under Lyme and West Staffordshire.

2. **Proposal**

The views of Council are sought.

3. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

Not applicable.

4. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

Not applicable.

5. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

The Council is empowered to act as a consultee in this matter.

6. **Equality Impact Assessment**

Parliament carries out appropriate impact assessments on legislation. It is open to Members to raise any particular issues in the debate.

7. **Financial and Resource Implications**

All costs relating to this matter are met out of existing budgets.

8. **Major Risks**

Not applicable.

9. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

Full Council 16 October 2011

Full Council on 22 November 2011

10. **List of Appendices**

Appendix A: Map of proposed constituency for Newcastle under Lyme

Appendix B: Map of proposed constituency for West Staffordshire

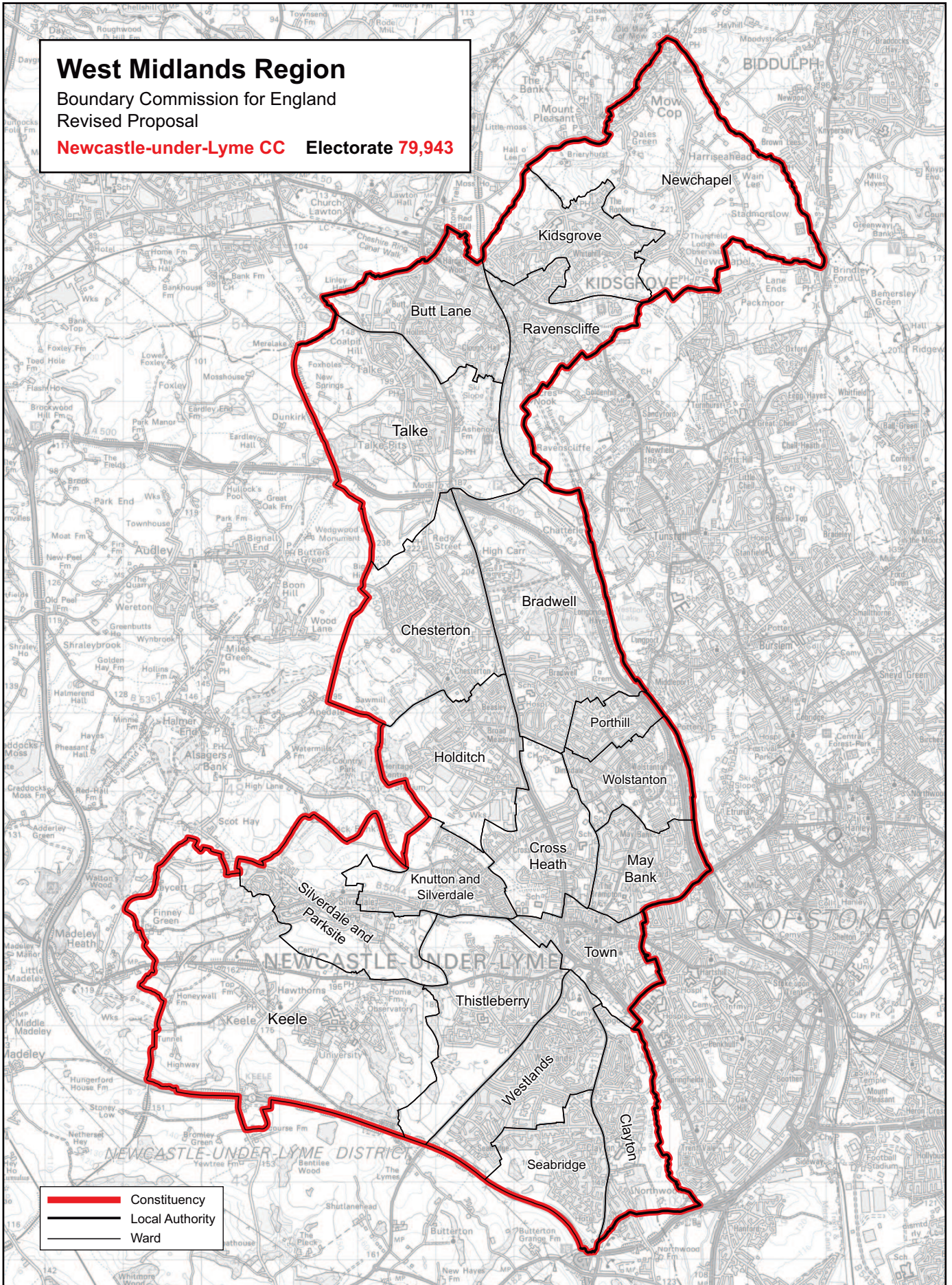
Appendix C: Extract of Boundary Commission Report relating to Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent

Appendix D: Revised proposals for constituencies, including wards and electorates.

West Midlands Region

Boundary Commission for England
Revised Proposal

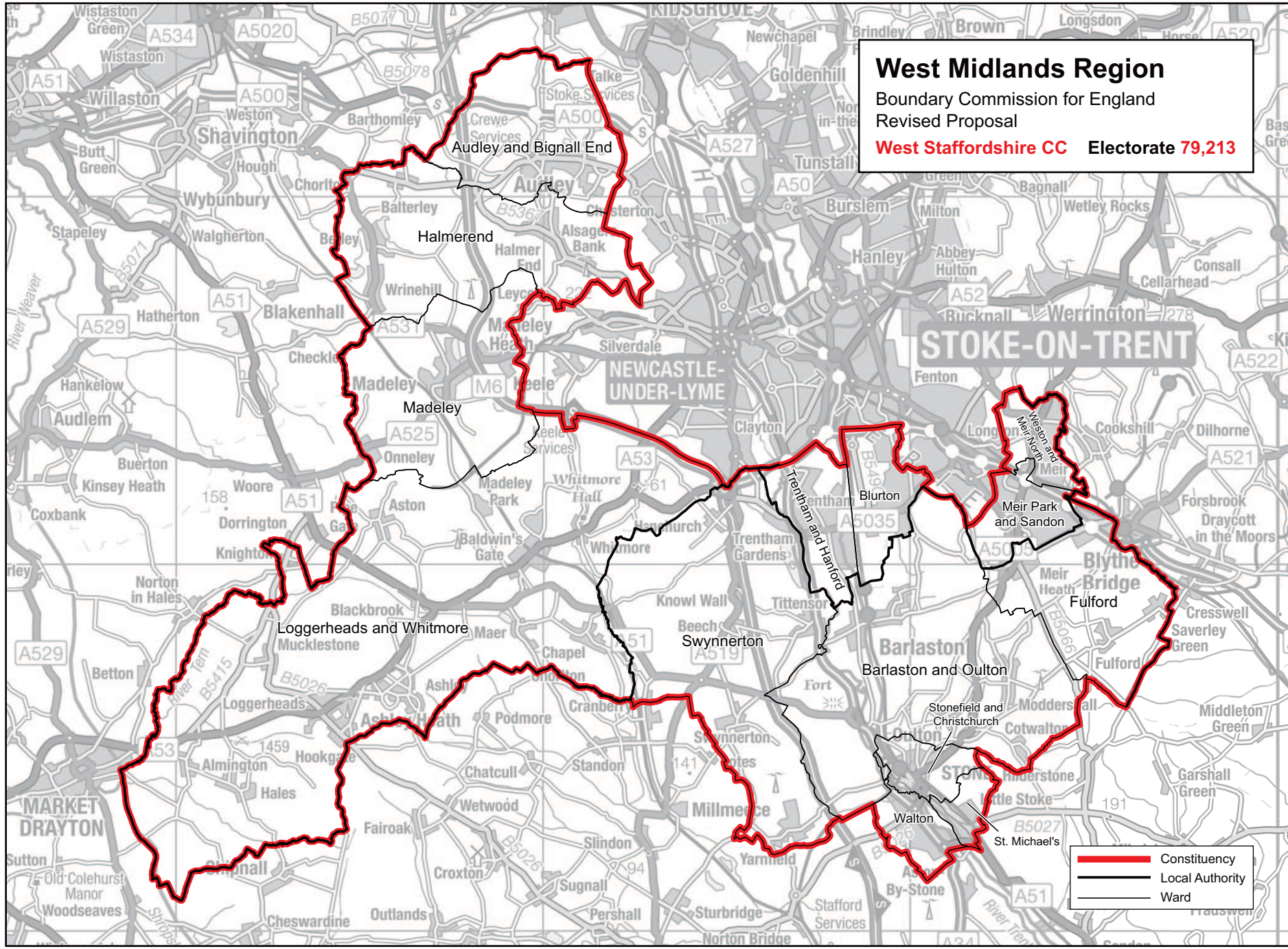
Newcastle-under-Lyme CC Electorate **79,943**



This mapping extract has been produced from Ordnance Survey's mapping data on behalf of the Boundary Commission for England © Crown copyright 2012.

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West Midlands Region
 Boundary Commission for England
 Revised Proposal
West Staffordshire CC Electorate **79,213**



— Constituency
 — Local Authority
 — Ward

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with other Wychavon District wards, again retaining ties that would be broken by the Commission's proposals.

AC102 Mr Bailey's counter-proposal produces an Evesham constituency which he describes as looking 'a bit odd because it sticks through the gap between Droitwich and Worcester, but that is all part of Wychavon Borough'. We do not see that this would cause any problems with regard to accessibility. His proposal avoids changing the existing Worcester and Wyre Forest constituencies and we consider that this would keep more of the existing Mid Worcestershire, West Worcestershire, and North Herefordshire constituencies together. We consider that overall this counter-proposal strikes the best balance between the statutory factors having regard to local ties and to existing constituency boundaries.

AC103 As a consequence of these changes it is necessary to make adjustments elsewhere in the sub-region to keep all of the proposed constituencies within the electoral quota. Mr Bailey includes the Sutton Walls and Hampton Court wards, which are close to Leominster, in the proposed Ludlow and Leominster constituency from the proposed Malvern and Ledbury constituency. The Backbury ward is included in the Malvern and Ledbury constituency from the proposed Hereford constituency. Having regard to the fact that the grouping of most of these wards in the existing constituencies matches similar groupings in his proposed constituencies, we consider that this is satisfactory.

AC104 Mr Whittaker's counter-proposals are similar to those of Mr Bailey, but he keeps fewer wards together in their existing constituencies. We therefore consider this less desirable.

AC105 Overall, we conclude that Mr Bailey's counter-proposals (with the exception of the inclusion of the Credenhill, and Burghill, Holmer and Lyde wards in his proposed Hereford constituency) strike the best balance in addressing the concerns raised in the representations and having regard to the statutory factors, in particular to avoid breaking local ties.

AC106 We therefore recommend that Mr Bailey's counter-proposals be adopted except for his proposal to place the Credenhill, and Burghill, Holmer and Lyde wards in the Commission's proposed Hereford constituency. For reasons already stated these should form part of the new Ludlow and Leominster constituency.

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent sub-region

Introduction

AC107 The sub-region of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent comprises the County of Staffordshire, within which there are a number of district councils, and the City of Stoke-on-Trent, which is a unitary authority.

AC108 The sub-region is made up of areas of differing character. The City of Stoke-on-Trent is the largest urban area, but there are also towns such as Stafford and Tamworth. These centres provide significant employment opportunities and offer substantial services, including shopping facilities. However, in large part the sub-region is rural in character, with smaller towns such as Cheadle and Uttoxeter serving more localised catchments. The settlements in the sub-region differ in terms of their role but their spheres of influence often overlap in one respect or another so that there are local ties in more than one direction. In this context we note that the existence of local ties does not depend on the relationship between a rural area and an urban area; they may - and

do – exist within urban areas, within rural areas and between and within wards. The picture in terms of local ties is therefore sometimes complex.

AC109 The M54 motorway cuts across part of the very southern part of the sub-region, and the M6 runs broadly north to south from Wolverhampton to the west of Stoke-on-Trent, both providing mainly for long-distance travel by motor vehicle but with some opportunities for shorter trips. There are several A roads that provide for more local trips and link many of the settlements. There are rail links too, again following broadly north to south routes, as well as bus services (although these are more limited in the rural areas).

AC110 In the remainder of this section of our report, we first refer briefly to the Commission's proposals for the sub-region and then summarise the representations received, including the counter-proposals. We then consider the representations and the counter-proposals and make our conclusions. We present our conclusions under two main headings: 'north Staffordshire' (referring collectively to the broad area covering the Commission's proposed constituencies of Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stone, Kidsgrove and Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent Central, Stoke-on-Trent South, and Staffordshire Moorlands); and 'south Staffordshire' (referring collectively to the broad area covered by the Commission's proposed constituencies of Stafford, Cannock Chase, Burton, Tamworth, Lichfield, and South Staffordshire). We divide the presentation of our conclusions in this way for practical reasons in reflection of the representations made.

The Commission's initial proposals for the sub-region

AC111 We do not summarise the Commission's proposals, which are set out in *West Midlands: Initial proposals*. However, in the light of the representations, we draw attention to the following particular aspects of the proposals.

AC112 First, the Commission proposed a Staffordshire Moorlands constituency that would have the same boundaries as the District of Staffordshire Moorlands.

AC113 Secondly, it proposed that there be two whole constituencies in the City of Stoke-on-Trent, as there are now but with different configurations of the wards, and one constituency that would cross the city boundary to the north.

AC114 Thirdly, it proposed that the existing constituencies of Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stone be significantly reconfigured and that there be two new constituencies: Kidsgrove and Tunstall to the north; and Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stone to the south.

AC115 These aspects of the Commission's proposals were very controversial. Other elements of the proposals (in what we call south Staffordshire) generated less, but still significant, dispute.

Representations on the sub-region

AC116 There is considerable support for the Commission's initial proposals. Some people wrote simply to endorse the initial proposals; others wrote with more detailed comments. A large number of people wrote to express either support in full or general support for the Commission's proposals. The authorities of Tamworth Borough Council (IP/019740), Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (CR/005072), South Staffordshire Council

(IP/008329), and Staffordshire County Council (IP/014420) support in full or in part the Commission's proposals, as do a number of MPs, local councillors, the Conservative Party (IP/025311 and CR/005049), and parish councils or other local organisations.

AC117 Many of these representations are generalised, although some are specific in what they support. The most significant feature of the representations received in support of the initial proposals is the large number of people who support a Staffordshire Moorlands constituency that follows the local authority boundaries of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. There are many letters supporting this element of the Commission's proposals, including several proforma letters with additional comments and three petitions in favour of Biddulph remaining within the Staffordshire Moorlands constituency.

AC118 Another notable feature of the representations in support of the initial proposals is that there are comparatively few objections to the Commission's proposals in relation to its proposed constituencies of Cannock Chase, Burton, Tamworth, Lichfield, and South Staffordshire.

AC119 There is also considerable objection to the Commission's initial proposals, and a large number of people wrote to express their opposition to them. The authorities of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council (IP/022528) and Stoke-on-Trent City Council (IP/022190) object to the Commission's proposals for north Staffordshire in particular; others including MPs, local councillors, the Labour Party (IP/025315 and CR/005106), the Liberal Democrats (IP/025336 and CR/005103) and parish councils or other local organisations object to some extent or another to the initial proposals.

AC120 Many of these representations are generalised, although some are specific in what they object to. We mention here two specific objections since they lie at the root of the issues that we have to address in making our recommendations in relation to north Staffordshire.

AC121 First, most of the objections express opposition to the Commission's proposals to reconfigure the constituency of Newcastle-under-Lyme and create two new constituencies. There are many representations to this effect. There is also a petition with a large number of signatures which states that those who signed object strongly to the Commission's proposal to abolish the constituency of Newcastle-under-Lyme and would prefer to see the constituency retained and enlarged to include the wards of Loggerheads and Whitmore, and Madeley.

AC122 The objection here, as articulated by some, is that the Commission's proposals to divide the existing Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency between two new constituencies are flawed because: they pay no regard to the history of the town and borough, which has played a part in forming local community ties; they break local ties in the core urban area of Newcastle-under-Lyme and beyond; and they merge the core urban area and rural hinterland of Newcastle-under-Lyme with other areas with which there is no affinity. Particular aspects of these objections deserve mention here.

AC123 There are representations which express a strong wish that Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency should not be merged at any point with the City of Stoke-on-Trent. This, it is said, reflects local history and the determination of both to remain as settlements with separate identities, as well as local geography (the A500 along the valley

separating the borough from the city). It is also argued that the wards of Bradwell, Porthill, Wolstanton, and May Bank have strong local ties that would be broken by the Commission's proposals, for example because they form part of the local ecclesiastical Parish of Wolstanton and share sports facilities (such as the Bradwell Community Centre). There are also representations that oppose the division of the wards of Chesterton and Holditch from the wards of Silverdale and Parkside, and Knutton and Silverdale on the basis that local ties would be broken, for example the brick and tile-making business carried out in the area. In relation to the rural Audley and Bignall End, and Halmerend wards, it is said that they look to and have ties with Newcastle-under-Lyme, to which there are good road links, rather than with wards to the north of the City of Stoke-on-Trent. Similarly, it is said that the wards of Madeley, and Loggerheads and Whitmore look to Newcastle-under-Lyme as their local town, to which there is good road access. It is also argued that the Commission's proposals should be rejected because they merge parts of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme with Stone and areas to the south of Stoke-on-Trent, with which they have no real affinity.

AC124 Secondly, there is significant opposition to the Commission's proposals relating to Stoke-on-Trent. In this respect it is said that the proposals pay no regard to the history of Stoke-on-Trent and would divide communities within the city, in particular the town of Burslem. Again, history appears to play a significant role in determining modern identities and the community links that currently exist. The objections here refer to the history of the six pottery towns (Tunstall, Burslem, Hanley, Stoke-upon-Trent, Fenton, and Longton) which it is said retain their identities to this day. The focus of concern relates to the Commission's separation of the

wards of Burslem North and Burslem South and the effect on local ties that exist in the 'mother town' of the Potteries. The representations also express fears about the efforts being made to protect heritage and promote economic growth in the area (e.g. through the Burslem Regeneration Company). It is also said that Tunstall and Burslem are linked, the former providing shopping facilities and the latter social facilities, and should be regarded as one entity.

AC125 We also mention two relatively minor objections. First, in relation to the area that we term 'north Staffordshire', there is a suggestion for a small amendment to the Commission's proposals put forward by Councillor Mark Holland, who appeared at the Stafford public hearing (Day 2, pp 4-7) and made a written representation (IP/023747). This is to 'swap' wards along the boundary of the proposed Newcastle-under-Lyme, and Kidsgrove and Tunstall constituencies so that the Bradwell and Porthill wards would fall in the former constituency and the Knutton and Silverdale, and Silverdale and Parkside wards would fall in the latter constituency. Councillor Holland said that this would better reflect local community identities. Secondly, in relation to the area that we term 'south Staffordshire' it is suggested that the Haywood and Hixon ward should remain within a Stafford constituency and that the ward of Hammerwich should remain within a Lichfield constituency. These minor changes are also put forward on the basis that local ties would be better respected.

AC126 We turn now to summarise those representations that are accompanied by counter-proposals.

AC127 As referred to earlier in our report, the Labour Party puts forward a region-wide set of counter-proposals. It supports the allocation of

11 constituencies to Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. However, while recognising the need for major change to the constituency boundaries in north Staffordshire, it objects to the Commission's proposals on the basis that they are 'highly disruptive to the town of Newcastle-under-Lyme which has always formed the basis of a single parliamentary seat, and which is divided into two constituencies, one also including the town of Stone and the other Kidsgrove and the north of Stoke-on-Trent', and that they divide the Stoke-on-Trent wards of Burslem North and Burslem South thereby 'breaking ties in one of the main towns of the Potteries'. It supports the Commission's proposal for Stoke-on-Trent South, but puts forward proposals for two new Stoke-on-Trent constituencies which would include wards currently in the constituency of Staffordshire Moorlands, and for a new Leek and Stone constituency which would include wards to the south of Stoke-on-Trent currently in the Stone constituency. It justifies this approach in part by arguing that 'the town of Newcastle-under-Lyme has a stronger representational identity than the Staffordshire Moorlands District which has not been contained in a single constituency since 1997'. In south Staffordshire it promotes less change. The Labour Party's counter-proposals are summarised below.

AC128 The Labour Party proposes:

- a. the existing constituency of Newcastle-under-Lyme plus the wards of Loggerheads and Whitmore, and Madeley (currently in the existing constituency of Stone);
- b. the existing Stoke-on-Trent North constituency less the wards of East Valley, and Norton and Bradeley, plus the wards of Newchapel, Brown Edge and Endon, Biddulph North, Biddulph South, Biddulph East, Biddulph West, and Biddulph Moor (currently in the existing constituency of Staffordshire Moorlands);
- c. the same constituency of Stoke-on-Trent Central as is being proposed by the Commission, but without the ward of Burslem South and with the wards of Bagnall and Stanley, Cellarhead, and Werrington (currently in the existing constituency of Staffordshire Moorlands);
- d. a new constituency named Leek and Stone, which would include the wards of the existing Stone constituency less the wards of Chartley, Church Eaton, Eccleshall, Gnosall and Woodseaves, Loggerheads and Whitmore, and Madeley, plus the wards that are currently in the existing constituency of Staffordshire Moorlands, excepting those wards to be ceded to Stoke-on-Trent North and Stoke-on-Trent Central;
- e. the same constituency of Stafford as being proposed by the Commission, but without the Chartley and Milwich wards (both currently in the existing constituency of Stone) and the ward of Wheaton Aston, Bishopswood and Lapley (currently in the existing constituency of Stafford);
- f. the same constituency of Lichfield as being proposed by the Commission but with the ward of Chartley;
- g. the existing constituencies of Burton, Cannock Chase (both unchanged), and Tamworth with the ward of Hammerwich (currently in the existing constituency of Lichfield); and
- h. the same constituency of South Staffordshire as being proposed by

the Commission, but with the ward of Wheaton Aston, Bishopwood and Lapley.

AC129 Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council objects to the Commission's proposals on the basis that they take no account of the identity of Newcastle as a cohesive community and would undermine existing local government boundaries and disrupt community ties. In particular, it deplores the proposal to put the wards of Holditch, Cross Heath, Porthill, and Wolstanton into separate constituencies and the proposals to include rural villages to the west of the borough in a new Kidsgrove and Tunstall constituency. The borough council asks the Commission to implement an alternative. Its counter-proposals are identical to the counter-proposals put forward by the Labour Party.

AC130 While Stoke-on-Trent City Council supports the Commission's proposal for Stoke-on-Trent South it objects to the Commission's proposals on the basis that they 'divide Burslem, the mother town of Stoke-on-Trent' and result in a constituency that has no cohesion and forces together a section of the north of the city with parts of the town of Newcastle-under-Lyme which ought to remain separate. It considers that the statutory rules can be addressed by including within Stoke-on-Trent 'areas that share strong economic and community ties with the city of Stoke-on-Trent which are found to the east and north of the city where there are shared community ties and identities through travel to work, shopping and leisure'. While this is not a defined counter-proposal it is generally consistent with the Labour Party's counter-proposal in so far as it relates to proposed constituencies for the north Staffordshire area.

AC131 Paul Farrelly, the MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, presented written representations

(IP/023830 and CR/005117) and appeared at the hearing in Stafford (Day 2, pp 41-46). While he supports the Labour Party's counter-proposals for the whole region he focuses his attention on north Staffordshire and in particular on the effects of the Commission's proposals on Newcastle-under-Lyme. He argues that the Commission's proposals fail to have proper regard to the statutory factors, in particular the breaking of local ties. He contends that they pay no regard to historic identity and that they would break close community ties within the urban core of Newcastle-under-Lyme and between the outlying villages and the urban area. His counter-proposal for Newcastle-under-Lyme and north Staffordshire is identical to that put forward by the Labour Party, although he suggests the name of 'Staffordshire Moorlands and Stone' in place of 'Leek and Stone' and the name of 'Stoke North and Biddulph' in place of 'Stoke-on-Trent North'.

AC132 Dr Tristram Hunt, the MP for Stoke-on-Trent Central, objects (IP/022467) to the Commission's proposals, stressing the separate communities of Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent; he too supports the Labour Party's proposals in relation to this area.

AC133 Many other representations opposing the Commission's proposals offer alternative proposals that are consistent with (including those that overtly support) the Labour Party's counter-proposals for the north Staffordshire area. These representations include councillors (e.g. Councillor David Becket (Stafford public hearing, Day 2, pp 13-15), Councillor Gilly Reynolds (IP/003398), Councillor Gareth Snell (Stafford public hearing, Day 2, pp 8-13; IP/023478)) and people speaking on behalf of residents' associations or other organisations (e.g. Westlands, Seabridge and Clayton Residents' Association (IP/022861) and

Ashfields Residents' Association (IP/013601)), and individual members of the public.

AC134 The Liberal Democrats also object to the Commission's proposals for this sub-region.

AC135 In relation to north Staffordshire, the Liberal Democrats refer to 'cross party support' for the idea of producing a single Staffordshire Moorlands constituency, but are concerned that in order to achieve this result 'Newcastle-under-Lyme would cease to remain an independent constituency' and that in Stoke-on-Trent the Commission's proposals would split the historic town of Burslem between two constituencies. They refer to a proposed solution to take wards from the west of Staffordshire Moorlands and put them into a renamed Stoke-on-Trent North constituency (as per the Labour Party's counter-proposal), but here they acknowledge that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and others 'argue very strongly for one constituency for their district'. In the light of this, the Liberal Democrats refer to what they call 'the impasse' of deciding whether or not the benefit of keeping the town of Newcastle-under-Lyme in one constituency is outweighed by 'the extensive disruptions to community affiliation' that this would cause elsewhere around the edge of Stoke-on-Trent and the prevention of the formation of a Staffordshire Moorlands constituency which is coterminous with the district. The Liberal Democrats finally decide to support counter-proposals put forward by Dr Nicky Davis (Stafford public hearing, Day 1, pp 85-92; IP/025156) but with two amendments (which we will describe when we refer to Dr Davis's counter-proposals below).

AC136 In relation to south Staffordshire, the Liberal Democrats support the Commission's proposals for Burton and Cannock Chase but object to the other

proposals, in particular the retention of the constituency of South Staffordshire. They consider that this constituency has 'no longitudinal road or rail links and combines many areas of dramatically different character and different historic, community and economic links which are either inward to communities next door in Stourbridge, Dudley or Wolverhampton or outward across the border into Shropshire or at the northern end, with Stafford or Cannock'. The Commission's proposals would, they argue, have an undesirable knock-on effect, particularly in Shropshire and the Borough of Sandwell. They therefore recommend as follows: that the ward of Huntington and Hatherton be added to their proposed Stafford constituency; that their proposed West Staffordshire and East Shropshire constituencies include the wards of Bilbrook; Brewood and Coven; Cheslyn Hay North and Saredon; Cheslyn Hay South; Codsall North; Codsall South; Essington; Featherstone and Shareshill; Great Wyrley Landywood; Great Wyrley Town; Wheaton Aston, Bishopswood and Lapley; and Gnosall and Woodseaves; that the Stourbridge constituency include the ward of Kinver; that the Wolverhampton West constituency include the wards of Perton Dippons, Perton East, and Perton Lakeside; that the Dudley North constituency include the wards of Wombourne North and Lower Penn, Wombourne South East and Wombourne South West; and that Dudley South include the ward of Himley and Swindon. Here the counter-proposals include constituencies that cross county boundaries (and the sub-regional boundaries adopted by the Commission) and the division of the District of South Staffordshire between seven constituencies (Bridgnorth and Wellington, Dudley North, Dudley South, Stafford, Stourbridge, West Staffordshire and East Shropshire, and Wolverhampton West), resulting in the significant reconfiguration of the South

Staffordshire constituency. Elsewhere in south Staffordshire the Liberal Democrats: agree with the Commission's proposals to retain Cannock Chase unchanged; propose a Lichfield constituency that is the same as that put forward by the Labour Party with the exception of the three wards of Hammerwich, Shenstone, and Stonnall, which the Labour Party includes in its proposed Tamworth constituency, and the Haywood and Hixon, and Chartley wards, which the Liberal Democrats include in their proposed Stafford constituency; propose a Tamworth constituency which includes four wards from the Borough of North Warwickshire (Newton Regis and Warton, Polesworth East, Polesworth West, and Dordon); and propose a Sutton Coldfield constituency which includes the existing Tamworth constituency ward of Little Aston. Here again, the Liberal Democrats' counter-proposals involve constituencies that cross county and the Commission's sub-regional boundaries.

AC137 Councillor David Murray (Stafford public hearing, Day 1, pp 17-21) submitted representations in support of the Liberal Democrats' counter-proposals in so far as they relate to south Staffordshire (IP/023710). His perspective is that there is strong support for the town of Telford in Shropshire to be a single constituency; that the constituency of South Staffordshire should be removed; and that the wards within the District of South Staffordshire should be used to make up deficiencies in numbers for his proposed constituencies to the west in Shropshire, to the east in the urban area of Wolverhampton and to the north in Staffordshire. In these respects his counter-proposals are the same as those put forward by the Liberal Democrats, in particular in respect of the proposals for the District of South Staffordshire.

AC138 Henry Parocki, a resident of Wolverhampton, also presented counter-proposals (IP/008834 and IP/019672) which include new constituencies that cross county boundaries (and the boundaries between the sub-regions adopted by the Commission). In north Staffordshire Mr Parocki's configuration is similar to, but not the same as, that of the Labour Party. He proposes that the existing Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency be enlarged, by including the wards of Talke and Madeley. He proposes the creation of a Stoke-on-Trent North constituency that also includes wards from the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme and the Biddulph area from the District of Staffordshire Moorlands. He also proposes a Stoke-on-Trent Central constituency that includes two wards, Werrington and Cellarhead, from the District of Staffordshire Moorlands. As a consequence, he proposes a Leek and Stone constituency (as the Labour Party does). To the south of the sub-region Mr Parocki transfers wards from the District of South Staffordshire to his cross-county boundary constituencies of Tettenhall and Brierley Hill.

AC139 Dr Davis, a resident of Trentham in Stoke-on-Trent, appeared at the Stafford hearing and also submitted representations in objection to the Commission's proposals for north Staffordshire (IP/025156). Her position can be summarised as follows:

- a. She is 'strongly in favour' of the Commission's proposals to make the Staffordshire Moorlands constituency coterminous with the district boundary by including the five wards currently within the constituency of Stone and by excluding the ward of Newchapel.

- b. In relation to Newcastle-under-Lyme, she objects to the Commission's proposals because they would split the town nearly equally in two and would combine the wards around the town centre with Stone and southern rural areas. In her original counter-proposal she proposed a revised Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency to include the town of Newcastle-under-Lyme and most of the existing wards in Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough in one constituency, but to exclude the westerly wards of Loggerheads and Whitmore, and Madeley, as well as the wards of Seabridge and Clayton to the south of the urban area (which would join her proposed, newly formed West Staffordshire constituency). Here we note the two amendments that the Liberal Democrats put forward in their support of Dr Davis's original counter-proposals. First, the Liberal Democrats suggest that the wards of Keele and Clayton be exchanged so that the former would fall within Dr Davis's West Staffordshire constituency and the latter in her revised Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency. Secondly, it is suggested that the name of Stone be retained rather than West Staffordshire. In Dr Davis's revised counter-proposals, which she submitted after the public hearing, she proposes that the wards of Audley and Bignall End, and Halmerend also join the newly formed West Staffordshire constituency and that the wards of Seabridge and Clayton remain in her (revised) Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency. This, she says, is better because 'it concentrates the more urban wards largely in Newcastle-under-Lyme and the more rural wards largely in West Staffordshire'.
- c. In relation to the City of Stoke-on-Trent, she objects to the Commission's proposals, in particular because they split Stoke and the town of Burslem, as well as exclude Burslem North and Tunstall from the proposed city constituencies. On the basis of the six historic towns that formed the City of Stoke-on-Trent and which she says continue to have strong identities, she proposes a Stoke-on-Trent North constituency (rather than Stoke-on-Trent Central) that includes the areas of Burslem and Tunstall, and a Stoke-on-Trent South constituency that includes the areas of Hanley, Stoke, Fenton, and Longton. Her proposal would leave the four wards of Trentham and Hanford, Blurton, Meir Park and Sandon, and Weston and Meir North to the south of the city area to be joined with the new West Staffordshire constituency to the south (which includes parts of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough, Stafford Borough, and Stoke-on-Trent City).
- d. Elsewhere in the sub-region Dr Davis agrees with the Commission's proposals to retain unchanged the existing constituencies of Cannock Chase and Burton. She puts forward what she calls minor amendments to the other proposed constituencies. She proposes that the ward of Hammerwich be within Lichfield rather than in Tamworth, because this would avoid splitting the town of Burntwood, and that Whittington should be within Tamworth rather than in Lichfield, placing it with other rural wards around Tamworth. Towards the south-west of the sub-region, Dr Davis's proposals are again similar to those of the Commission, but she would prefer to put the ward of Wheaton Aston, Bishopswood and Lapley

into the constituency of South Staffordshire because it is in South Staffordshire District.

- e. Dr Davis also recommends that if there are two Stoke-on-Trent constituencies they should be called Stoke-on-Trent North and Stoke-on-Trent South (rather than one called Stoke-on-Trent Central), that the Burton constituency be called East Staffordshire (to reflect the local authority area), and that her proposed constituency to the south of Newcastle-under-Lyme be called West Staffordshire (because it is opposite her proposed East Staffordshire constituency).

AC140 Mr Stephen Whittaker, a resident of Urmston in Manchester, submitted counter-proposals that include this sub-region (IP/025396 and CR/003585). He supports the allocation of 11 constituencies to the County of Staffordshire including Stoke-on-Trent. In relation to north Staffordshire he considers that '[t]here is a choice, unfortunately ... whether to make the Staffordshire Moorlands seat coterminous with the district, or to expand the current Newcastle-under-Lyme seat to include the Loggerheads and Whitmore, and Madeley wards of Newcastle-under-Lyme'. In this respect he supports the Commission's proposal to make the Staffordshire Moorlands constituency coterminous with the district's boundaries. However, like others, he does not support the Commission's proposal to divide the town of Newcastle-under-Lyme into two new constituencies and puts forward a counter-proposal that is very similar to the revised counter-proposal put forward by Dr Davis. His proposal differs in that he includes the ward of Audley and Bignall End in, and excludes the Newchapel ward from, his proposed Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency (putting the Newchapel ward into his proposed

Stoke-on-Trent Burslem); he also recommends the names of Stoke-on-Trent Burslem and Stoke-on-Trent Hanley (to reflect the two largest of the 'Six Towns' of Stoke-on-Trent). A further difference between the two counter-proposals is that Mr Whittaker proposes that the ward of Keele be included in his West Staffordshire constituency, whereas Dr Davis proposes that it be included in her proposed Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency.

AC141 In relation to south Staffordshire he supports the Commission's proposals to retain the constituencies of Cannock Chase, Burton, and South Staffordshire, as well as the Commission's proposed Stafford constituency. He supports the Commission's proposals for the Lichfield and Tamworth constituencies, but agrees with the idea of swapping the wards of Hammerwich and Whittington.

AC142 Mr Adrian Bailey (Birmingham public hearing, Day 1, pp 45-49 - at which he handed in a document describing his counter-proposals), who lives in Birmingham, said that the biggest question in the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent area is whether to split Newcastle-under-Lyme. His counter-proposals for the area comprise:

- a. a Staffordshire Moorlands constituency coterminous with the district boundary by including the five wards currently within the constituency of Stone and by excluding the Newchapel ward;
- b. the existing Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency with the addition of the wards of Madeley, and Loggerheads and Whitmore (as the Labour Party proposes);
- c. the existing constituency of Stoke-on-Trent North with the addition of the Newchapel ward;

- d. the existing constituency of Stoke-on-Trent Central minus the wards of Hartshill and Penkhull, and Stoke and Trent Vale, with the addition of the three wards of Fenton, Longton North, and Longton South;
- e. a new constituency of Stoke-on-Trent South and Stone to include the Stoke-on-Trent wards of Hartshill and Penkhull, and Stoke and Trent Vale, plus the District of Stafford wards of Barlaston and Oulton, Fulford, St Michael's, Stonefield and Christchurch, and Walton;
- f. a Stafford constituency as proposed by the Commission but including the ward of Swynnerton;
- g. a South Staffordshire constituency as proposed by the Commission but including the ward of Wheaton Aston, Bishopswood and Lapley; and
- h. the Commission's proposed constituencies for Cannock Chase, Burton, Lichfield, and Tamworth.

AC143 Finally, we note that other counter-proposals were put forward, but we considered that these were not well enough defined or too limited in scope to merit further reference here.

Conclusions for north Staffordshire

AC144 The Commission's proposals for the constituencies in north Staffordshire were the subject of considerable debate at the hearings and in the representations that we received. Indeed, the vast majority of the many hundreds of representations relating to this sub-region were to do with these proposed changes and the counter-proposals to them. It is clear that this is an area where community identities are strong and where feelings can run high, in

particular in the local authority areas of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent, and Staffordshire Moorlands.

AC145 Having regard to the Commission's proposals and the representations that we have received there are in our view three 'stand-out', inter-related issues, and these have influenced our assessment:

- a. Whether or not to create a Staffordshire Moorlands constituency that is coterminous with the District of Staffordshire Moorlands.
- b. How to configure the constituencies for Stoke-on-Trent.
- c. How to configure the Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency.

AC146 We can readily agree that, having regard to the statutory factors, there is advantage in creating a Staffordshire Moorlands constituency that contains the whole of the District of Staffordshire Moorlands and no wards from any other district. There is a consensus among those who promote counter-proposals that the wards around Cheadle (Forsbrook, Checkley, Cheadle West, Cheadle South East, and Cheadle North East) should be joined into the Staffordshire Moorlands constituency. The southern boundary of the constituency would then be coterminous with its district boundaries and there would be no crossing of district boundaries. To the north, the Newchapel ward would be excluded, making the boundary here also coterminous with the district boundary. We consider that it is also a positive feature of the Commission's proposals that elsewhere it retains the existing boundaries between the Staffordshire Moorlands constituency and the Stoke-on-Trent constituencies, and in so doing follows the established local government boundary

that separates the city from the district (which for some of its length runs broadly north to south in a valley). In our view, this element of the Commission's proposals (i.e. when considered alone) scores highly when account is taken of the statutory factors. We are not surprised that there is significant support for this element from residents in the District of Staffordshire Moorlands and others.

AC147 The City of Stoke-on-Trent is too small to include three whole constituencies and it is clear that the boundaries here will have to undergo significant change. However, that is not to say that we agree with the initial proposals to include the Burslem North and Burslem South wards in different constituencies, or that the Commission's proposed configuration of the Stoke-on-Trent constituencies is the most favourable in terms of the statutory factors. Moreover, whether or not it is necessary or desirable to reform the Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency and create a new Kidsgrove and Tunstall constituency as proposed by the Commission is also a matter for debate. Indeed, the Commission's proposals for Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent are highly contentious, as we have already noted. In particular, many objectors drew attention to what they see as two serious flaws in relation to these elements of the initial proposals: the splitting of the town of Newcastle-under-Lyme between two constituencies; and the inclusion of the Stoke-on-Trent wards of Burslem North and Burslem South in different constituencies. These two objections are the most consistently held and we now consider them in turn.

AC148 Under the Commission's proposals, partly because the electorate of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme is too large to allow for one constituency only and partly as result of its proposal for a Staffordshire Moorlands

constituency that contains the whole of the district, the existing constituency of Newcastle-under-Lyme would be significantly reconfigured, with various wards being divided from each other by the proposed new boundary. We are concerned about this element of the initial proposals for the following reasons, all of which are reflected in the many representations that we received.

AC149 The town of Newcastle-under-Lyme has a long history, having been given its Royal Charter as long ago as 1173. We accept that this long history has helped forge a close relationship between wards in the core urban area around the historic town. Despite its proximity to Stoke-on-Trent its industrial past has been dominated by coal mining rather than pottery production and, we are told, Newcastle-under-Lyme has fought hard, and successfully, to maintain its own identity separate from the City of Stoke-on-Trent.

AC150 Bearing in mind the above and taking into account the representations that we received, we consider that the Commission's proposed changes in constituencies would break local ties. In particular, the proposed new boundary would divide between constituencies the wards of Bradwell and Porthill, and Wolstanton and May Bank. We accept the arguments that these wards are linked in many respects, by history as well as in topographical terms, the residents sharing common facilities such as religious groups, sports clubs, and schools. We also accept that there are ties, which as a result of the Commission's proposals would be broken, between the wards of Chesterton and Holditch and the wards of Silverdale and Parkside, Knutton and Silverdale, and Cross Heath. We consider that the breaking of community ties in the urban area of Newcastle-under-Lyme is a clear disadvantage of the Commission's initial proposals. We also

accept that many residents in the wards of Audley and Bignall End, and Halmerend look to Newcastle-under-Lyme as their local town, as do residents in the wards of Madeley, and Loggerheads and Whitmore, although beyond the M6 and further afield in the rural area the question of local ties is likely to be more complex.

AC151 We are also concerned about the breaking of local ties in Stoke-on-Trent. Here too we have had regard to local history in considering the question of whether or not the Commission's proposals would break community ties. Stoke-on-Trent is known as the home of the pottery industry and, although the economy has diversified in recent years, its proud history derives in large part from this. The original town of Stoke became amalgamated early in the 20th century with the five towns of Burslem, Tunstall, Hanley, Longton, and Fenton to become a county borough, and shortly thereafter it was given city status. The 'Six Towns' of the City of Stoke-on-Trent value their historic identities, none more so it seems than Burslem - the 'mother town' of the Potteries. We accept that the Commission's proposals would break community ties that evidently exist between the two Burslem wards. We consider that the inclusion of the two wards in different constituencies would be undesirable.

AC152 Having considered these two important objections to the Commission's proposals we mention two other arguments that were made. First, it was argued that areas in the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme have nothing in common with the area around Stone and to the south of Stoke-on-Trent. Secondly, it was argued that there is no real physical connectivity between Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stone and Blythe Bridge. There are main roads running broadly north to south and to

the west of Stoke-on-Trent, but it is pointed out that the A34 passes through the urban area of Stoke-on-Trent. Having regard to the statutory factors and the *Guide*, these arguments do not persuade us to reject a Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency that contains wards to the south of the city, nor do we consider that such a constituency would be too large or that the road connections are inadequate.

AC153 We now review the counter-proposals in turn, considering their merits in the context of the three issues that we have identified and having regard to the statutory factors. We then make our conclusions as to whether and to what extent any revisions should be made to the Commission's proposals.

AC154 The Labour Party's counter-proposals avoid the breaking of local ties in Newcastle-under-Lyme; in particular they avoid the breaking of ties in the core urban area. This is a positive feature of these counter-proposals.

AC155 They also avoid the division of the Burslem wards between constituencies in Stoke-on-Trent and this too, we consider, is a positive feature of these proposals.

AC156 However, the Labour Party's counter-proposals have negative features too. They involve changes to existing constituency boundaries and involve constituencies that cross the city boundary to the north/north-east and the east. The counter-proposals would also prevent the creation of a Staffordshire Moorlands constituency that contains the whole of the district (an objective which was strongly supported by many). There was significant opposition to the counter-proposals in these respects, in particular from the residents in the Staffordshire Moorlands wards in the Biddulph area and in the Brown Edge and Endon, Bagnall and Stanley, Werrington, and Cellarhead wards.

AC157 Many people in the Biddulph area carry out shopping and work-related trips to Stoke-on-Trent (using the A527). However, we understand that Biddulph, which is a sizeable town, has its own valued identity, as reflected in the main settlement's modern renown as the Garden Town of Staffordshire. Moreover, it appears that the Biddulph area looks in more than one direction, including to Congleton as well as Leek, which are both close by. Shopping and employment links with other parts of Staffordshire Moorlands do exist and we are told that there are others in terms of leisure trips, education, health, and essential services.

AC158 Residents in the wards of Brown Edge and Endon, Bagnall and Stanley, Werrington, and Cellarhead have good access to Stoke-on-Trent and no doubt many visit the city for a variety of reasons. However, we are satisfied that there are links with other parts of Staffordshire Moorlands, though they were not well defined in the representations. There are shopping and other facilities in Leek and Cheadle, towns which are not far away. We are also told, and having regard to the nature of the area and its rural character we accept, that there are community and business links across the towns and villages within the Staffordshire Moorlands area.

AC159 The links between these wards and the city are a natural consequence of the relationship between a rural area and a nearby large town or city. It does not follow from this, however, that there are no local ties with other parts of Staffordshire Moorlands (and we do not understand this to be suggested by those supporting the Labour Party's counter-proposals). The representations made in response to the counter-proposals, including petitions and proforma letters, express a strong determination that these wards should remain part of the Staffordshire Moorlands

constituency. This evidence reflects not only the pride of those living in the area and the shared common values of living in a predominantly rural area but also a determination to remain part of what is felt to be a very strong community in Staffordshire Moorlands. We conclude, having regard to the representations, that the Labour Party's counter-proposals would have the negative effect of disrupting local ties in this area.

AC160 Finally, we note that the Labour Party's counter-proposals accord with the Commission's initial proposals in so far as they include the wards around Cheadle in the same constituency with Staffordshire Moorlands. However, the Labour Party's proposed constituency of Leek and Stone would extend further to the west and cross the local government boundary with Stafford Borough Council. It was said by Paul Farrelly MP that the Commission's proposed Staffordshire Moorlands western boundary would 'split' Blythe Bridge between constituencies, 'increasing the confusion among the electorate'. However, it seems to us that fixing the constituency boundary so that it is consistent with the local government boundary would not increase any confusion for residents of Blythe Bridge, and might even reduce it.

AC161 Mr Parocki's counter-proposals for north Staffordshire are similar to those of the Labour Party and are positive in so far as they also avoid the splitting of Newcastle-under-Lyme. However, they rearrange the boundaries in the City of Stoke-on-Trent so that the town of Burslem is divided between a proposed Stoke-on-Trent North constituency and a proposed Stoke-on-Trent South constituency. His counter-proposals also cross the city's boundaries with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and involve the transfer of wards from Staffordshire Moorlands into

wards in Stoke-on-Trent (albeit one fewer ward is moved).

AC162 The counter-proposals for north Staffordshire put forward by Dr Davis, and adopted in part by the Liberal Democrats, avoid splitting the urban area of Newcastle-under-Lyme, where there are local ties. She excludes the wards of Audley and Bignall End, and Halmerend, and would break some local ties here with the urban wards of Seabridge and Clayton being included in her Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency. In this respect we prefer this revised proposal to both her original proposal and the amendments suggested by the Liberal Democrats. On the other hand, the addition of the Stoke-on-Trent wards of Talke, Butt Lane, Ravenscliffe, and Kidsgrove in her counter-proposals means that the borough boundaries are followed to the north of Stoke-on-Trent. Her arrangement of constituencies in Stoke-on-Trent protects the famous 'Six Towns of Stoke' and in particular avoids the separation of the Burslem wards (North and South) between constituencies. Another positive feature of her counter-proposals is that they avoid crossing boundaries and breaking ties to the east of the city and are able to ensure that a Staffordshire Moorlands constituency becomes coterminous with local government boundaries. She proposes a new boundary to the south of Stoke-on-Trent within which a number of wards would join her proposed constituency of West Staffordshire to the south. Dr Davis's evidence, based on her local knowledge, was that her configuration would be the best available for the city and that her new boundary to the south would exclude what she called peripheral areas such as Trentham, which she considered should join with villages to the south (such as Barlaston) as part of her new West Staffordshire constituency. This would result in a new constituency that runs from Fulford in the east

to Audley in the north-east (which, in line with what we have said before, we consider would not give rise to significant difficulties in terms of connectivity or accessibility).

AC163 Mr Whittaker's counter-proposals are similar to those of Dr Davis. They do not include the Staffordshire Moorlands wards in new Stoke-on-Trent constituencies and allow for a Staffordshire Moorlands constituency that contains the whole district. They also avoid splitting the urban area of Newcastle-under-Lyme, although we consider not as well as Dr Davis's counter-proposals because the Keele ward is excluded. They also differ in relation to Stoke-on-Trent because Mr Whittaker's proposed constituency of Stoke-on-Trent Burslem includes the ward of Newchapel, thereby crossing the city boundary and imposing a new boundary between Newchapel and the ward of Kidsgrove.

AC164 Mr Bailey's counter-proposals also include a Staffordshire Moorlands constituency that includes the whole district. They also avoid splitting the town of Newcastle-under-Lyme and add in the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough wards of Madeley, and Loggerheads and Whitmore. His counter-proposals for the City of Stoke-on-Trent also avoid dividing the Burslem wards between constituencies and do not involve the crossing of the boundaries between the city and Staffordshire Moorlands District. However, they do include constituencies that cross the city boundaries in both the north and the south (with only one whole constituency in the city). Moreover, while he retains the existing boundary between Stoke-on-Trent North and Stoke-on-Trent Central, he proposes a new boundary between his Stoke East constituency and his Stoke South and Stone constituency. This proposed arrangement to the south of the city is different from that promoted by Dr Davis in that the wards excluded to join a

constituency to the south of the city include the wards of Hartshill and Penkhull, and Stoke and Trent Vale.

AC165 It can readily be appreciated from what we have said above that the task before us is a difficult one. What must be abundantly clear is that there is no easy or perfect solution to the problems that were presented to us. We did not expect to find an ideal solution and, in the light of the many conflicting factors, became reconciled to finding the least bad option. However, notwithstanding this, we are satisfied that the recommendation that we make is the best in the circumstances.

AC166 We were most attracted to the counter-proposals presented by Dr Davis and Mr Bailey. Both sets of counter-proposals impressed us in relation to the three issues which we identified, because they included a Staffordshire Moorlands constituency that contains the whole of the district with no other wards from other constituencies, but not at the expense of splitting the town or urban area of Newcastle-under-Lyme or dividing the town of Burslem between constituencies. Mr Bailey's counter-proposals have much to recommend them having regard to the statutory factors, but they involve two cross-local authority boundary constituencies in Stoke-on-Trent. We are also concerned about the effect of his proposed arrangement within the city in relation to the breaking of local ties within Stoke-on-Trent, in particular around the town of Stoke, one of the Six Towns of Stoke-on-Trent, on which matter we received insufficient evidence. Dr Davis's counter-proposals also have considerable merit in terms of the statutory factors and they involve only one constituency that crosses the city boundary and include two whole constituencies within the city boundary. We are also satisfied that they provide a

suitable configuration in relation to wards within the city.

AC167 Our conclusion is that the Commission's proposals should be rejected in favour of Dr Davis's counter-proposals, which in overall terms strike the best balance between the statutory factors.

AC168 We also accept Dr Davis's recommendation that if there are two Stoke-on-Trent constituencies they should be called Stoke-on-Trent North and Stoke-on-Trent South (rather than one called Stoke-on-Trent Central). This is logical. We also accept that her proposed constituency to the west and south of Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent should be called West Staffordshire. While we do not accept Dr Davis's recommendation that the proposed Burton constituency should be called East Staffordshire (as we indicate below), this new name has some logic for this newly formed constituency and would not conflict with names used for other constituencies.

Conclusions for south Staffordshire

AC169 As we have noted, there were relatively few objections made to the Commission's proposals for the area that we have termed south Staffordshire and we can deal with the objections and counter-proposals more briefly.

The Stafford constituency

AC170 Our conclusion here is that the Commission's proposal for a Stafford constituency should in large part be commended. However, in the light of the representations and counter-proposals relating to specific wards we make the following points.

AC171 First, the existing Stone constituency ward of Milwich should be included within the Stafford constituency. The Labour Party's

counter-proposal differs from the Commission's proposal by excluding from its proposed Stafford constituency the ward of Milwich, which would be included in its proposed constituency of Leek and Stone. We have already rejected the Labour Party's counter-proposal for Leek and Stone and we note that all other counter-proposals, including that of Mr Bailey, include the Milwich ward in a new Stafford constituency. Having regard to our conclusions for north Staffordshire, and taking into account all the representations, we consider that this ward should be included within the Stafford constituency. In so doing the Stafford constituency would extend to become coterminous with the boundary between Stafford Borough Council and East Staffordshire Borough Council.

AC172 Secondly, the existing Stone constituency ward of Chartley should also be included in the Stafford constituency. The Labour Party's counter-proposals differ from the Commission's proposals by excluding from the Stafford constituency the ward of Chartley, which would be included in its proposed Lichfield constituency. All the other counter-proposals that we have considered include the Chartley ward in a Stafford constituency. Taking into account the representations, we consider that the Chartley ward should remain in a Stafford constituency, and in so doing so its boundary would extend to become coterminous with the local authority boundary.

AC173 Thirdly, the existing Stafford constituency ward of Haywood and Hixon should be included in the Lichfield constituency, as proposed by the Commission. While there is some objection to the proposal to move Haywood and Hixon from a Stafford constituency to a Lichfield constituency, there are no counter-proposals that demonstrated to us an acceptable configuration that allows the

ward to remain within a Stafford constituency. We accept that some local ties with Stafford would be broken but conclude nonetheless that this change is necessary in order to reach an acceptable configuration of constituencies. The Liberal Democrats' counter-proposals include this ward in a Stafford constituency, but we were not persuaded that this change should be made. We note that retaining the ward would mean that the Stafford constituency to the east would become coterminous with the local authority boundary, but are concerned that this proposal was driven more by the knock-on effect from other elements of their counter-proposals than by any local factor. This is but one element of a complex set of changes that the Liberal Democrats put forward. We consider that these changes would give rise to too much disruption overall.

AC174 Fourthly, the existing Stafford constituency ward of Wheaton Aston, Bishopswood and Lapley should be included in the South Staffordshire constituency. All the counter-proposals include this ward in the South Staffordshire constituency, and we agree that this change to existing boundaries is justified, noting that the transfer would extend the South Staffordshire constituency so that it would then be coterminous for a length at least with the district's boundary.

The Lichfield and Tamworth constituencies

AC175 The Commission proposed minor amendments to the existing constituencies.

AC176 As we have already indicated, we consider that the ward of Haywood and Hixon should be included in the Lichfield constituency.

AC177 There were a number of representations made in relation to the Commission's proposal

to include the ward of Hammerwich in the Tamworth constituency from the existing Lichfield constituency. While some suggest that the inclusion is a logical one, others suggest that the Hammerwich ward should remain in the Lichfield constituency and that the Whittington ward should be included in the Tamworth constituency from the existing Lichfield constituency. On the basis of the material we received we were not persuaded that this alternative was better in terms of the statutory factors.

AC178 The Conservative Party suggests that the Tamworth constituency be renamed Tamworth and South East Staffordshire, but we were not persuaded to recommend this (having regard to the guidance on naming constituencies in the *Guide*).

The constituencies of Burton and Cannock Chase

AC179 There was widespread support for the Commission's proposals to retain the constituencies of Burton and Cannock Chase, and none of the counter-proposals put forward alternatives to them. Our recommendation is that these constituencies should remain unchanged. We do not accept Dr Davis's recommendation that the Burton constituency be renamed East Staffordshire. We take into account the guidance on naming constituencies in the *Guide*, and prefer that it retain its name.

The South Staffordshire constituency

AC180 The Commission proposed that the constituency remain unchanged and there was considerable support for this too. That having been said, and as we have already stated, we recommend that the ward of Wheaton Aston, Bishopswood and Lapley be included in the South Staffordshire constituency.

AC181 The Liberal Democrats' counter-proposals (which in this respect Mr Murray adopted) include the significant reconfiguration of the South Staffordshire constituency. The complaint here is that the retention of the South Staffordshire constituency creates problems in Shropshire and the Black Country (in particular the Borough of Sandwell). As is clear from the conclusions reached in our report, we do not accept that there are problems that cannot be resolved without crossing the county boundaries here. We do not consider there to be any justification for such significant alteration to existing constituencies and their relationship with local government boundaries. In reaching our conclusions we have had regard to the support for the retention of existing boundaries in this area.

AC182 For similar reasons we reject the counter-proposals for this constituency put forward by Mr Parocki.

Warwickshire and the West Midlands sub-region

Introduction

AC183 This area contains:

- the area of the former West Midlands Metropolitan County Council, which covers the cities of Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton and the metropolitan boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, and Walsall; plus
- the County of Warwickshire.

AC184 The West Midlands metropolitan county area can be described as a number of interwoven and overlapping communities. Given the dense population and the spread of urban areas, the boundaries which individual residents or groups of residents may recognise

Annex: Revised proposals for constituencies, including wards and electorates

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
1. Aldridge, Brownhills and Bloxwich BC	Aldridge Central and South	Walsall	10,907
	Aldridge North and Walsall Wood	Walsall	10,134
	Blakenall	Walsall	8,402
	Bloxwich East	Walsall	8,563
	Bloxwich West	Walsall	9,709
	Brownhills	Walsall	9,537
	Pelsall	Walsall	9,061
	Rushall-Shelfield	Walsall	8,966
2. Birmingham Edgbaston BC	Edgbaston	Birmingham	17,490
	Moseley and Kings Heath	Birmingham	18,617
	Selly Oak	Birmingham	18,605
	Sparkbrook	Birmingham	19,407
3. Birmingham Erdington and Castle Bromwich BC	Erdington	Birmingham	16,461
	Kingstanding	Birmingham	17,227
	Stockland Green	Birmingham	16,670
	Tyburn	Birmingham	17,240
	Castle Bromwich	Solihull	9,271
4. Birmingham Hall Green BC	Billesley	Birmingham	19,198
	Brandwood	Birmingham	18,567
	Hall Green	Birmingham	19,122
	Springfield	Birmingham	20,011
5. Birmingham Harborne BC	Bartley Green	Birmingham	17,691
	Harborne	Birmingham	16,473
	Quinton	Birmingham	17,385
	Weoley	Birmingham	17,664
	Old Warley	Sandwell	9,141
6. Birmingham Ladywood BC	Hodge Hill	Birmingham	17,778
	Ladywood	Birmingham	18,021
	Nechells	Birmingham	19,716
	Washwood Heath	Birmingham	19,767
7. Birmingham Northfield BC	Bournville	Birmingham	19,298
	Kings Norton	Birmingham	16,935
	Longbridge	Birmingham	18,397
	Northfield	Birmingham	19,194
8. Birmingham Perry Barr BC	Aston	Birmingham	19,353
	Handsworth Wood	Birmingham	18,448
	Lozells and East Handsworth	Birmingham	18,493
	Perry Barr	Birmingham	16,746
9. Birmingham Yardley BC	Acocks Green	Birmingham	19,365
	Bordesley Green	Birmingham	19,861
	South Yardley	Birmingham	19,784
	Stechford and Yardley North	Birmingham	18,037

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
10. Bridgnorth, Wellington and The Wrekin CC			77,849
	Albrighton	Shropshire	3,616
	Alveley and Claverley	Shropshire	3,299
	Bridgnorth East and Astley Abbotts	Shropshire	5,253
	Bridgnorth West and Tasley	Shropshire	5,292
	Broseley	Shropshire	3,634
	Much Wenlock	Shropshire	3,457
	Shifnal North	Shropshire	3,657
	Shifnal South and Cosford	Shropshire	3,484
	Worfield	Shropshire	3,007
	Apley Castle	Telford and Wrekin	2,328
	Arleston	Telford and Wrekin	2,450
	Church Aston and Lilleshall	Telford and Wrekin	2,563
	College	Telford and Wrekin	2,211
	Dothill	Telford and Wrekin	1,961
	Edgmond	Telford and Wrekin	2,115
	Ercall	Telford and Wrekin	2,516
	Ercall Magna	Telford and Wrekin	2,400
	Haygate	Telford and Wrekin	2,456
	Muxton	Telford and Wrekin	4,738
	Newport East	Telford and Wrekin	1,999
	Newport North	Telford and Wrekin	2,359
	Newport South	Telford and Wrekin	2,030
	Newport West	Telford and Wrekin	2,093
	Park	Telford and Wrekin	2,029
	Shawbirch	Telford and Wrekin	2,443
	Wrockwardine	Telford and Wrekin	4,459
11. Bromsgrove and Droitwich CC			78,487
	Beacon	Bromsgrove	1,741
	Catshill	Bromsgrove	3,469
	Charford	Bromsgrove	4,716
	Furlongs	Bromsgrove	3,355
	Hagley	Bromsgrove	3,772
	Hillside	Bromsgrove	3,906
	Linthurst	Bromsgrove	1,924
	Marlbrook	Bromsgrove	3,397
	Norton	Bromsgrove	3,854
	St Johns	Bromsgrove	3,751
	Sidemoor	Bromsgrove	3,843
	Slideslow	Bromsgrove	3,965
	Stoke Heath	Bromsgrove	1,943
	Stoke Prior	Bromsgrove	1,806
	Tardebigge	Bromsgrove	1,879
	Uffdown	Bromsgrove	1,874
	Waseley	Bromsgrove	3,576
	Whitford	Bromsgrove	3,890
	Woodvale	Bromsgrove	1,817
	Dodderhill	Wychavon	1,957
	Droitwich Central	Wychavon	2,001
	Droitwich East	Wychavon	4,264
	Droitwich South East	Wychavon	4,050
	Droitwich South West	Wychavon	3,957
	Droitwich West	Wychavon	3,780
12. Burton CC			75,302
	Abbey	East Staffordshire	2,334
	Anglesey	East Staffordshire	4,005
	Branston	East Staffordshire	5,526
	Brizlincote	East Staffordshire	4,317
	Burton	East Staffordshire	2,189
	Churnet	East Staffordshire	2,207
	Crown	East Staffordshire	2,136
	Eton Park	East Staffordshire	4,063
	Heath	East Staffordshire	4,779
	Horninglow	East Staffordshire	6,216
	Rolleston on Dove	East Staffordshire	2,722
	Shobnall	East Staffordshire	4,753
	Stapenhill	East Staffordshire	5,817
	Stretton	East Staffordshire	6,363
	Town	East Staffordshire	5,304

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
	Tutbury and Outwoods	East Staffordshire	4,672
	Weaver	East Staffordshire	1,705
	Winhill	East Staffordshire	6,194
13. Cannock Chase CC			75,680
	Brereton and Ravenhill	Cannock Chase	5,095
	Cannock East	Cannock Chase	5,581
	Cannock North	Cannock Chase	5,447
	Cannock South	Cannock Chase	5,735
	Cannock West	Cannock Chase	5,727
	Etching Hill and The Heath	Cannock Chase	5,382
	Hagley	Cannock Chase	3,434
	Hawks Green	Cannock Chase	5,699
	Heath Hayes East and Wimblebury	Cannock Chase	5,010
	Hednesford Green Heath	Cannock Chase	3,976
	Hednesford North	Cannock Chase	5,548
	Hednesford South	Cannock Chase	4,254
	Norton Canes	Cannock Chase	5,818
	Rawnsley	Cannock Chase	3,837
	Western Springs	Cannock Chase	5,137
14. Coventry North East BC			74,870
	Foleshill	Coventry	11,449
	Henley	Coventry	12,992
	Longford	Coventry	13,013
	Lower Stoke	Coventry	12,442
	Upper Stoke	Coventry	12,429
	Wyken	Coventry	12,545
15. Coventry North West BC			74,180
	Bablake	Coventry	12,348
	Holbrook	Coventry	11,998
	Radford	Coventry	12,612
	Sherbourne	Coventry	12,172
	Whoberley	Coventry	11,984
	Woodlands	Coventry	13,066
16. Coventry South BC			75,705
	Binley and Willenhall	Coventry	12,297
	Cheylesmore	Coventry	12,085
	Earlsdon	Coventry	12,279
	St Michael's	Coventry	14,050
	Wainbody	Coventry	12,245
	Westwood	Coventry	12,749
17. Dudley East and Oldbury BC			77,394
	Castle and Priory	Dudley	10,692
	Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews	Dudley	10,636
	St James's	Dudley	10,019
	St Thomas's	Dudley	10,163
	Greets Green and Lyng	Sandwell	7,702
	Oldbury	Sandwell	9,218
	Tipton Green	Sandwell	9,738
	Tivdale	Sandwell	9,226
18. Dudley West BC			79,685
	Brockmoor and Pensnett	Dudley	9,771
	Coseley East	Dudley	9,657
	Gornal	Dudley	10,580
	Kingswinford North and Wall Heath	Dudley	10,259
	Kingswinford South	Dudley	10,423
	Sedgley	Dudley	9,850
	Upper Gornal and Woodsetton	Dudley	10,410
	Spring Vale	Wolverhampton	8,735
19. Evesham CC			78,154
	Kempsey	Malvern Hills	3,245
	Ripple	Malvern Hills	1,500
	Upton and Hanley	Malvern Hills	3,422
	Badsey	Wychavon	2,142
	Bengeworth	Wychavon	3,516

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
	Bowbrook	Wychavon	2,163
	Bredon	Wychavon	2,028
	Bretforton and Offenham	Wychavon	2,017
	Broadway and Wickhamford	Wychavon	3,762
	Drakes Broughton	Wychavon	1,884
	Eckington	Wychavon	2,234
	Elmley Castle and Somerville	Wychavon	1,955
	Evesham North	Wychavon	3,483
	Evesham South	Wychavon	4,033
	Fladbury	Wychavon	2,181
	Great Hampton	Wychavon	1,992
	Hartlebury	Wychavon	2,139
	Harvington and Norton	Wychavon	1,963
	Honeybourne and Pebworth	Wychavon	1,913
	Inkberrow	Wychavon	4,555
	Little Hampton	Wychavon	3,543
	Lovett and North Claines	Wychavon	4,287
	Norton and Whittington	Wychavon	2,183
	Ombersley	Wychavon	1,860
	Pershore	Wychavon	5,667
	Pinvin	Wychavon	2,259
	South Bredon Hill	Wychavon	1,897
	The Littletons	Wychavon	2,150
	Upton Snodsbury	Wychavon	2,181
20. Halesowen and Rowley Regis BC			77,967
	Belle Vale	Dudley	10,227
	Halesowen North	Dudley	9,573
	Halesowen South	Dudley	10,008
	Hayley Green and Cradley South	Dudley	9,419
	Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood	Dudley	10,311
	Blackheath	Sandwell	9,276
	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	Sandwell	9,989
	Rowley	Sandwell	9,164
21. Hereford and South Herefordshire CC			73,870
	Aylestone	Herefordshire	4,987
	Belmont	Herefordshire	6,364
	Central	Herefordshire	2,001
	Golden Valley North	Herefordshire	2,379
	Golden Valley South	Herefordshire	2,384
	Hollington	Herefordshire	1,566
	Kerne Bridge	Herefordshire	2,548
	Llangarron	Herefordshire	2,619
	Old Gore	Herefordshire	2,518
	Penyard	Herefordshire	2,680
	Pontrilas	Herefordshire	2,809
	Ross-on-Wye East	Herefordshire	3,823
	Ross-on-Wye West	Herefordshire	4,246
	St Martins and Hinton	Herefordshire	8,313
	St Nicholas	Herefordshire	4,860
	Stoney Street	Herefordshire	2,419
	Three Elms	Herefordshire	7,643
	Tupsley	Herefordshire	7,089
	Valletts	Herefordshire	2,622
22. Kenilworth and Dorridge CC			74,392
	Blythe	Solihull	10,239
	Dorridge and Hockley Heath	Solihull	8,823
	Shirley South	Solihull	10,015
	Shirley West	Solihull	9,315
	Henley	Stratford-on-Avon	3,561
	Tanworth	Stratford-on-Avon	3,129
	Abbey	Warwick	5,811
	Cubbington	Warwick	4,443
	Lapworth	Warwick	2,337
	Leek Wootton	Warwick	1,975
	Park Hill	Warwick	6,388
	St John's	Warwick	5,827
	Stoneleigh	Warwick	2,529

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
23. Lichfield CC			75,426
	Bagots	East Staffordshire	2,144
	Needwood	East Staffordshire	4,534
	Yoxall	East Staffordshire	2,169
	All Saints	Lichfield	2,825
	Alrewas and Fradley	Lichfield	4,490
	Armitage with Handsacre	Lichfield	4,180
	Boley Park	Lichfield	3,987
	Boney Hay	Lichfield	2,484
	Burntwood Central	Lichfield	2,496
	Chadsmead	Lichfield	2,721
	Chase Terrace	Lichfield	4,047
	Chasetown	Lichfield	3,114
	Colton and Mavesyn Ridware	Lichfield	1,474
	Curborough	Lichfield	3,851
	Highfield	Lichfield	3,172
	King's Bromley	Lichfield	1,379
	Leomansley	Lichfield	5,315
	Longdon	Lichfield	1,576
	St John's	Lichfield	5,002
	Stowe	Lichfield	3,965
	Summerfield	Lichfield	2,662
	Whittington	Lichfield	2,666
	Haywood and Hixon	Stafford	5,173
24. Ludlow and Leominster CC			79,645
	Bircher	Herefordshire	2,340
	Burghill, Holmer and Lyde	Herefordshire	2,618
	Castle	Herefordshire	2,528
	Credenhill	Herefordshire	2,581
	Golden Cross with Weobley	Herefordshire	2,342
	Hampton Court	Herefordshire	2,157
	Kington Town	Herefordshire	2,451
	Leominster North	Herefordshire	4,156
	Leominster South	Herefordshire	4,433
	Mortimer	Herefordshire	2,578
	Pembridge and Lyonshall with Titley	Herefordshire	2,387
	Sutton Walls	Herefordshire	2,440
	Upton	Herefordshire	2,330
	Wormsley Ridge	Herefordshire	2,047
	Bishop's Castle	Shropshire	2,837
	Brown Clew	Shropshire	3,033
	Chirbury and Worthen	Shropshire	2,397
	Church Stretton and Craven Arms	Shropshire	6,933
	Clew	Shropshire	3,566
	Cleobury Mortimer	Shropshire	5,509
	Clun	Shropshire	3,093
	Corvedale	Shropshire	3,050
	Highley	Shropshire	2,720
	Ludlow East	Shropshire	3,038
	Ludlow North	Shropshire	3,030
	Ludlow South	Shropshire	3,051
25. Malvern and Ledbury CC			77,858
	Backbury	Herefordshire	2,474
	Bringsty	Herefordshire	2,290
	Bromyard	Herefordshire	4,547
	Frome	Herefordshire	2,751
	Hagley	Herefordshire	2,909
	Hope End	Herefordshire	4,492
	Ledbury	Herefordshire	7,342
	Alfrick and Leigh	Malvern Hills	2,927
	Baldwin	Malvern Hills	1,691
	Broadheath	Malvern Hills	2,825
	Chase	Malvern Hills	4,876
	Dyson Perrins	Malvern Hills	2,906
	Hallow	Malvern Hills	1,534
	Lindridge	Malvern Hills	1,823
	Link	Malvern Hills	4,958
	Longdon	Malvern Hills	1,711
	Martley	Malvern Hills	1,419
	Morton	Malvern Hills	1,680

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
	Pickersleigh	Malvern Hills	4,481
	Powick	Malvern Hills	3,124
	Priory	Malvern Hills	2,965
	Teme Valley	Malvern Hills	1,559
	Tenbury	Malvern Hills	3,022
	Wells	Malvern Hills	2,652
	West	Malvern Hills	3,240
	Woodbury	Malvern Hills	1,660
26. Meriden CC			73,674
	Shard End	Birmingham	18,579
	Bickenhill	Solihull	9,527
	Chelmsley Wood	Solihull	9,236
	Kingshurst and Fordbridge	Solihull	9,455
	Knowle	Solihull	8,412
	Meriden	Solihull	9,499
	Smith's Wood	Solihull	8,966
27. Newcastle-under-Lyme CC			79,943
	Bradwell	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,970
	Butt Lane	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,349
	Chesterton	Newcastle-under-Lyme	5,475
	Clayton	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,195
	Cross Heath	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,340
	Holditch	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,366
	Keele	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,203
	Kidsgrove	Newcastle-under-Lyme	5,255
	Knutton and Silverdale	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,147
	May Bank	Newcastle-under-Lyme	5,003
	Newchapel	Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,801
	Porthill	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,229
	Ravenscliffe	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,372
	Seabridge	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,682
	Silverdale and Parkside	Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,754
	Talke	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,206
	Thistleberry	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,606
	Town	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,702
	Westlands	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,830
	Wolstanton	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,458
28. North Shropshire CC			77,673
	Cheswardine	Shropshire	3,044
	Ellesmere Urban	Shropshire	2,855
	Hodnet	Shropshire	2,817
	Llanymynech	Shropshire	3,228
	Market Drayton East	Shropshire	3,497
	Market Drayton West	Shropshire	6,562
	Oswestry East	Shropshire	6,734
	Oswestry South	Shropshire	3,209
	Oswestry West	Shropshire	2,909
	Prees	Shropshire	3,172
	Ruyton and Baschurch	Shropshire	2,872
	St Martin's	Shropshire	3,397
	St Oswald	Shropshire	3,187
	Selattyn and Gobowen	Shropshire	5,547
	Shawbury	Shropshire	3,432
	The Meres	Shropshire	3,326
	Wem	Shropshire	6,250
	Whitchurch North	Shropshire	5,345
	Whitchurch South	Shropshire	3,152
	Whittington	Shropshire	3,138
29. North Warwickshire CC			77,700
	Arley and Whitacre	North Warwickshire	4,169
	Atherstone Central	North Warwickshire	3,013
	Atherstone North	North Warwickshire	2,738
	Atherstone South and Mancetter	North Warwickshire	2,929
	Baddesley and Grendon	North Warwickshire	3,112
	Coleshill North	North Warwickshire	2,582
	Coleshill South	North Warwickshire	2,743
	Curdworth	North Warwickshire	2,754

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
	Dordon	North Warwickshire	2,498
	Fillongley	North Warwickshire	2,789
	Hartshill	North Warwickshire	2,987
	Hurley and Wood End	North Warwickshire	3,071
	Kingsbury	North Warwickshire	3,048
	Newton Regis and Warton	North Warwickshire	2,828
	Polesworth East	North Warwickshire	2,694
	Polesworth West	North Warwickshire	2,803
	Water Orton	North Warwickshire	2,869
	Bede	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,114
	Exhall	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,982
	Heath	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,611
	Poplar	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,920
	Slough	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,446
30. Nuneaton CC			73,005
	Abbey	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,730
	Arbury	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,177
	Attleborough	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,724
	Bar Pool	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,491
	Bulkington	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,135
	Camp Hill	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,178
	Galley Common	Nuneaton and Bedworth	6,135
	Kingswood	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,021
	St Nicolas	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,659
	Weddington	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,889
	Wem Brook	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,288
	Whitestone	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,840
	Avon and Swift	Rugby	2,194
	Fosse	Rugby	3,012
	Wolvey	Rugby	1,532
31. Redditch CC			76,738
	Alvechurch	Bromsgrove	5,251
	Drakes Cross and Walkers Heath	Bromsgrove	3,933
	Hollywood and Majors Green	Bromsgrove	3,661
	Wythall South	Bromsgrove	1,956
	Abbey	Redditch	4,345
	Astwood Bank and Feckenham	Redditch	4,699
	Batchley & Brockhill	Redditch	5,643
	Central	Redditch	4,409
	Church Hill	Redditch	6,019
	Crabbs Cross	Redditch	4,550
	Greenlands	Redditch	6,225
	Headless Cross and Oakenshaw	Redditch	6,782
	Lodge Park	Redditch	3,831
	Matchborough	Redditch	4,493
	West	Redditch	4,557
	Winyates	Redditch	6,384
32. Rugby CC			74,600
	Admirals	Rugby	5,226
	Benn	Rugby	4,296
	Bilton	Rugby	4,104
	Brownsover North	Rugby	4,584
	Brownsover South	Rugby	3,003
	Caldecott	Rugby	4,090
	Dunchurch and Knightlow	Rugby	4,914
	Earl Craven and Wolston	Rugby	4,709
	Eastlands	Rugby	4,557
	Hillmorton	Rugby	4,192
	Lawford and King's Newnham	Rugby	2,731
	Leam Valley	Rugby	1,538
	New Bilton	Rugby	4,987
	Newbold	Rugby	4,440
	Overslade	Rugby	4,241
	Paddox	Rugby	2,834
	Ryton-on-Dunsmore	Rugby	1,420
	Fenny Compton	Stratford-on-Avon	1,886
	Southam	Stratford-on-Avon	4,955
	Stockton and Napton	Stratford-on-Avon	1,893

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
33. Shrewsbury CC			73,978
	Abbey	Shropshire	2,964
	Bagley	Shropshire	3,435
	Battlefield	Shropshire	2,645
	Bayston Hill, Column and Sutton	Shropshire	9,498
	Belle Vue	Shropshire	3,225
	Bowbrook	Shropshire	2,779
	Burnell	Shropshire	3,189
	Castlefields and Ditherington	Shropshire	3,198
	Copthorne	Shropshire	2,993
	Harlescott	Shropshire	3,377
	Longden	Shropshire	3,066
	Loton	Shropshire	3,031
	Meole	Shropshire	2,980
	Minsterley	Shropshire	3,020
	Monkmoor	Shropshire	3,338
	Porthill	Shropshire	3,129
	Quarry and Coton Hill	Shropshire	2,698
	Radbrook	Shropshire	3,115
	Severn Valley	Shropshire	3,185
	Sundorne	Shropshire	2,962
	Tern	Shropshire	3,370
	Underdale	Shropshire	2,781
34. Smethwick BC			79,716
	Soho	Birmingham	16,918
	Abbey	Sandwell	8,431
	Bristnall	Sandwell	9,123
	Langley	Sandwell	9,137
	St Pauls	Sandwell	9,163
	Smethwick	Sandwell	9,409
	Soho and Victoria	Sandwell	8,620
	West Bromwich Central	Sandwell	8,915
35. Solihull BC			74,099
	Sheldon	Birmingham	16,075
	Elmdon	Solihull	9,424
	Lyndon	Solihull	10,097
	Olton	Solihull	9,809
	St Alphege	Solihull	10,510
	Shirley East	Solihull	8,906
	Silhill	Solihull	9,278
36. South Staffordshire CC			77,536
	Bilbrook	South Staffordshire	3,350
	Brewood and Coven	South Staffordshire	5,482
	Cheslyn Hay North and Saredon	South Staffordshire	3,409
	Cheslyn Hay South	South Staffordshire	3,038
	Codsall North	South Staffordshire	3,340
	Codsall South	South Staffordshire	3,366
	Essington	South Staffordshire	3,965
	Featherstone and Shareshill	South Staffordshire	3,759
	Great Wyrley Landywood	South Staffordshire	3,866
	Great Wyrley Town	South Staffordshire	4,972
	Himley and Swindon	South Staffordshire	1,707
	Huntington and Hatherton	South Staffordshire	3,781
	Kinver	South Staffordshire	6,005
	Pattingham and Patshull	South Staffordshire	1,847
	Perton Dippons	South Staffordshire	1,597
	Perton East	South Staffordshire	1,790
	Perton Lakeside	South Staffordshire	5,059
	Trysull and Seisdon	South Staffordshire	1,788
	Wheaton Aston, Bishopswood and Lapley	South Staffordshire	3,347
	Wombourne North and Lower Penn	South Staffordshire	5,304
	Wombourne South East	South Staffordshire	3,210
	Wombourne South West	South Staffordshire	3,554
37. Stafford CC			76,647
	Penkridge North East and Acton Trussell	South Staffordshire	3,085
	Penkridge South East	South Staffordshire	3,550
	Penkridge West	South Staffordshire	1,689

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
	Baswich	Stafford	3,489
	Chartley	Stafford	1,581
	Church Eaton	Stafford	1,749
	Common	Stafford	2,946
	Coton	Stafford	2,722
	Eccleshall	Stafford	5,259
	Forebridge	Stafford	3,325
	Gnosall and Woodseaves	Stafford	5,171
	Highfields and Western Downs	Stafford	4,556
	Holmcroft	Stafford	5,016
	Littleworth	Stafford	4,803
	Manor	Stafford	4,572
	Milford	Stafford	3,851
	Milwich	Stafford	1,575
	Penkside	Stafford	2,996
	Rowley	Stafford	3,537
	Seighford	Stafford	2,883
	Tillington	Stafford	3,109
	Weeping Cross	Stafford	5,183
38. Staffordshire Moorlands CC			78,034
	Alton	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,125
	Bagnall and Stanley	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,361
	Biddulph East	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,630
	Biddulph Moor	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,395
	Biddulph North	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,253
	Biddulph South	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,408
	Biddulph West	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,346
	Brown Edge and Endon	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,019
	Caverswall	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,428
	Cellarhead	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,617
	Cheadle North East	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,768
	Cheadle South East	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,888
	Cheadle West	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,026
	Checkley	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,523
	Cheddleton	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,321
	Churnet	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,599
	Dane	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,263
	Forsbrook	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,173
	Hamps Valley	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,456
	Horton	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,558
	Ipstones	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,521
	Leek East	Staffordshire Moorlands	3,926
	Leek North	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,080
	Leek South	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,374
	Leek West	Staffordshire Moorlands	3,775
	Manifold	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,512
	Werrington	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,689
39. Stoke-on-Trent North BC			73,954
	Abbey Green	Stoke-on-Trent	8,962
	Burslem North	Stoke-on-Trent	9,131
	Burslem South	Stoke-on-Trent	8,730
	Chell and Packmoor	Stoke-on-Trent	9,211
	East Valley	Stoke-on-Trent	10,226
	Northwood and Birches Head	Stoke-on-Trent	8,949
	Norton and Bradeley	Stoke-on-Trent	8,909
	Tunstall	Stoke-on-Trent	9,836
40. Stoke-on-Trent South BC			74,022
	Bentilee and Townsend	Stoke-on-Trent	9,008
	Berryhill and Hanley East	Stoke-on-Trent	7,717
	Fenton	Stoke-on-Trent	9,225
	Hanley West and Shelton	Stoke-on-Trent	8,434
	Hartshill and Penkhull	Stoke-on-Trent	9,045
	Longton North	Stoke-on-Trent	10,660
	Longton South	Stoke-on-Trent	10,274
	Stoke and Trent Vale	Stoke-on-Trent	9,659

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
41. Stourbridge and Dudley BC			80,133
	Amblecote	Dudley	10,465
	Brierley Hill	Dudley	10,105
	Cradley and Foxcote	Dudley	9,953
	Lye and Wollescote	Dudley	9,597
	Norton	Dudley	9,743
	Pedmore and Stourbridge East	Dudley	10,008
	Wollaston and Stourbridge Town	Dudley	10,148
	Wordsley	Dudley	10,114
42. Stratford-upon-Avon CC			73,016
	Alcester	Stratford-on-Avon	4,820
	Aston Cantlow	Stratford-on-Avon	1,499
	Bardon	Stratford-on-Avon	1,766
	Bidford and Salford	Stratford-on-Avon	5,393
	Brailes	Stratford-on-Avon	1,750
	Burton Dassett	Stratford-on-Avon	1,816
	Ettington	Stratford-on-Avon	1,851
	Harbury	Stratford-on-Avon	3,675
	Kineton	Stratford-on-Avon	3,255
	Kinwarton	Stratford-on-Avon	1,703
	Long Compton	Stratford-on-Avon	1,762
	Quinton	Stratford-on-Avon	1,932
	Sambourne	Stratford-on-Avon	1,429
	Shipston	Stratford-on-Avon	4,041
	Stratford Alveston	Stratford-on-Avon	5,708
	Stratford Avenue and New Town	Stratford-on-Avon	5,855
	Stratford Guild and Hathaway	Stratford-on-Avon	5,732
	Stratford Mount Pleasant	Stratford-on-Avon	3,338
	Studley	Stratford-on-Avon	4,631
	Tredington	Stratford-on-Avon	1,910
	Vale of the Red Horse	Stratford-on-Avon	1,884
	Welford	Stratford-on-Avon	1,703
	Wellesbourne	Stratford-on-Avon	5,563
43. Sutton Coldfield BC			75,031
	Sutton Four Oaks	Birmingham	19,103
	Sutton New Hall	Birmingham	17,582
	Sutton Trinity	Birmingham	19,777
	Sutton Vesey	Birmingham	18,569
44. Tamworth CC			75,376
	Bourne Vale	Lichfield	1,387
	Fazeley	Lichfield	3,721
	Hammerwich	Lichfield	2,832
	Little Aston	Lichfield	2,451
	Mease and Tame	Lichfield	2,895
	Shenstone	Lichfield	2,701
	Stonnall	Lichfield	1,251
	Amington	Tamworth	5,937
	Belgrave	Tamworth	5,694
	Bolehall	Tamworth	5,821
	Castle	Tamworth	5,614
	Glascote	Tamworth	5,622
	Mercian	Tamworth	5,203
	Spital	Tamworth	5,488
	Stonydelph	Tamworth	5,765
	Trinity	Tamworth	5,958
	Wilnecote	Tamworth	7,036
45. Telford BC			78,142
	Brookside	Telford and Wrekin	4,880
	Cuckoo Oak	Telford and Wrekin	4,042
	Dawley Magna	Telford and Wrekin	7,241
	Donnington	Telford and Wrekin	4,726
	Hadley and Leegomery	Telford and Wrekin	7,478
	Horsehay and Lightmoor	Telford and Wrekin	2,909
	Ironbridge Gorge	Telford and Wrekin	2,085
	Ketley and Oakengates	Telford and Wrekin	7,125
	Lawley and Overdale	Telford and Wrekin	3,655
	Madeley	Telford and Wrekin	4,258

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
	Malinslee	Telford and Wrekin	4,271
	Priorslee	Telford and Wrekin	4,706
	St Georges	Telford and Wrekin	4,678
	The Nedge	Telford and Wrekin	6,598
	Woodside	Telford and Wrekin	4,438
	Wrockwardine Wood and Trench	Telford and Wrekin	5,052
46. Walsall South BC			76,985
	Oscott	Birmingham	18,107
	Great Barr with Yew Tree	Sandwell	9,708
	Paddock	Walsall	9,563
	Palfrey	Walsall	10,272
	Pheasey Park Farm	Walsall	8,728
	St Matthew's	Walsall	9,706
	Streetly	Walsall	10,901
47. Walsall West BC			74,521
	Bentley and Darlaston North	Walsall	9,099
	Birchills Leamore	Walsall	9,361
	Pleck	Walsall	9,376
	Short Heath	Walsall	9,086
	Willenhall North	Walsall	9,578
	Willenhall South	Walsall	10,769
	Wednesfield North	Wolverhampton	8,839
	Wednesfield South	Wolverhampton	8,413
48. Warwick and Leamington CC			73,601
	Claverdon	Stratford-on-Avon	1,814
	Long Itchington	Stratford-on-Avon	1,873
	Snitterfield	Stratford-on-Avon	1,760
	Bishop's Tachbrook	Warwick	1,925
	Brunswick	Warwick	5,616
	Budbrooke	Warwick	4,644
	Clarendon	Warwick	3,915
	Crown	Warwick	3,580
	Manor	Warwick	6,243
	Milverton	Warwick	6,421
	Radford Semele	Warwick	1,876
	Warwick North	Warwick	6,084
	Warwick South	Warwick	7,334
	Warwick West	Warwick	7,495
	Whitnash	Warwick	6,218
	Willes	Warwick	6,803
49. Wednesbury BC			73,750
	Charlemont with Grove Vale	Sandwell	9,309
	Friar Park	Sandwell	9,085
	Great Bridge	Sandwell	9,517
	Hateley Heath	Sandwell	9,476
	Newton	Sandwell	8,813
	Princes End	Sandwell	9,109
	Wednesbury North	Sandwell	9,176
	Wednesbury South	Sandwell	9,265
50. West Staffordshire CC			79,213
	Audley and Bignall End	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,694
	Halmerend	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,038
	Loggerheads and Whitmore	Newcastle-under-Lyme	5,634
	Madeley	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,419
	Barlaston and Oulton	Stafford	3,224
	Fulford	Stafford	4,808
	St. Michael's	Stafford	3,618
	Stonefield and Christchurch	Stafford	4,086
	Swynnerton	Stafford	3,642
	Walton	Stafford	4,585
	Blurton	Stoke-on-Trent	9,550
	Meir Park and Sandon	Stoke-on-Trent	10,082
	Trentham and Hanford	Stoke-on-Trent	9,769
	Weston and Meir North	Stoke-on-Trent	9,064

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
51. Wolverhampton East BC			77,926
	Darlaston South	Walsall	9,338
	Bilston East	Wolverhampton	9,038
	Bilston North	Wolverhampton	8,790
	Blakenhall	Wolverhampton	8,160
	Bushbury South and Low Hill	Wolverhampton	8,864
	East Park	Wolverhampton	8,677
	Ettingshall	Wolverhampton	8,694
	Fallings Park	Wolverhampton	8,979
	Heath Town	Wolverhampton	7,386
52. Wolverhampton West BC			77,719
	Bushbury North	Wolverhampton	9,071
	Graiseley	Wolverhampton	7,994
	Merry Hill	Wolverhampton	9,361
	Oxley	Wolverhampton	8,802
	Park	Wolverhampton	7,725
	Penn	Wolverhampton	9,979
	St Peter's	Wolverhampton	6,407
	Tettenhall Regis	Wolverhampton	9,257
	Tettenhall Wightwick	Wolverhampton	9,123
53. Worcester BC			73,960
	Arboretum	Worcester	4,537
	Battenhall	Worcester	4,139
	Bedwardine	Worcester	6,337
	Cathedral	Worcester	7,247
	Claines	Worcester	6,634
	Gorse Hill	Worcester	3,820
	Nunnery	Worcester	5,911
	Rainbow Hill	Worcester	3,970
	St Clement	Worcester	4,714
	St John	Worcester	5,729
	St Peter's Parish	Worcester	4,483
	St Stephen	Worcester	4,090
	Warndon	Worcester	4,111
	Warndon Parish North	Worcester	4,137
	Warndon Parish South	Worcester	4,101
54. Wyre Forest CC			77,800
	Aggborough and Spennells	Wyre Forest	5,264
	Areley Kings	Wyre Forest	4,738
	Bewdley and Arley	Wyre Forest	5,429
	Blakedown and Chaddesley	Wyre Forest	3,332
	Broadwaters	Wyre Forest	5,960
	Cookley	Wyre Forest	2,051
	Franche	Wyre Forest	5,561
	Greenhill	Wyre Forest	6,036
	Habberley and Blakebrook	Wyre Forest	5,273
	Lickhill	Wyre Forest	5,526
	Mitton	Wyre Forest	5,904
	Offmore and Comberton	Wyre Forest	5,444
	Oldington and Foley Park	Wyre Forest	3,793
	Rock	Wyre Forest	2,041
	Sutton Park	Wyre Forest	5,646
	Wolverley	Wyre Forest	1,762
	Wribbenhall	Wyre Forest	4,040

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Seabridge Centre Petition

Submitted by: Head of Planning and Development

Portfolio: Planning, Regeneration and Town Centres

Ward(s) affected: Westlands Ward

Purpose of the Report

To report on the actions to be taken on a petition submitted by a group of “local residents and users of Seabridge Community Centre” in relation to the inclusion of the site of the Seabridge Centre in the Council’s Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.

Recommendations

- a) That the petition and the action taken by officers be noted
- b) That the existence of the petition be reported to both the Planning Committee and Council in the context of the results of the full public consultation exercise, which has been recently undertaken in relation to preparation of the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan.

Reasons

To comply with the provisions of the Council’s approved Petitions Scheme

1.0 **Background**

1.1 The Council has recently completed a full public consultation exercise in relation to the first stage of preparing the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan. A consultative document entitled ‘Draft Issues and Options’ formed the basis for this consultation.

1.2 During the consultation period a petition was submitted to officers on 1 October 2012, signed by 686 people, requesting that consideration be given to the removal of the Seabridge Centre Site, in Ash Way from the Council’s Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA).

1.3 The Seabridge Centre is owned by Staffordshire County Council and was nominated for inclusion in the Council’s SHLAA by the County Council. The site was subsequently included in the Council’s SHLAA following a preliminary technical assessment by your officers, and was included in the “draft long list of Strategic housing sites for potential allocation” within the ‘Draft Issues and Options’ paper.

1.4 Your officers are currently analysing the results of the full public consultation exercise.

2.0 **Issues**

2.1 The petition requests, we the undersigned, wish Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, through the consultation process of seeking the community’s views, to consider

removing the Seabridge Community Centre Site in Ash Way from the Strategic Housing Land Availability List (ref 329).

2.2 Your officers are able to give consideration to this request through the process of preparing the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan. This will then be incorporated into a report on the outcome of the full public consultation exercise together with a 'Draft Options Report,' setting out the Council's draft site allocation proposals. The process is unlikely to be completed until late spring next year. The consultation results and 'Draft Options Report' will be reported to Planning Committee prior to going forward to Council for decision. A second stage of full public consultation will then take place.

2.3 A letter was sent to the petition organiser advising that consideration will be given to their request as part of the process of considering representations received during the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan Issues and Options consultation, and other evidence that will need to be given due consideration under the statutory town planning process. The petition organiser has written back to confirm that this is acceptable.

3.0 **Proposal**

3.1 That the petition and the action already taken by your officers be noted.

3.2 That the existence of the petition be reported to both the Planning Committee and Council in the context of the results of the full public consultation exercise, which has been recently undertaken in relation to preparation of the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan.

4.0 **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

4.1 To comply with the provisions of the Council's approved Petitions Scheme.

4.2 To enable the request to remove the Seabridge Community Centre Site in Ash Way from the Strategic Housing Land Availability List (ref 329) to be considered in the context of both the representations received from all other consultees who responded to the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan Issues and Options consultation, and other evidence that will need to be given due consideration under the statutory town planning process.

5.0 **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- Creating a cleaner, safer, and sustainable Borough
- Creating a healthy and active community

6.0 **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 The Council has an approved Petitions Scheme, which sets out the procedure for consideration of petitions received from the local community.

7.0 **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 No adverse impact has been identified.

8.0 **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 There are no additional financial or resource implications arising from the recommendation.

9.0 **Major Risks**

9.1 None identified relating directly to this report.

10.0 **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

10.1 Not applicable.

11.0 **Key Decision Information**

11.1 Not a key decision

12.0 **List of Appendices**

12.1 Paper copies of the petition will be available in the Members' Room prior to the meeting and displayed on the website.

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