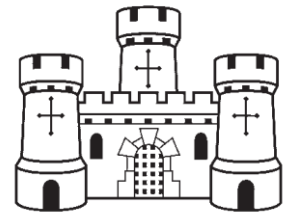


Date of meeting Thursday, 11th March, 2021

Time 7.00 pm

Venue Hybrid Meeting - Castle

Contact Geoff Durham 742222



**NEWCASTLE
UNDER LYME**
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Castle House
Barracks Road
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 1BL

Economy, Environment & Place Scrutiny Committee

AGENDA

PART 1 – OPEN AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 3 - 10)

To consider the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17th December 2020.

4 UPDATE FROM CABINET

Nothing to report.

5 SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY (Pages 11 - 36)

**6 TOWN INVESTMENT PLANS FOR KIDSGROVE AND
NEWCASTLE**

7 FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND

8 BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN (Pages 37 - 56)

9 WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 57 - 62)

10 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Any member of the public wishing to submit a question must serve two clear days' notice, in writing, of any such question to the Borough Council.

11 URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any business which is urgent within the meaning of Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Members: Councillors Gary White (Chair), Gill Heesom (Vice-Chair), Mark Olszewski, Barry Panter, Marion Reddish, John Tagg, Amelia Rout, Dave Jones, Andrew Fear, Jennifer Cooper and David Grocott

Members of the Council: If you identify any personal training/development requirements from any of the items included in this agenda or through issues raised during the meeting, please bring them to the attention of the Democratic Services Officer at the close of the meeting.

Meeting Quorums :- 16+= 5 Members; 10-15=4 Members; 5-9=3 Members; 5 or less = 2 Members.

SUBSTITUTE MEMBER SCHEME (Appendix 9, Section 4 of Constitution)

The Constitution provides for the appointment of Substitute members to attend Committees. The named Substitutes for this meeting are listed below:-

Substitute Members:	Andrew Parker	Simon White
	Paul Waring	Ian Wilkes
	Tony Kearon	June Walklate
	Gillian Burnett	

If you are unable to attend this meeting and wish to appoint a Substitute to attend in your place you need to:

- Identify a Substitute member from the list above who is able to attend on your behalf
- Notify the Chairman of the Committee (at least 24 hours before the meeting is due to take place) NB Only 2 Substitutes per political group are allowed for each meeting and your Chairman will advise you on whether that number has been reached

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

NOTE: THERE ARE NO FIRE DRILLS PLANNED FOR THIS EVENING SO IF THE FIRE ALARM DOES SOUND, PLEASE LEAVE THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY THROUGH THE FIRE EXIT DOORS.

ON EXITING THE BUILDING, PLEASE ASSEMBLE AT THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING BY THE STATUE OF QUEEN VICTORIA. DO NOT RE-ENTER THE BUILDING UNTIL ADVISED TO DO SO.

ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT & PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 17th December, 2020
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Gary White (Chair)

Councillors:	Gill Heesom	John Tagg	David Grocott
	Barry Panter	Amelia Rout	Stephen Sweeney
	Marion Reddish	Jennifer Cooper	

Officers:	Simon McEneny	Executive Director - Commercial Development & Economic Growth
	Georgina Evans	Head of People and Organisational Development
	Geoff Durham	Mayor's Secretary / Member Support Officer
	Roger Tait	Head of Operations
	Gordon Tebay	
	Shawn Fleet	Head of Planning and Development
	David Elkington	Head of Customer and Digital Services

Also in attendance: Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency

Note: In line with Government directions on staying at home during the current stage of the CV-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted by video conferencing in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

1. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

3. **MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November, 2020 be agreed as a correct record.

4. **UPDATE FROM CABINET**

There was nothing to report.

5. **TOWN DEALS - KIDSGROVE AND NEWCASTLE**

Members received a presentation on the Future High Street Funding and Town Deal Funding from the Executive Director - Commercial Development and Economic Growth, Simon McEneny.

The presentation outlined the key milestones, overview and cost summary for Future High Street Funding for Newcastle Town centre and it also gave an overview of the Town Deal Funding for both Newcastle and Kidsgrove.

The Chair asked why there were no details for the Newcastle Town Deal Funding Overview. Simon McEneny explained that as it was still being worked on, it was not as yet a public document.

The Chair asked about resource requirements – overseeing the governance and steering groups, how would this be carried out?

Simon McEneny advised that Acon were driving this and a Project Manager had been appointed and these had been funded by money forwarded by the Government. Project Management and suitable revenue support costs had also been built in. As the Council had never delivered a programme of £75m over a three year period, whilst the Council had some very able officers, the skill set required at this scale and timescales meant that additional consultancy or project management or fixed term contracts would need to be brought in. The governance would stay as it was for the life of the project.

Councillor Panter asked if sufficient parking would be available to replace the Midway car park when it was demolished and if so, where would it be located.

Simon McEneny advised that the Future High Street bid included £7m to build a new car park on the Ryecroft site. As the Council was trying to reduce its carbon footprint, the use of cars needed to be discouraged in favour of other means of travel and therefore it was not likely to be as large as the existing one.

The car park would have sustainable transport solutions inside so that electric cars could be charged, spaces for electric bikes and scooters.

The Chair thanked Simon McEneny for the presentation and said that redevelopment of the Ryecroft was overdue.

Before the next meeting of this Scrutiny Committee the Council should have heard if the Kidsgrove Town Deal bid had been successful.

Councillor Reddish asked for a copy of the presentation to be sent electronically.

Resolved: That the information be received and the comments noted.

6. LITTER BINS - PROVISION AND SERVICING

Consideration was given to a report responding to a request for information on the current approach to litter bin provision and servicing within the Borough.

The Council's Head of Operations, Roger Tait drew Members' attention to paragraph 2 of the report which outlined the number and locations of dog waste and litter bins around the Borough and also the frequency at which the bins were emptied.

Operatives were encouraged to feed back if a bin was getting full and therefore the frequency of emptying needed to be adapted.

Members were advised that bagged dog waste could now be put into ordinary litter bins which helped to reduce the pressure on dog waste bins in parks and open spaces. In addition, dual waste bins were being considered with two separate compartments for litter and dog waste which would also help in terms of operational emptying.

Bins can be paid for through sponsorship and they were sometimes paid for through businesses and Parish Councils where it could be agreed for the Council to empty bins on land not in the Council's ownership.

Five operatives were fully deployed on litter bin emptying, four of whom go around in the caged vehicles and one operative who was based permanently in the town centre with an electric cart. There was no capacity to add any more bins for emptying, to the workload, at present.

When the Council receives a request for new bins, residents or businesses were worked with to see if existing bins could be moved around to solve the problem. Most of the time, this approach was successful.

A full scale review had been considered, but this would cost in the region of £26,000 and at present, feedback would suggest that there would be no business case to justify doing that.

A couple of pilot studies had been done in the area to test how many bins were out there and this was compared to the average number across the Borough and a comparison had been done with other areas as outlined on page 12 of the agenda. Newcastle compared well with its family group.

A couple of issues had been raised around the future demand created by new developments in the Borough. If a new development came along that had to provide public open space or a play area, colleagues in the Planning Department would be worked with to try and secure a Section 106 Agreement or a Planning Obligation whereby the developer would provide that facility and also provide litter bins if needed.

It was recommended to Members to continue with this current approach, keeping it under review and if a bigger demand arose in the future it could be at that point, Members would be approached to advise that more resource needs to be put into this or more bins provided.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency, Councillor Sweeney made reference to the Cambridge Drive shops in Clayton. As the Ward Councillor, if problems arose, Roger Tait or his team were contacted and the problem would be sorted.

Councillor Reddish asked about the Section 106 Agreements where litter and dog bins were requested. Could this be done retrospectively on large estates which were already built and populated that had problems with dog fouling and litter. Councillor Reddish was under the impression that because it had not been adopted for eight years or more, the Council could not do that. Could this be clarified?

Roger Tait explained that Section 106 Agreements were not to secure litter bins but to secure public open space and play facilities and if bins were appropriate that would be included in the brief to the developer.

Councillor Reddish referred to an estate with 3-400 houses with no litter or dog bins and how could that be rectified?

Roger Tait stated that once adopted, the Council could see if litter bins should have been provided. If this was the case, they can be insisted to be put in on play areas or public open space but they are not usually provided within the residential areas.

The Chair stated that he had similar concerns in that, when the Local Plan is looked at and the substantial number of new homes that needed to come into the Borough over the next twenty years was considered, to say that the Council - which was already at capacity and could not accept any new bins, would not work.

Given that the issue had already been raised by Councillor Reddish, would it be appropriate for this Committee to ask that Roger Tait, along with the Head of Planning and Development, Shawn Fleet look at any mechanisms that could be used in future developments.

Roger Tait stated that the Planning Department was already worked with where it was appropriate and open space was being secured. Regarding future development, where some of the larger developments were looked at, that was not actually increasing the pressure on the bin stock. Operationally, bins may be moved around where demand increases.

The Chair did not feel that this approach was addressing the concerns raised this evening in respect of future housing developments and that was where the Committee was looking for an official mechanism to be looked at and put into place, not simply working together but an actual mechanism put into place.

The Head of Planning and Development, Shawn Fleet stated that the Local Plan had a section on commuted sums and obligations which included play spaces and affordable housing but the document could look to be revised. As Roger Tait had said, it was generally around open spaces where littering occurred and where demand arose. However, the obligations and leverage applied to developers could be looked at and ask for monies to provide bins. However, viability has to be considered as there had to be a cut-off point in asking a developer to provide various facilities. This was looked at on an application by application basis.

The Chair stated that the Committee would like this extended and a review done so that it was not just about open spaces and play areas but also about where large developments were going to be put in place. The Chair asked that Roger Tait and Shawn Fleet work together to come up with a solution that would accommodate this and bring it back to this Committee at an appropriate time.

The Chair also raised the issue of communication and how it could be improved, for example, people of the Borough were not aware that bagged dog faeces could be placed into the ordinary bins. The Chair gave the example of the Recycling Team who, this Committee made the recommendation that they had their own Facebook page to notify and communicate with residents and maybe this could also be applied to Streetscene.

Roger Tait confirmed that they had a twitter feed and 'green team' where work around the Borough was posted so messaging could be put out on there and stickers could be put onto bins to explain what waste can be put into them.

The Chair asked if there was a mechanism where the twitter feed could be linked to Facebook. Roger Tait would ask the Communications team if this was possible.

Councillor Jenny Cooper echoed what the Chair had said about communication in that services had been affected throughout lockdown, for example food waste collections stopping and starting up again. People don't always get the information straight away.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the information be received and the comments noted.
 - (ii) That the Head of Operations and the Head of Planning and Development work together to find a mechanism which can be put into place in considering the provision of litter and dog bins when a new residential development was proposed or an application submitted.
 - (iii) That the Head of Operations work with the Communications Team in setting up a Streetscene Facebook page that residents of the Borough could refer to.

7. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report informing Members of the current situation regarding the enforcement caseload, the tools that are used and how the service could be moved forward.

The Council's Head of Planning and Development, Shawn Fleet took Members through the steps to enforcement action, outlined on page 16 of the agenda. Shawn Fleet explained that there were occasions where people were unaware that they had breached planning regulations, and some would approach the situation in a positive manner by addressing the problems that had been created. Sometimes, a retrospective planning application had to be submitted which ran the risk of being rejected and therefore the unauthorised works having to be put back, which could be costly. Failure to put the works back could result in an Enforcement Notice being issued or going as far as full demolition. People also ran the risk of a fine or imprisonment.

A common enforcement notice was a Section 215 or a 'Tidy up Notice' which required people with untidy gardens to get them tidied up.

Shawn Fleet stated that one major issue was the timeliness of appeals. Members' attention was drawn to the chart on page 17.

This year had seen an increase in the number of neighbours reporting the same case. This was as a result of people working from home or being at home through furlough. However, new problems had not risen by many.

New staff were being brought into the Planning Department, one had started this week and a further member of staff would start in the new year. These officers would start to target enforcement work.

The Council's enforcement work was self-monitored, checking its own targets and performance indicators. It had become apparent how difficult it was to get hold of

national data to do a comparison with but, in the new year, benchmarking across the country would be looked at to try and establish a set of benchmarks to enable the Authority to track its progress and how it compared to similar Authorities.

The Chair referenced paragraph 3.4 of the report regarding the Technical Support team and being more checkbox based, allowing for an appraisal to be undertaken. Was this something this actively beginning to be undertaken?

Shawn Fleet confirmed that this was the case. It was currently being worked on, looking at the forms. Upon receipt of an application or enquiry, officers had looked at a longer assessment, checking compliance with all of the details. The aim was to rationalise this down – looking at the key facts and deciding if it needed to be pursued or whether it required no further action.

The Chair referred to paragraph 5.1 regarding benchmarking and process efficiency. Were these being progressed?

Shawn Fleet confirmed that his team were working with officers within the Council to discuss some of the questions and which other authorities could help to compare.

Councillor Panter asked for clarification that the service was not a compulsorily provided one but could be provided as and when necessary.

Shawn Fleet confirmed that it was a discretionary service. The Local Government Ombudsman does keep an eye on how the Council performed on this and a number of authorities had been criticised because of neglect or under-enforcement. Every case, therefore needs to be investigated and the expediency test used to assess severity of the harm.

Resolved: That the information be received and the comments noted.

8. OVERVIEW OF DATA AND POTENTIAL SAVINGS IN THE RELOCATION TO CASTLE HOUSE

Consideration was given to a report summarising data relating to the move from different Council buildings to co-location at Castle House.

The Chair advised that the report had been brought to committee following a request at a previous meeting.

The Council's Facilities and Engineering Manager, Gordon Tebay advised that the report did not contain full data due to the lockdown and officers working from home and therefore less occupancy of the building. In terms of the comparison of data, moving from the other buildings to Castle House, concentration of the data had been placed on the resources and energy aspect of the move. Colleagues in the Finance Department could provide information on the financial savings.

Key findings to date showed a 33% saving on energy usage and approximately a 30% saving on water usage.

In terms of the co-location facility, there was awareness of all of the different partners within the building and at the current time, some areas were more fully occupied than others, but the figures were still good.

Members' attention was drawn to the table on page 23 of the agenda and in terms of actual savings this was approximately £99,000.

The savings gave a good picture. Certain guidelines had been received from Government and other advisory bodies about letting more fresh air into Castle House because of Covid and it being a sealed building. Therefore, more flushing of the building had taken place than would usually be done as it relies on mechanical ventilation.

Responsibility for the Business Rates element of the water passed to the County Council in 2016 when the 62 year lease to the former school site was issued.

Energy management-wise, Newcastle worked closely with the County Council and en-capita.

The financial aspect would pass into history as being a good move in terms of future opportunities for Ryecroft development and reuses of other sites. St George's Chambers had already found a new use in terms of cold nights and winter night's provision.

The Chair stated that the Committee were tonight looking at the savings attributable to a small element of the move. This was more the environmental side and the attainment of more carbon neutral buildings.

Gordon Tebay stated that in terms of carbon neutrality there had been recent studies by university researchers and partners which, in terms of the development of a new building some factors suggested that the embedded carbon of existing buildings and the energy used to create the new building had to be taken into account.

In terms of Castle House, carbon neutrality mean that less and less fossil fuels were being used. There was no gas provision in the building.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency, Councillor Sweeney stated that he believed that moving from the Civic Offices to Castle House, in terms of carbon neutrality was a massive saving just in that one move. The former Civic Offices was a 1960's badly insulated building.

Gordon Tebay agreed. Castle House had been to modern day modelling and regulations for buildings so from a carbon management perspective it had to comply with Parts L and F of the Building Regulations. Castle House was a super-insulated building but the mechanical ventilation did need to be worked on.

Councillor Rout asked for clarification whether it had been said that recirculated air had been used in the building during Covid or that there had not been?

Gordon Tebay confirmed that the thermal wheel had not been switched on during summer months as natural fresh air coming in had to be maximised.

Resolved: That the information be received.

9. WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair asked Members to email any ideas for Scrutiny to him which would then be incorporated into the Work Programme.

10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

11. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

CLLR GARY WHITE
Chair

Meeting concluded at 8.07 pm

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO

Economy Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee
11 March 2021

Report Title: Sustainable Environment Strategy

Submitted by: Executive Management Team

Portfolios: Environment and Recycling

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To consider the Sustainable Environment Strategy which sets out the Council's ambition to be an exemplar local authority in both caring for, and enhancing our local environment for the quality of life of residents now and in the future.

To seek the Committees views on and endorsement of the Sustainable Environment Strategy and Action Plan.

Recommendation

That the Committee considers, comments on and endorses the Sustainable Environment Strategy.

Reasons

To enable the Committee to undertake its remit of scrutinising environmental sustainability and climate change and issues.

1. Report

On 9th December 2020 Cabinet considered a report on a Sustainable Environment Strategy and Action Plan for the Council and the Borough. Councillor Johnson referred to the Council's resolution in 2019 declaring a climate emergency and the commitment of Cabinet to deliver a sustainable environment strategy.

The Leader reported how the work would be ongoing and would involve partners including Keele University and Staffordshire County Council. He particularly highlighted works to progress the carbon capture agenda especially in urban areas. Cabinet Members endorsed the work to tackle environmental issues facing the Borough.

Cabinet agreed the Sustainable Environment Strategy and Action Plan for the Council and Borough be approved and resolved to seek views and support for the Strategy and Action Plan from key local partners and the Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee.

1.1 The views of the Committee are therefore sought on this important strategic document.

2. Appendix

2.1 Cabinet Report 9th December 2020 and Sustainable Environment Strategy document.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO

Cabinet
09 December 2020

Report Title: Sustainable Environment Strategy

Submitted by: Executive Director – Operational Services

Portfolios: Environment and Recycling

Ward(s) affected: ALL

Purpose of the Report

To consider adopting a Sustainable Environment Strategy for the Council.

Recommendation

- 1. That Cabinet approve the Sustainable Environment Strategy and Action Plan for the Council and Borough.**
- 2. That Cabinet seek views on and support for the Strategy and Action Plan from key local partners and the Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee.**

Reasons

The Sustainable Environment Strategy sets out the Council's ambition to be an exemplar local authority in both caring for, and enhancing our local environment for the quality of life of residents now and in the future.

1. Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 4th November 2020, Cabinet received and endorsed the Councils reviewed Medium Term Financial Strategy including a mid-term review of the Council Plan. Under Priority 3 – a Healthy, Active and Safe Borough, Cabinet reaffirmed its commitment to establish a Sustainable Environment Strategy for the Council and the Borough linked to Government targets.
- 1.2 In order to translate the Councils ambitions in respect of the environment, a Sustainable Environment Strategy will be the vehicle for helping the Council achieve its aims of caring for and enhancing our natural environment and to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change.
- 1.3 The focus of the strategy is on delivering those actions that we know will achieve a positive impact and importantly, where we know we have the greatest control and influence to turn our plans into actions for the benefit of the Borough.

2. Issues

- 2.1 Plans are being developed in two complimentary works streams. The first is to fundamentally and comprehensively review the Councils own activities and services and incorporate actions into the Action Plan that make a significant contribution to this Strategy and achieves a net carbon neutral position for the Councils activities and operations by 2030. The second is to work with partners across the Borough and Staffordshire to work together on Borough wide actions that will help achieve agreed targets.
- 2.2 Cabinet are asked to support an aspiration to become an exemplar authority, known for both preserving and protecting our local environment for the present and future and also for enhancing our environment and the quality of life of residents.
- 2.3 The Strategy identifies four priority outcomes and how we will deliver our aims. The four priority outcomes are:
- To reduce our reliance on fossil fuels
 - To reduce carbon emissions
 - To minimise waste and increase recycling;
 - To offset carbon emissions
- 2.4 The Sustainable Environment Strategy outlines the first phase of our commitments and future direction of travel for the Council, but it is by no means the end of the work needed. The strategy acknowledges that this is only the beginning of the journey and further work is required to develop the optimum range of activities in the Action Plan in the future, on an ongoing and flexible basis.
- 2.5 To improve the local environment and mitigate the effects of climate change will require changing the way we do things, looking at our own services and ways of working and taking direct action wherever possible, as well as encouraging, supporting and enabling others to do the same.
- 2.6 It is fully recognised that the Council needs to work with its partners to be able to deliver some of our aims and to enable and support others in delivering their priorities for change. The Council is already working with partners and other Staffordshire Districts, Boroughs and the Staffordshire County Council through the Leaders and Chief Executives Group to identify areas of potential joint working that will benefit the Borough and County as a whole.
- 2.7 In addition the Council has worked with Keele University to secure funding to work with the Centre for Alternative Technology, and Carbon Literacy Project, to facilitate joint working between the Staffordshire councils. The programme of work plans to involve, a 2 day workshop with multiple representatives from all Staffordshire councils to explore learning, synergies, and potential future joint projects, and a number of days of consultancy support from the Centre for Alternative Technology to help drive the identified projects forwards.
- 2.8 It is also recognised that the pace of change related to climate change and policy direction is fast as well as the pace of development of technology and best available techniques to support these changes. This strategy will therefore be fully reviewed annually to ensure that our ambitions and actions are aligned to emerging local, national and global policy and to refresh the Action Plan as necessary to take advantage of opportunities as they arise.

2.9 A Sustainable Environment Strategy Steering Group has been established, led by the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling. The Steering Group will report directly into Cabinet on progress with this Strategy.

2.10 The Government has very recently announced its 10 Point Plan which is aimed at eradicating the UK's contribution to climate change by 2050, which has been enshrined into law as part of the net-zero emissions target. A budget of £12bn. has been agreed to transition the UK into net carbon neutrality and the plan includes a wide range of actions that includes green energy production and use, energy efficient buildings, carbon capture and the natural environment.

2.11 On the issue of achieving carbon neutrality, Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee supported the target date of 2030 for the Borough Councils activities and functions. In relation to Borough wide carbon neutrality, the Committee considered the practicality of achieving Borough wide carbon neutrality at its meeting on 30th September 2020. This followed consideration of the issue at a cross party Working Group and resolved to recommend to Council that the target date for this aspect be adjusted to 2050 to align with the government target and that of neighbouring authorities and to reflect the importance of ensuring that it is achievable and credible.

3. **Proposal**

1. That Cabinet approve the Sustainable Environment Strategy and Action Plan for the Council and Borough.
2. That Cabinet seek views on and support for the Strategy and Action Plan from key local partners.

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

- 4.1 The Sustainable Environment Strategy sets out the Council's ambition to be an exemplar local authority in both caring for, and enhancing our environment. Adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change means changing the way we do things for the long term benefit of the Borough.

5. **Options Considered**

- 5.1 Agree the proposed Sustainable Environment Strategy and Action Plan designed to achieve protect the local environment and Carbon neutrality for the Councils operations by 2030.
- 5.2 Do not agree the proposed Strategy and Action Plan and seek an alternative method of achieving the above.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 6.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 has the following provisions:

Carbon targets and carbon budgeting - The Act places the government under a legal duty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050

The Committee on Climate Change - The Act also establishes the Committee on Climate Change, an independent, expert body to advise government on the appropriate level for the targets, budgets, and on matters relating to mitigation and adaptation. The

Committee will submit annual reports to parliament on progress towards the targets and the government must respond to this report.

6.2 Councils Duty to reduce carbon emissions - There are currently no statutory requirements for local authorities to set or negotiate targets to reduce their own or area wide emissions.

6.3 All Local Authorities also have a “biodiversity duty” under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 There are no adverse equality impact identified as a consequence of this report. Specific actions contained within the proposed Action Plan will need to consider any equality impacts on a project by project basis.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 There are financial and resource implications associated with the implementation of the proposed actions contained within the Action Plan. There will be different implications action by action, which may require revenue and or capital expenditure and investment as well as in some cases savings resulting from an action.

8.2 Each action will be need to be considered on their balance of costs and benefits and approval for expenditure sought as appropriate in each case in the context of competing financial pressures, available funding, return on investment and potential external funding contributions.

8.3 Some of the possible interventions will require the completion of a detailed business case to be completed.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 There are overarching risks of inaction in respect of the Councils response to the environmental threats caused by rising carbon emissions, habitat loss, plastic pollution and poor use of dwindling natural resources.

As a result, Councils around the UK and Governments around the world are responding to these threats and public calls for a robust and rapid reduction and mitigation measures and have declared Climate Emergencies as well as reigniting environmental strategies with the aim of accelerating action to achieve carbon neutrality, consider how to mitigate the effects of climate change and change how resources are used.

There are growing expectations that Councils take a leading and decisive role in this respect and there are reputational risks to the Council in not acting positively.

Any risks associated with specific projects contained within the proposed Action Plan will be assessed and considered on a project by project basis.

10. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

10.1 This strategy seeks to help the Council achieve its aim of caring for and enhancing our natural environment and to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change. The Strategy has a specific intention to adopt appropriate monitoring systems for tracking our reduction in emissions and increased capacity for offsetting and publish our progress.

11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 The recommendations contained within this report affect all wards within the Borough, is therefore a Key Decision and as such has been included on the Councils published Forward Plan.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 Full Council – 3rd April 2019

12.2 Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee

12.3 Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 None

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 Draft Sustainable Environment Strategy

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Newcastle-under-Lyme Sustainable Environment Strategy

Our Commitment for Newcastle-under-Lyme

Newcastle under Lyme is dedicated to ensuring a sustainable future that leads to improvements within our communities and we will continue to strive to reduce our own impact on the environment in everything we do.

Foreword by Councillor Trevor Johnson Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling

Over the last two years the Country has been focussing on the sustainability agenda and the environmental threats caused by rising carbon emissions, habitat loss, plastic pollution and poor use of dwindling natural resources. As a result, Councils around the UK and Governments around the world are responding to these threats and public calls for a robust and rapid reduction and mitigation measures and have declared Climate Emergencies as well as pursuing environmental strategies with the aim of accelerating action to achieve carbon neutrality, consider how to mitigate the effects of climate change and change how resources are used.

In April 2019, the Borough Council passed a climate emergency motion. A central element of this was the aim of becoming carbon neutral with respect to the Council's own estates and activities and those related to our residents and businesses.

The Cabinet have committed to establishing a Sustainable Environment Strategy. The Borough Council has historically had a strong commitment to biodiversity and energy efficiency. In 2007, the Council was a participant in Staffordshire Climate Change Partnership and climate change adaptation group. In 2008, we were a signatory to the Nottingham Declaration, making a public commitment to tackle climate change in concert with other councils. In 2013, the Council subscribed to the 'Climate Local' commitment, preparing and authorising an action plan to reduce carbon emissions and to promote action to tackle climate change with our partners and residents.

The Government has recently announced a ten point plan which is aimed at eradicating the UK's contribution to climate change by 2050.

We are now working in partnership across the Borough to tackle the environmental issues facing our communities and businesses and in particular with key partners such as Staffordshire County Council and Keele University.

Many of the issues can only be tackled together and to this end the Staffordshire County Council has very recently launched its own Climate Change Action Plan which will link into and support the Borough's Strategy.

Why have an environmental strategy and a plan?

A strategy is needed to protect our local environment and achieve our wider sustainability goals for the Borough. The release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere from human activity is changing the world's climate and the planet is warming up. Rising global temperatures in the long-term will create more extreme and unpredictable weather changes, rising sea levels, severe flooding and reduced water availability, all of which pose significant risk to human health, wildlife and ecosystems.

The Committee on Climate Change in its May 2019 report, recommended replacing the UK's previous target to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050 with a new statutory target for at least a 100% reduction of UK greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (compared to 1990 levels), and called for a set of "clear, stable and well-designed policies" to be introduced "without delay."

By this reasoning, it is understood that for the Borough Council to achieve its aim of carbon neutrality, it has to have a strategy and an action plan, which sets clear, stable and well-designed policies, delineating a 'roadmap' as to how it will arrive at this target. This is intended to be such a document, but at the same time, it is acknowledged that this is not a 'perfect strategy' and there will be information, plans and actions that may not have been included within it. This Strategy will not be static but one that will be regularly reviewed, added to, expanded on, specifically as more suitable and appropriate projects are identified.

All Local Authorities also have a "biodiversity duty" under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, A Green Future (2018), pledges that this will be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it, and pass on to the next generation a natural environment protected and enhanced for the future.

Our current commitment



We are committed to keeping Newcastle under Lyme clean, green, attractive and sustainable. Our teams already undertake a huge amount of work to ensure that we honour this pledge and below we give examples of some of that work.



Recycling, waste and resource management

- **Recycle More** - from July 2020, as part of the new recycling service, the types of items that can be collected at kerbside has been expanded to include plastic tubs, pots and trays.
- **Zero to Landfill** - none of the waste collected at kerbside in Newcastle under Lyme will go to landfill; instead it will be used to generate clean energy.
- **Over 90% of all recycling** in Newcastle under Lyme stays in the UK and provide transparent information about what happens to waste collected for recycling.
- **Recycling of household items** is used to help residents furnish homes.
- **Separate food waste** collection and recycling service is provided to residents in the Borough as well as food waste reduction awareness programmes.
- **We recycle machinery parts** and waste oil used at our Knutton depot.
- **The Cremators at Bradwell Crematorium** are designed such that the emissions from mercury fillings are captured by abatement plant, along with particulate and other emissions. 100% of our cremations are mercury abated and recoverable metals are recycled through a national scheme.
- **Keele Cemetery utilises sustainable building techniques** including ground source heating, recycled aluminium roofing, natural ventilation and a Sustainable Urban Drainage system.
- **We use only Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-certified timber** wherever possible and recycle our tree surgery arisings into mulch for shrub beds.
- **Peat Free compost** is used in all of our remaining bedding plant public floral displays. We have replaced over 70% of our annual bedding with permanent herbaceous perennials, and drought tolerant plants, and we have also introduced self-watering hanging baskets to reduce water use.
- **We have reduced our water usage** in public buildings with initiatives such as

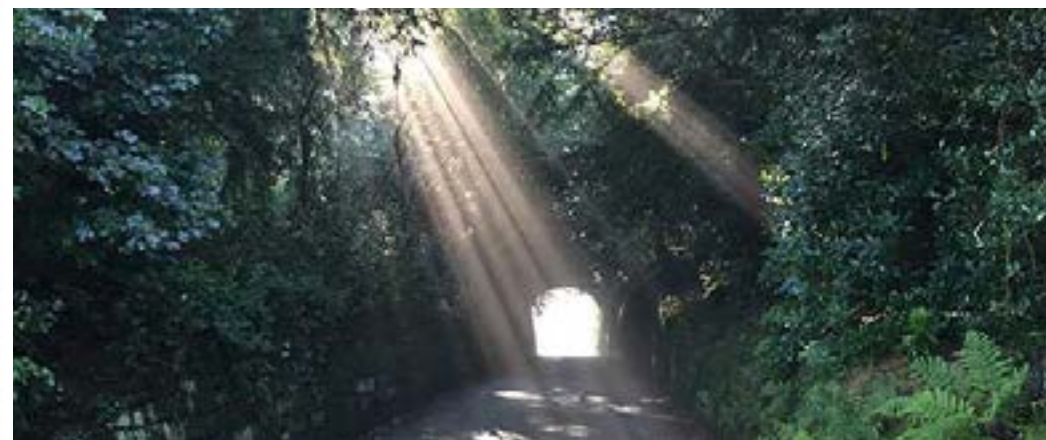
waterless urinals at Jubilee 2 and flush controls in the town centre public toilets.

- **Across our offices we are 'Digital by Default'** and discourage unnecessary printing.



Travel and Transport

- **We are currently accessing Highways England funding** to install rapid electric car chargers at strategic points which are easily accessible to the general public.
- **We operate a cycle to work scheme** and offer bike loans to employees.
- **We're working in partnership with the transport authority** (Staffordshire County Council) to develop cycling and walking infrastructure for the Borough.
- **We are trialling an electric scooter pilot** for Newcastle Town Centre and surrounding area.
- **We have procured fully electric vehicles** for our pest control and dog warden services and a Recycling and Waste fleet using the very latest Euro IV. engines.
- **We operate agile and home working**, allowing staff to work home where possible or from a location that is convenient to them, to minimise unnecessary travel.
- As part of the Kidsgrove Town Deal improvements to the canals will give **access to the town centre and wider countryside**.



Maer, Newcastle-under-Lyme



Built Environment

- **Our Emerging Local Plan** encourages sustainability and energy assessment for new planning applications/encourages new build to be low or zero carbon.
- **Our flagship Jubilee 2 sports centre** was built to BREAM 'Very Good' standards, has solar panels, and combined heat and power systems.
- We will deploy **sustainable building techniques** in or work to refurbish Kids-grove Sports Centre.
- **We are currently exploring options to bring forward key housing sites** and associated infrastructure and consider how solutions might use energy sourced at point such as through air/ground heat source pumps, solar or other means.
- **We consider and secure green infrastructure** in all larger scale projects



School's Planting Scheme, Newcastle-under-Lyme

through contributions to public open space on- and off-site.

- **We are developing a North Staffordshire Air Quality Plan** with Staffordshire County Council and Stoke on Trent City Council in key areas of local concern.
- **We secure the planting of new trees and shrubs** where appropriate, whenever we grant a planning consent.



Castle House and Queens Gardens, Town Centre



Energy and Renewables

- **We have installed photovoltaic panels** on the roof at Knutton Lane Depot.
- **We have reduced our energy use** across our built estate by 17% for electricity and 8% for gas over the last two years.
- **We use state of the art environmental building controls** at our Castle House headquarters building.
- As part of the Newcastle Town Deal we will **install solar panels** on the roofs of the shelters in the bus station.



Natural Environment

- We are proud of our heritage in creating award-winning open spaces – we have been awarded 6 Green Flag Awards for the Boroughs Parks, Gardens and Cemeteries and will continue to work to this standard
- We have an adopted Open Space Strategy and a Green Infrastructure Strategy which allows the Council to plan for the management of its open spaces for the long term benefit of residents and visitors, as well as improving resilience in relation to climate change.
- We engage the community to manage our local open spaces, parks, gardens, playing fields, woodlands and allotment sites and support community volunteering across a range of sites.
- We run and facilitate educational programmes and events under the banner of the long established Newcastle in Bloom initiative, including a high profile town centre and gateway public art programme, designed to raise awareness of our local natural environment.
- We manage 4 Local Nature Reserves with a diverse range of habitats, and encourage other recreational uses which can take place in harmony with nature, to maximise opportunities for people to interact with their natural environment.
- We encourage biodiversity and habitat creation across our open spaces through the use of wildflowers, native planting schemes and diverse floral planting displays which include pollinators to attract bees and other insects
- The Boroughs Urban Tree Strategy aims to protect, preserve and enhance the Boroughs tree and woodlands for current and future generations, and to adapt our tree stock over time to better respond to and mitigate climate change.
- We manage approximately 368 ha of native woodlands giving opportunities to get close up with nature and improve local air quality, as well as helping to address the national decline in native broadleaf woodland.

- We work with partners such as Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency on sub-regional projects such as SUNRISE, to protect and enhance local wildlife assets and create a connected network of green infrastructure.
- We will work with the Environment Agency on issues such as air quality, odours and flooding.



Award-winning Brampton Park, Newcastle-under-Lyme

Our plans are being developed in two complimentary works streams. The first is to fundamentally and comprehensively review the Council's own activities and services and incorporate actions into the Action Plan that make a significant contribution to this Strategy, the second is to work with partners across the Borough and Staffordshire to work together on Borough wide actions that will help achieve the targets set.



Our Ambition

Newcastle Borough Council's aspiration is to become an exemplar authority, known for both preserving and protecting our local environment for the present and future and also for enhancing our environment and the quality of life of residents.

Being more sustainable and mitigating the effects of climate change will require changing the way we do things, looking at our own services and ways of working and taking direct action wherever possible, as well as encouraging, supporting and enabling others to do the same.



We Recognise

The Council has formally recognised a climate emergency and in doing so it acknowledges that there is a real need to act now and plan ahead in how to tackle the environmental threats posed by climate change. This need to act will require a balance to be found between the prioritisation of funding for projects and the duty to be accountable for the way in which public funds are used. We will make bold decisions where there is a good business case to deliver the right outcomes for our residents and businesses that consider both financial and environmental returns for that investment.



We Will Review

We recognise that the pace of change related to climate change and policy direction is fast as well as the development of technology and best techniques to support these changes and become more sustainable as a Borough.

This strategy will therefore be fully reviewed annually to ensure that our ambitions and actions are aligned to emerging local, national and global policy and to identify the refresh the Action Plan as necessary to take advantage of opportunities as they arise.

The recent international focus on the impacts of climate change and the requirement for a sustainable future has also highlighted the importance of nature and bio-diversity to the planet. Biodiversity is critically important to our health, to our safety and even to our livelihood.

Five ways in which biodiversity supports our economies and enhances our wellbeing according to the World Economic Forum are:

1. Biodiversity Ensures Health and Food Security

Biodiversity underpins global nutrition and food security. Millions of species work together to provide us with a large array of fruits, vegetables and animal products essential to a healthy, balanced diet – but they are increasingly under threat.

People once understood that the conservation of species was crucial for healthy societies and ecosystems. We must ensure this knowledge remains part of our modern agricultural and food systems to prevent diet-related diseases and reduce the environmental impact of feeding ourselves.

2. Biodiversity Helps Fight Disease.

Higher rates of biodiversity have been linked to an increase in human health.

First, plants are essential for medicines. For example, 25% of drugs used in modern medicine are derived from rainforest plants while 70% of cancer drugs are natural or synthetic products inspired by nature. This means that every time a species goes extinct, we miss out on a potential new medicine.

Second, biodiversity due to protected natural areas has been linked to lower instances of disease. As human activities encroach upon the natural world, through deforestation and urbanization, we reduce the size and number of ecosystems. As a result, animals live in closer quarters with one another and with humans, creating ideal conditions for spread of disease.

3. Biodiversity Benefits Business

According to the World Economic Forum's recent Nature Risk Rising Report, more than half of the world's GDP (\$44 trillion) is highly or moderately dependent on nature and there is great potential for the economy to grow and become more resilient by ensuring biodiversity.

4. Biodiversity Provides Livelihoods

Humans derive approximately \$125 trillion of value from natural ecosystems each year. Globally, three out of four jobs are dependent on water while the agricultural sector employs over 60% of the world's working poor.

Ecosystems, therefore, must be protected and restored – not only for the good of nature but also for the communities that depend on them and nature-positive businesses can provide cost-effective, robot-proof, business-friendly jobs that stimulate the rural economy without harming the environment.

5. Biodiversity Protects Us

Biodiversity makes the earth habitable. Biodiverse ecosystems provide nature-based solutions that buffer us from natural disasters such as floods and storms, filter our water and regenerate our soils.

Protecting and restoring natural ecosystems is vital to fighting climate change. Nature-based solutions could provide 37% of the cost-effective CO2 mitigation needed by 2030 to maintain global warming within 2°C (35.6 F).

As ecosystems are increasingly threatened by human activity, acknowledging the benefits of biodiversity is the first step in ensuring that we look after it. We know biodiversity matters. Now, as a society, we should protect it – and in doing so, protect our own long-term interests.

We recognise the need for a considered and robust approach to Biodiversity and nature conservation across the Borough. Our teams manage 1800 acres of the Authority's own land, as natural greenspaces for people and nature. The Borough maintains and protects its Local Nature Reserves, Countryside Parks Woodlands and waterways. The Boroughs award winning parks and greenspaces retain conservation management principles at their core and include this in our strategies and management plans.

We recognise the importance of protecting the existing tree stock of the district; from street trees, woodlands, hedgerows and veteran specimen trees. We will prioritise and accelerate tree planting on our own land and we will also support and encourage local groups and communities to deliver and manage their own planting projects in their neighbourhoods and parishes through the provision of technical advice and signposting to funding opportunities.

The importance of creating green networks and corridors is a key feature of the Boroughs Open Spaces Strategy and we will strive to reduce fragmentation and isolation of species through the provision of new networks of green infrastructure where possible on our land. We also recognise the importance of accelerating the capture of carbon wherever the opportunities arise.

The Scope of this Strategy



The focus of our strategy is on delivering those actions that we know will deliver a positive impact and importantly where we know we have the greatest control and influence to turn our plans into actions for the benefit of the Borough.

Earlier in this Strategy a number of themes have been followed in exploring what we already do, what we currently know and what we might do to protect and enhance our local environmental quality and reduce our carbon emissions. Under each theme we have given consideration to what we might do around our own estate to improve environmental performance and what we might do across the wider geography of Newcastle to achieve the outcomes and Vision that we committed to.

The themes identified include:



**Waste, Recycling &
Resource Management**



Natural Environment



Built Environment



**Energy consumption
& Renewables**



Travel & Transport



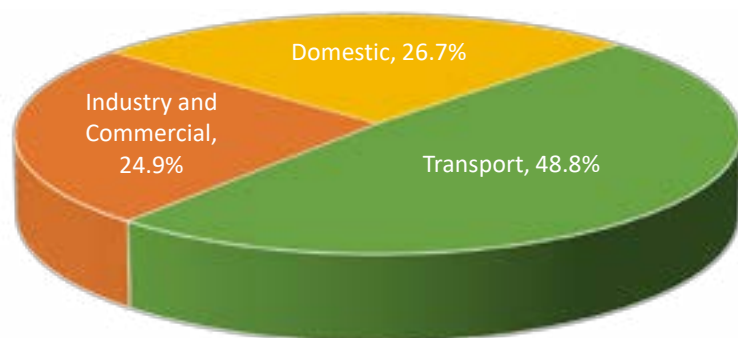
**Awareness, Engagement
& Behaviour Change**

What do we do know already?



National data available from BEIS Local Authority Emissions dataset on the level of carbon emissions within Newcastle-under-Lyme are split by domestic, industrial and transport emissions. It shows that for 2018 24.9% of total emission were from Industry and Commercial, 26.7% from Domestic and 48.8% from Transport.

Carbon emissions in Newcastle-under-Lyme, 2018

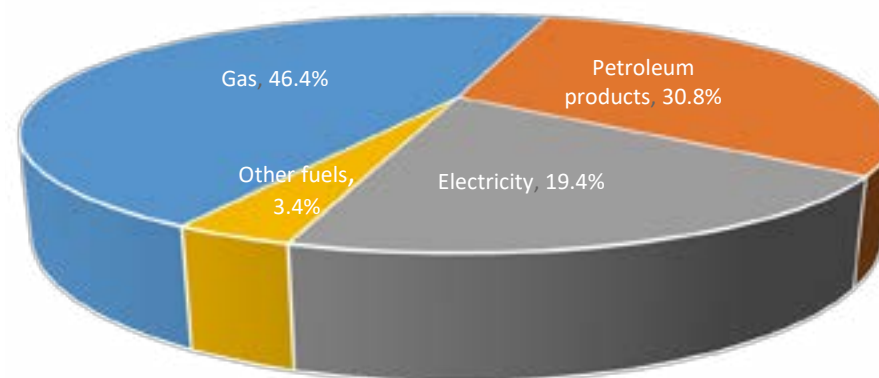


Source: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2018

As part of developing its new Local Plan, the Borough Council in collaboration with neighbouring Staffordshire authorities commissioned AECOM to quantify the current energy and greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2017, total fuel consumption in Newcastle-under-Lyme was approximately 1,278 GWh (5% of all fuel consumption in Staffordshire). The largest proportion of fuel consumed was gas (46.4%), with

Fuel consumption in Newcastle-under-Lyme, 2017



Total Fuel Consumption

The domestic sector accounts for the highest proportion of fuel consumption in Newcastle-under-Lyme, followed by road transport and industrial & commercial sectors. Within the domestic sector, approximately 75.2% of fuel consumed is gas and 22.9% is electricity. In the industrial & commercial sector, approximately 49.3% of fuel consumed is electricity and 37.5% is gas.

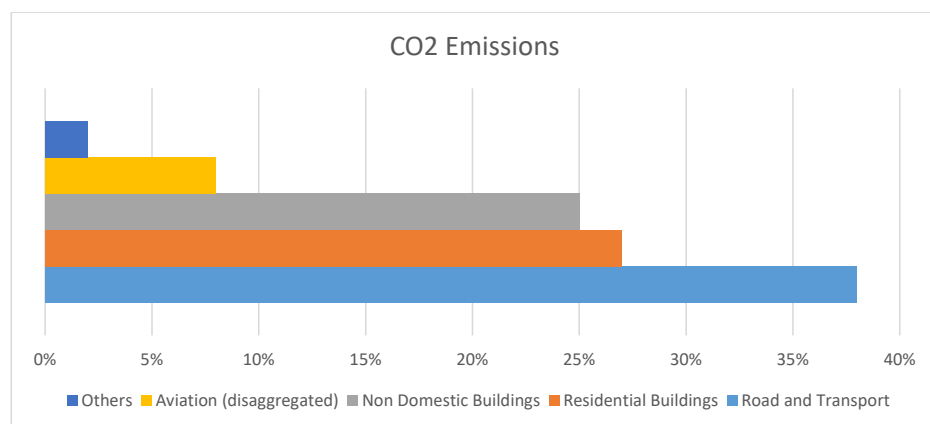
The baseline GHG emissions in Newcastle-under-Lyme are estimated to be 903.02 ktCO₂e. Of this total, Scope 1 and 2 emissions (i.e. those associated with fuel consumption and electricity used within the area boundary) account for roughly 767.38 ktCO₂e. the largest portion of emissions result from petrol and diesel used in road transport (38%), followed by residential buildings (27%). Within the residential sector, the use of natural gas (e.g. for heating, hot water and cooking) accounts for the majority of GHG emissions. Non-domestic buildings collectively account for around 25% of total emissions. Emissions from aviation make up around 8% of the overall total; these are based on UK-wide aviation emissions, allocated to Newcastle-under-Lyme based on its population. Other sectors, such as wastewater treatment, waste disposal, and livestock collectively account for less than 3% of total emissions.

What do we do know already?



CO2 Emissions

- Road and Transport 38%
- Residential Buildings 27%
- Non Domestic Buildings 25%
- Aviation (disaggregated) 8%
- Others 2%



The Tyndall Centre, a collaborative academic research project for Climate Change, has quantified carbon budgets at local authority levels. These carbon budgets are based on translating the “well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C” global temperature target and equity principles in the United Nations Paris Agreement to a national UK carbon budget. The UK budget is then split between sub-national areas using different allocation regimes.

The complete report for the Newcastle under Lyme is available at: <https://carbon-budget.manchester.ac.uk/reports/E07000195/>

According to Tyndall Centre, for Newcastle-under-Lyme to make its ‘fair’ contribution towards the Paris Climate Change Agreement, it must remain within its maximum cumulative carbon dioxide emissions budget of 4.6 million tonnes (MtCO₂) for the period of 2020 to 2100.

Table 1: Periodic Carbon Budgets for 2018 for Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Carbon Budget Period	Recommended Carbon Budget (Mt CO ₂)
2018 - 2022	3.2
2023 - 2027	1.5
2028 - 2032	0.7
2033 - 2037	0.3
2038 - 2042	0.2
2043 - 2047	0.1
2048 - 2100	0.1

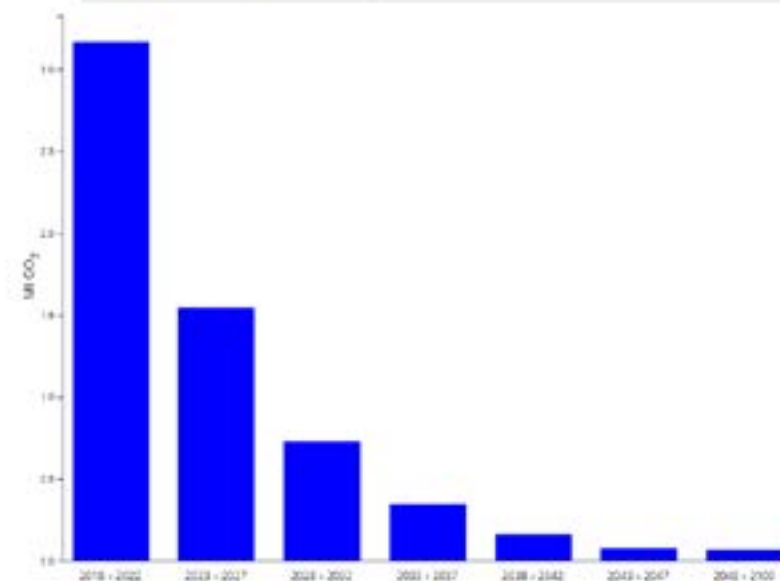


Figure 2: Cumulative CO₂ emissions for budget period (based on Table 1) from 2018 to 2100 for Newcastle-under-Lyme

The allocated Carbon budget of 4,600 kt Co₂ from 2020 to 2100 (6,100 kt CO₂ for the period of 2018-2100, as the current estimates for emissions for 2018 and 2019 have been included).

However, at the current 2017 CO₂ emissions levels, Newcastle under Lyme would use this entire budget, (which has been allocated a period of 80 years) within 6 years from 2020.

Priority Outcomes

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Although there has been good progress already made in a number of areas that support and enhance our natural environment, it is acknowledged that we could do and have to do more to achieve the aims of this Strategy and our goal of carbon neutrality.

We commit to achieving 100% carbon neutrality across our own operations and assets by 2030 at the latest through a combination of reducing carbon production and offsetting of any residual carbon emissions.

We will also work in partnership to achieve a significant reduction in emissions and improve carbon offset rates across the wider Borough and support Staffordshire as a County to meet its ambitions through the way we do things; ensuring that working towards carbon neutrality is a thread which runs through all of our decision-making.



12



We will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels by

- Reducing our overall energy consumption from our operations and assets.
- Harnessing natural resources, for example by harvesting rain and grey water.
- Switching to green and renewable sources of energy.
- Raising expectations of developers, through our Local Plan policies.
- Making sustainable procurement choices.
- Investigating green energy investment.



We will minimise waste and increase recycling

- Producing less waste, and encouraging the use of sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics and other single use items
- We will reduce our use of natural resources and encourage their reuse and recycling.
- We will continue to provide a wide range of recycling opportunities including a wide range of plastics.
- We will provide separate household and business food waste recycling services and promote reduction in food waste.



We will reduce emissions by

- Reducing our business mileage by more agile and home working
- Decreasing reliance on the car journeys
- Facilitating the growth of electric vehicles for both personal and operational use through provision of charging infrastructure
- Reducing the level of particulates in the district through the North Staffs Clean Air Project
- Facilitating alternatives to motor vehicle modes of transport including cycling and walking



We will offset carbon emissions by

- Increasing our tree canopy and sequestration of carbon through the combined efforts of the Borough Council, town and parish councils, volunteers and residents.
- Establish carbon capture parks and community orchards on greenspace and encourage community ownership.
- Protecting existing hedgerows and tree canopy from the effects of development and maintaining our policy on tree preservation.
- Protecting existing habitats wetlands, marsh and encouraging additional vegetation planting in rivers and ponds
- Increasing biodiversity, habitat protection, replacement and enhancement across our green open spaces.
- Working with local food producers to accelerate the production and availability of local environmentally friendly food stuff.
- Consider investing in offset as a last resort where we are not able to deliver it ourselves.

How we will deliver our priority outcomes

The following section identifies a range of actions which covers the next five years. The main focus are actions which relate to the Council's own activities and estate. In addition, there are a number of actions which benefit the wider Newcastle-under-Lyme borough.

Themes	Action	By when?
Overarching	1. The Staffordshire Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation Report has been finalised and key policy recommendations will inform policies in the Local Plan to ensure that new development will seek to mitigate the impact on climate change.	At the adoption of the Local Plan
	2. The following policy principles are likely to be taken forward in the emerging Local Plan:-	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presumption in favour of renewable energy development on unconstrained areas (which will be identified on the Policies Map), subject to specific criteria on design, siting, amenity impact etc. • Electric vehicle charging points should be included in all developments' parking proposals. Where use of existing parking facilities are being utilised, contributions towards electric vehicle infrastructure is likely to be required; • Requirement that all development should be adaptable to climate change and help reduce carbon emissions by including, wherever appropriate, decentralised and renewable and low carbon sources. • Requirement on proposals for major developments to submit a sustainability statement demonstrating consideration of energy efficiency measures and low carbon technologies; • Requirement for all development and energy proposals that would generate significant surplus or waste heat should take all practicable measures to utilise that heat to meet local energy needs; • Requirement to connect into the heat network or be designed to do so where this is planned or exists, unless it can be demonstrated that there are more effective alternatives for minimising carbon emissions or such connection is impracticable; • The Report also recommends consideration of a carbon offset fund. Should the Council choose to adopt this, the level of charge set would need to be tested in a Viability Report and additional resources may be required to manage this fund. 	
	3. To engage with Keele University (possible Staffordshire University) to explore what they are doing in relation to reducing carbon / becoming carbon neutral and to examine if the Council can learn anything from the work being undertaken.	2021/2022
	4. To explore if there is any national best practice examples and/or guidance to support the delivery of such work.	2021/2022

How we will deliver our priority outcomes

	<p>5. The Council has modified its Invitation to Tender (Open Procedure) Part 2 Questionnaire to include the questions linked to provider's carbon reduction plan and officers will monitor and report on responses received as part of any future procurements.</p>	2020
Reduce our reliance on Fossil Fuels	<p>6. An Outline Business Case is to be submitted to DEFRA, which will include a package of measures to be implemented with respect to Air Quality.</p>	2020
	<p>7. DEFRA funding will be required to implement and monitor required measures. Measures likely to be implemented are anticipated to be taken forward by Staffordshire County Council and Stoke on Trent City Council as the Highways Authorities with input from Borough Council.</p>	End of 2022
	<p>8. A 'pilot' of a Government funded E-Scooters scheme in collaboration with Staffordshire County Council has commenced for a period of 12 months within the Town Centre.</p>	2020 – 2021
	<p>9. To explore the option of expanding the use of E-scooters for local employees to use on distribution centres.</p>	2021
	<p>10. Staffordshire County Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) 2020-2030 establishes a programme of improvements for pedestrians and cyclists to include better access and improved cycle routes for the residents of the Borough.</p>	2020-2030
	<p>11. Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council, as an employer, has for a number of years, implemented agile working, to reduce Co2 from employee commuting. It has adopted a Green Travel Plan, encouraging Car Sharing, Cycle Loans, and Annual Bus Travel Card for its employees.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>12. The Borough Council has installed four electrical vehicle charging outlets for its fleet vehicles at its Central Depot.</p>	2020
	<p>13. A consortium bid, funded by Low Emission Taxi Infrastructure Scheme, has approved eight rapid electric vehicle charging points to be installed within the Borough.</p>	2021
	<p>14. Staffordshire County Council have developed an EV strategy for the County. The Council will use this as a basis for its borough wide strategy.</p>	2021
	<p>15. To investigate the installation of electrical vehicle charging points in car parks managed by the Borough for customer usage.</p>	2022

How we will deliver our priority outcomes



	16. The requirements for taxi vehicles to be electric or of a maximum age were rejected by Committee, as part of the last Taxi / Private Hire Vehicle policy update. Therefore older vehicles continue to be utilised and will continue to be licensed for as long as roadworthy and meet license standards in force at time.	2019
	17. To consider future amendments of policy and further consultation and adoption to the Taxi / PHV policy	2025
	18. To assess the suitability and applicability of financial support schemes from the Office of Low Emissions Vehicles grants for new vehicles / grant for second hand (loan schemes to support purchase of New and Used vehicles)	2025
	19. To assess schemes established by Local Authorities such as Birmingham / Coventry / Nottingham with respect to electrical vehicles and its associated infrastructure improvement and to incorporate learning for the Council.	2025
	20. To assess whether the Taxi and PHV is to be affected by the current / future clean air work. Will be subject to Ministerial Approval of measures to improve Air Quality.	2021/2022
Reduce Emissions	21. As part of the new recycling service, the Council has invested in Routesmart, allowing route optimisation with the new waste service. It is envisaged that once the new service has been embedded and routes optimised; fuel and emissions reduction will materialise.	Ongoing
	22. To continue to provide driver CPC training and offer ECO driving aimed at Driver behaviour and well-being.	Ongoing
	23. The current lease vehicles, which use diesel fuel, used by the Council Dog Warden & Pest Control Services will be replaced with 3 x Nissan E-NV200 Acenta Vans (electric vehicles).	2020
	24. The Council has installed Wi Bees Data Loggers in six of its buildings.	2020
	25. Based on the data captured by Wi Bees Data Loggers, the Council will seek to effect behaviour changes and optimise energy usage.	2023
	26. To begin the installation of a new Building Energy Management System at our Main Leisure Centre Jubilee 2	2021
	27. To utilise data of energy usage in Council Buildings to procure new "e-telligent" packages of building management systems.	2020/2021
	28. To appoint an energy specialist in-house or to engage an external specialist Consultant with the remit of reducing carbon emissions across the Council's portfolio.	2021

How we will deliver our priority outcomes

	<p>29. To Council has appointed external consultants to assess the feasibility of deploying low carbon technologies, across the Councils landholdings and buildings.</p> <p>30. The Council has begun working collaboratively with Keele University to explore new energy efficient schemes, district network heating.</p> <p>31. To Council has made preliminary assessment of the type of street lighting for which the Council is responsible for, 382 lights of which only 4 are currently LED.</p> <p>32. To develop a Capital Assets Strategy, which establishes the building maintenance and capital spend for Council Assets, which is consistent with the Carbon Reduction Agenda.</p> <p>33. To develop a proposal / business case to install LED to Council's owned street lighting.</p>	<p>2021</p> <p>2020</p> <p>2020</p> <p>2021</p> <p>2021/2022</p>
Minimise Waste, Recycle More	<p>34. To review what neighbouring authorities are delivering as part of their carbon reduction/carbon neutrality programme, examine if there might be benefits from a combined public sector L.A. approach;</p> <p>35. To engage with the Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce to understand the messages/guidance they are providing to the business sector on CO2 neutral energy tariffs;</p> <p>36. To explore what local medium to large size private sector organisations are doing in relation to reducing carbon / becoming carbon neutral (examine any learning from the work being undertaken).</p>	<p>2021/2022</p> <p>2021/2022</p> <p>2021/2022</p>
Offset	<p>37. The Borough Council will undertake a feasibility study for a tree planting programme on sites around the borough, to facilitate carbon capture and greening. Consultation, detailed design and cost estimates are to be prepared in 2021 and implementation to commence in 2021.</p> <p>38. The Borough Council is exploring the option of purchasing electricity and gas that is green tariff and assessing the financial implication of doing so and its likely carbon saving.</p> <p>39. To explore the feasibility of installing a 50kw array of solar thermal-PV hybrid at south facing roofs of NULBC central Depot.</p>	<p>2021</p> <p>2020</p> <p>2021</p>

We need to work with our partners to be able to deliver some of our aims and to enable and support others in delivering their priorities for change. We commit to:



Awareness, Engagement and Behavioural Change

- Work with groups and individuals across the district to develop a tree planting network, invite the Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission to share funding opportunities and build a volunteer group to help with planting and maintenance.
- Producing information on how businesses can help themselves to be greener and reduce their carbon footprint.
- List funding opportunities on the Economic Development webpage as and when they become available.
- Signposting business community to Government/ Local Enterprise Partnership and other environmental initiatives.
- Clarify the government offer/regional/Local / Enterprise Partnership.

Seeking best practice and information sharing with local businesses.



Natural Environment

- Work with our Parish and Town Councils and Staffordshire County Council to protect and increase tree canopy.
- Work with environmental bodies such as the Environment Agency to improve and protect local air quality, odours and flooding.
- Support local food producers markets and local food production.
- Support the development of a county-wide Air Quality Strategy.
- Work with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to protect and restore wildlife habitats.



Minimise waste and recycle more

- Take an active role within the Staffordshire Joint Waste Management Board to support and progress projects to reduce waste, increase recycling and enhance re-use of recycled materials.
- Design and implement communications programmes to encourage waste minimisation.
- Work to implement the forthcoming Government Waste and Recycling Strategy for the local area including deposit return schemes if implemented by Government



Built Environment

- Encourage developers to use sustainable materials and techniques through the Councils emerging Local Plan.
- Exploring with local partners opportunities to develop geothermal recovery projects that make use of residual minewater from the areas previous industrial heritage.
- Work closely with local registered social landlords such as Aspire Housing to implement energy saving projects, efficient building maintenance techniques.

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO

Economy Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee
11 March 2021

Report Title: Borough Local Plan

Submitted by: Head of Planning & Development

Portfolios: Planning & Development

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To update Members on the decision to leave the Joint Local Plan with Stoke on Trent City Council and commence work on the Borough Local Plan

Recommendation

That

1. That the report be received

Reasons

To ensure members are aware of the Councils approach to delivering a Local Plan

1. **Background**

- 1.1 Reports were presented to the Cabinet meetings of 9th December and 13th January with regard to the potential for the Council to separate from Stoke on Trent and commence work on a Borough Local Plan.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 Whilst work had been ongoing since 2016 to prepare the Joint Plan, work was progressing slowly. To increase the potential for the Council to ensure in had an up to date Local Plan in place by the Governments deadline of December 2023, Cabinet decided to separate from Stok on Trent and commence work on the Borough Plan.
- 2.2 This decision was informed by online consultation, direct approaches to key holders and independent professional advice from Lichfield Plc, a national planning consultancy.
- 2.3 Details of both meetings are provided in the reports to the two meetings appended to this report.

3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 Following the decision of Cabinet on 13th January, officers are now proceeding with the creation of the Borough Local Plan.

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

- 4.1 By separating from Stoke, the Council is now in a position that it can exert greater control over the timetabling of the Plan and its progress thus increasing the potential for the plan to be delivered by the December 2023 deadline.

5. **Options Considered**

- 5.1 Continuing with Stoke was considered but due to risks around delivery by the 2023 deadline, it was considered the Borough Plan offered greater opportunity to meet the Governments requirements.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 6.1 Delivery of an up to date Plan by the Governments target date of December 2023 is a requirement on all Planning Authorities. The decision to separate is considered to make meeting this target more achievable.
- 6.2 The Council retains a number of policies and allocations within the extant 2011 Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Plan though some of these have been superseded by the publication of the NPPF in 2011 and subsequent revisions and emerging case law. Nevertheless, they remain a material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications albeit the weight that can be attributed to the 2011 policies is somewhat limited.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 No significant changes identified. Both maintaining progress with the JLP and commencing work on a new Borough plan allow equal consideration to be given to equality matters.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 8.1 Delivery at pace as set out in the Cabinet report of 13th January requires additional resourcing as set out in the 9th December report amounting to an additional £550,000 over the period 2021-2023. These costs will be reflected in the Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 8.2 This funding is being orientated to strengthening the planning policy team in terms of capacity and expertise and associated project management resources.

9. **Major Risks**

- 9.1 Failure to have an adopted plan in place may expose the Council to the risk of negative appeal decisions on planning applications which result in harm to the borough.

10. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

- 10.1 Climate change and sustainability is a core element of any development plan. By establishing a Borough Local Plan the Council will be able to address the matter of the Climate Emergency target.

11. **Key Decision Information**

- 11.1 Whilst the decision to commence a review in December was not a key decision, the January decision to separate from Stoke was taken as a key decision.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 Cabinet meeting agenda and minutes of 9th December and 13th January.

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 Minutes and Agendas of previous Cabinet meetings

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 None

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Cabinet

9th December 2020

Report Title: Local Plan – Options

Submitted by: Chief Executive

Portfolios: Planning & Growth

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

The report seeks to provide Cabinet with an update on the Local Plan options following the economic and social impact of the Covid 19 outbreak this year and emerging post Brexit landscape.

Recommendation

That Cabinet consider the information provided and the option of commencing work on a Borough Local Plan for Newcastle under Lyme.

Reasons

To ensure that the Council has in place the most suitable Local Plan to guide the development of the borough.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Government requires local authorities to have in place a Local Plan to ensure that communities are in control of development, and not subject to speculative development. The Government has set an expectation that all authorities will have adopted development plans in place by December 2023.
- 1.2 In March 2014 the then administration took a decision to prepare a Joint Local Plan (JLP) with Stoke on Trent City Council, and to establish a Joint Advisory Group which would oversee the production of the Plan. The timescale envisaged at that time anticipated a JLP being in place mid-2018, following examination in public earlier in 2018.
- 1.3 Joint work has been progressed by the two Councils, although due to various issues, the original and subsequent timetable have been continually missed and in January 2020 Cabinet received an update on the JLP. The report noted that the timetable had been amended again to allow time to respond to the new National Planning Policy Framework, and in particular that the plan period had been extended from 2033 to 2037 to comply with the requirement that the Plan covers a period of 15 years from submission to the Secretary of State. To accommodate this, the report recommended that the Plan be submitted for consultation in two parts – Part 1, covering strategy and policies, and Part 2 dealing with proposed site allocations later in the year – subsequently this didn't take place due to the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak.
- 1.4 Cabinet considered the Draft Joint Local Plan Part 1 – Strategy and Policies to be published for public consultation during Spring 2020. In approving the report, Cabinet expressed serious concerns about relevance & timeliness of a number of the policies and requested that further work be undertaken on Housing Numbers, Rural Settlement Hierarchy and Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation to inform the final plan.

- 1.5 The onset of the Covid pandemic led to further slippage of the agreed timeline, but work has continued with the aim of securing Cabinet and Committee resolutions to commence consultation at the beginning of 2021.
- 1.6 During 2020 particular attention was been paid to updating the evidence base of the plan, addressing both the additional work areas commissioned by Cabinet and also the overall projections required for housing and employment allocations. This updated evidence base has underpinned the allocations and policies in the plan.
- 1.7 Since the JLP was first envisaged, the UK is now closer to completing a separation from European Union in response to the Brexit debate in 2016. Combined with the Covid 19 outbreak this year the future economic and social climate has significant potential to be more dynamic that anticipated at the start of the plan review and even at the time Part 1 of the JLP was presented to committee in February. The challenges and opportunities these events could create will inevitably require businesses and organisations to become more dynamic and flexible in the way that they respond to future events, and the local plan will need to provide an appropriate framework to enable that and support economic stability.
- 1.8 The need for increased agility within the plan to respond to new circumstances has created new issues that the two Councils will need to consider carefully, in terms of what policies need to be pursued and the degree to which growth will need to be encouraged in each area, whilst taking into account the impact that new development may have on established communities and the environment.
- 1.9 Whilst the JLP recognises the need for growth, this has been set at a median point between high and low growth scenarios. Should either Council seek to amend the JLP to revise growth aspirations or react to external factors as they emerge or evolve e.g. Brexit, Covid, trade deals, or other future events, there would be a need to jointly agree new targets, policies and other enabling provisions within the plan and those would have to be shared by both Councils across their combined areas without either area losing investment or accepting excessive levels of development.
- 1.10 In light of the events that have transpired since February 2020, Cabinet has asked for an opportunity to review of the options available to the Council to ensure that the Borough will have a Local Plan which addresses the emerging needs of the borough and takes into account the changing circumstances due to Brexit, Covid-19 and the potential impact of the recently published government White Paper on planning and decide if a single plan for the borough presents a better possibility of addressing these issues and uncertainties.

2. **Issues**

Current Position

- 2.1 The review of the current plan began with the creation of a Local Development Scheme (LDS) in 2013 which set out the route map the Councils would seek to follow to deliver an adopted Joint Local Plan.
- 2.2 The plan has now progressed through three stages of public consultation:
 - Issues (February 2016) which presented issues affecting the area
 - Strategic Options (July 2017) which presented options for employment and housing development based on different growth scenarios
 - Preferred Options (February 2018) which presented a preferred growth scenario, options for employment and housing development (including preferred sites) and strategic options for retail and leisure
- 2.3 This year has seen work progressing to update the evidence base to support the plan notably the Housing and Employment Land study which is being undertaken by Turleys Associates alongside the other work commissioned to address the concerns raised by Cabinet in January.

2.4 From this point, the work remaining includes:

- Review of the work undertaken since January (when complete) and decide whether or not to approve of Draft Local Plan for Consultation;
- Consultation on the draft JLP (known as Regulation 19 Stage) followed by
- Amendments with a possible further consultation on amended version of the plan if extensive alterations are required.
- Once the consultation process is complete, the plan is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination (the submission document) at which point the plan is locked in and the Councils can no longer make amendments.
- At the examination, the Inspector may suggest find the plan sufficiently robust for the purposes of decision making (known as being sound) – either with or without amendments (known as minor or major modifications) or, if it is deemed too deficient, unsound at which point the plan is taken back to an earlier stage for review and further consultation.

It is anticipated that, through this process, the Joint Local Plan could be in place towards the end of 2022, 4 years after originally planned. A critical consideration is taking a plan to inspection with underpinning data which is less than 2 years old. The focus of work undertaken by Turleys and other consultants in 2020 has been to ensure that the underpinning data is up to date and the current timeline will enable inspection to take place with data of sufficient currency. If it is considered that further work is needed at this stage before deciding whether or not to proceed to consultation on a draft joint local plan, there will be a need to undertake this work quickly to avoid delays which might trigger a need to update other aspects of the evidence base.

Planning Risks Associated with the Joint Local Plan

2.5 Over the seven years that the JLP has been in development much has changed in the economic landscape within which the plan exists, and in the Council's aspirations for the Borough. The two critical issues are:

- Covid 19 – The pandemic is not only likely to drive a significant reset of the local economy, with a high degree of turbulence in both the scale and nature of economic growth in the UK going forward into 2021 and the next two to three years at a minimum but it is likely to also bring about a number of social-economic changes too e.g. travel to work patterns, the role of the leisure economy and changing demands for housing types.
- Brexit – Like all other studies in the past few years, the work by Turleys to review the underpinning economic and housing data for the plan was commenced during the Brexit process. At the time this work began, it was felt reasoned considerations could be made around the future of the UK economy going into 2021 and beyond in the event of a deal or not being reached. Following the outbreak of Covid 19 it is too soon to fully assess the impact the virus will have of this significant development on the economy of UK and the local the area. Depending on the speed with which trade deals are put in place, and the nature of those deals, the local economy and the associated demand for employment sites and housing sites may accelerate or decelerate.

2.6 These two issues alone present a very real need to consider whether a wider range of policy or land use options and economic catalysts can and should be incorporated into the local plan. The Council will need to be able to respond to uncertain and changing economic circumstances which gives rise to a need for it to be able to review its aspirations for the Borough and ensure the long term growth and development of the Borough.

2.7 In a time of economic turmoil and uncertainty the Council will wish to use its overall policy framework to provide certainty and focus for the borough – the framework includes the Local Plan as well as the Council Plan and the Medium Term Financial Plan, all of which need to be in alignment. Whilst the JLP has been prepared in compliance with the national planning framework (NPPF) and as such has

some common ground between the two councils, the joint approach also necessitates both councils sharing a common growth target for jobs and housing delivery over the life of any JLP.

- 2.8 It is therefore essential that growth targets meet the future direction each Council wishes to take to deliver the growth needed to support their community's economic and social requirements whilst not causing unacceptable harm.
- 2.9 In the recovery from the Covid 19 outbreak and the opportunities that Brexit may offer, each authority will need to look closely at the needs of its area and consider how best these needs can be met. Whilst the effects of Covid and Brexit are likely to be similar for each council, the opportunity exists for each Council to address these opportunities in different ways to seek new investment, to secure new jobs, investment and housing to support the social and economic future for the people and businesses in their area. In some instances, higher rates of growth will open up opportunities to secure a part of any national growth whilst a more reserved approach may be necessary to ensure the worst excesses of development do not cause unacceptable harm. Responding in an agile way to these opportunities with a plan based on the borough geography is likely to be more straightforward than with a combined plan spanning different administrations. The opportunities anticipated from the Planning White Paper equally underline the need for agility and control.

Preparation of a Standalone Borough Plan for Newcastle under Lyme

- 2.10 Preparation of a standalone Borough plan would require the local plan process to be restarted, commencing with the creation of an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) – in essence the 'Project Plan' that identifies the documents the Council will prepare as part of the Local Plan over the plan production period. The LDS explains:
- The purpose of the Local Plan documents;
 - The resources the Council will require; and
 - Timescales for producing Local Plan documents, including when public consultation will take place
- 2.11 After the LDS is in place, work can commence on preparing an updated and Newcastle specific evidence base to underpin the plan, focussing on any evidence which would be more than two years old by the time the plan reaches inspection. Following this, the next major step will be the production of the Issues and Options paper which will set the broad outline of development across the borough after which the various stages of public consultation can take place, leading to the production of a Draft Local Plan for consultation. With appropriate resources deployed, and depending on the outcome of the consultations required, this could see a stand-alone plan in place by 2023 or 2024. Securing delivery by 2023 would assume no delays, and no challenges to the timeline, and with much of the 2020 evidence base still being valid, with limited additional data being commissioned.
- 2.12 As has been experienced with the JLP, Local Plans have a poor record of keeping to the initial projected time line. This is in part due to internal pressures but there are a significant number of external factors than can also have an effect. The current White Paper, changes to permitted development rights, a revision to the NPPF or development in a neighbouring authority can affect the evidence base or key assumptions and put the plan back months. Equally, work on Strategic Planning Documents (SPDs) such as design guides, new guidance on traveller developments, telecoms infrastructure provision or flooding for example can delay plan preparation. Such issues need to be carefully managed within the overall programme management of plan preparation.

3 Issues to Consider

- 3.1 In reaching a decision on how best to progress with the preparation of the Local Plan, there are a wide range of issues to consider, which are set out below. Members will need to be alert to the fact that any decision to not progress with the Joint Local Plan process would impact not only on this Council but equally on Stoke on Trent City Council who would also need to reset their process, and progress their own local plan.

The role of the Adopted Local Plan

- 3.2 The government places significant weight on the role of an adopted development plan framework, incorporating the Local Plan as well as Neighbourhood Plans, Supplementary Planning Documents and County Plans. Whilst the other aspects of the planning framework are heavily linked to the Local Plan, they nevertheless carry material weight if the Local Plan expires. This weight diminishes over time as new appeal decisions are decided and new policies are delivered at the national level. The Council's current plan is the Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan 2011. This precedes the 2012 National Planning Policy Framework, and due to the passage of time, is considered to be of limited weight in supporting planning decisions at appeal.
- 3.3 Whilst still having some value, the age of the current local plan does mean that any delay in securing a fresh local plan represents a risk to the Council. The Five year Land Supply is a specific key area where the absence of a current Local Plan can create a risk for the Council. By not having an up-to-date housing target, and a strategy to meet it, it can become near impossible for a Council to evidence how recent development has contributed to meeting the target. To address this risk as effectively as possible, the recommended route is to have an up to date plan in place.

Engagement with partners and stakeholders

- 3.4 Outside of the planning process, pursuing a Borough Local Plan and resetting the plan process would be of interest in a number of spheres, and consideration will need to be given to communication and engagement with key stakeholders including:
- Borough Residents
 - The development industry
 - Stoke on Trent City Council
 - Staffordshire County Council
 - Neighbouring authorities
 - LEP
 - MHCLG

Financial Considerations

- 3.5 Work has now been ongoing for a period of approximately 7 years to produce a plan, with a range of Council employees, agency and specialist commissions deployed on various aspects of the plan preparation to date. To cease the preparation of a Joint Plan at this stage will mean that that funds will have been deployed on a project which is not progressed to fruition. Newcastle under Lyme's expenditure to date on the preparation of the Joint Local Plan is estimated to be c.£316,000 plus staff time. A further £90,000 in external commissions would be required to progress to adoption.
- 3.6 It should be noted that this investment has primarily been targeted to the securing of evidence to support the policies in the plan. Many of these studies have been structured around separate sections for Newcastle or Stoke studies and it will be possible for much of the information contained within them to be rolled forward into any new development plan. Whilst not all of the documents can be simply separated and some of the work would need to be reviewed closer to the time any new plan approaches consultation to ensure the latest data is available, it is expected that 70% of the current material can be used again. This will dramatically minimise costs in securing evidence for a Borough Plan.

Costs to Prepare Borough Plan

- 3.7 There is a significant cost to producing a dedicated Borough plan from this point forward despite having commissioned most of the primary evidence. Additional budget provision would be required for a new Borough Local Plan, augmenting the current planning policy team and commissioning the necessary studies. This will be required to both cover work areas which might previously have been

undertaken from within the wider Stoke on Trent Council team, and work in areas where specialist external support would be required.

3.8 Delivering at pace would require a team of:

Role	Percentage of officer time dedicated to the development plan
Team Leader	70%
Principal Planner	80%
Senior Planner	80%
Planner	100%
Support worker	80%
Programme Manager	100%

- Staff Total Costs p.a. £250,000
- External commissions £285,000 – £315,000
- Examination (minimum) £70,000

3.9 Given the existence of a National Planning Policy Framework, and the development work undertaken to date on the joint plan, a Borough Plan is likely to share a large number of policies with Stoke on Trent, for example around assessing flood risk or commercial development outside of local centres. In order to minimise the cost of preparing a Borough Plan, the Council could take the work undertaken to date as a baseline to build on, utilising which ever studies and policies remain sufficiently current and sufficiently aligned with the Council's ambitions for the Borough.

Duty to Cooperate

- 3.10 Within the current National Planning Policy Framework, all neighbouring Councils are bound by a "duty to co-operate". This obligation requires Councils preparing plans to take into account the housing and employment needs of adjacent authorities and to try to accommodate some of their development pressures to prevent encroachment into the Green Belt. For Newcastle this would include Stoke on Trent, Stafford Borough, Shropshire and Cheshire East.
- 3.11 Stoke on Trent and Newcastle under Lyme operate as one functional economic area and housing market area within a larger sub-region according to evidence (SHMA/ELR). If the two authorities each preparing stand-alone plans the authorities would still need to continue to reach joint agreements on how to accommodate the housing and economic needs of the two authority areas under the current Duty to Cooperate. Failures to meet the Duty to Co-operate is likely to cause the Local Plans to be found unsound. The Duty does not change if it is a joint or separate plans.

The Planning White Paper

- 3.12 When released, the White Paper brought with it proposals around a new approach to plan delivery with top down housing numbers from central government and the concept of zoning.
- 3.13 It now appears the aspirations of the Government to see a rapid roll out of the new system may be more ambitious than can be delivered and the potential of a new planning system overtaking work on the Joint Local is diminishing. A new standalone plan however is more exposed to the White Paper and the timelines projected above might be affected if significant changes are made to the system.

Neighbourhood Planning

- 3.14 As indicated earlier, Neighbourhood Plans have in the past decade become a more important part of the planning process providing an important layer of local information and design guidance which the more strategic local plan cannot readily deliver.

- 3.15 Whilst they are generally well supported by communities, their production and subsequent adoption as a material planning consideration which can be used as the main line of defence in a planning appeal depends on the technical underpinnings supporting the policies.
- 3.16 This technical work is in part provided by agencies working for the parish groups but in addition, Local Plan officers have a significant role. In appraising the draft plans and advising on how best they can be formulated not only to secure adoption but assist the Council in winning appeals against inappropriate development.
- 3.17 Historically, this advice has been provided to the planning team through a part time role but this position has proved difficult to fill as it is part time in nature and there are few individuals who are able to provide the technical and organisational expertise required. Future consideration to strengthening the Neighbourhood Planning resource may be necessary, depending on whether there is a growth in community aspirations for such plans.

4. Proposal

- 4.1 Cabinet is invited to consider the issues raised in this report and determine how to progress with the development of a Local Plan which addresses the needs and aspirations of the Borough. If minded to progress the option of a Borough Local Plan, Cabinet may wish to consider:
- Commissioning further advice on the impact of COVID and BREXIT on the local economy, and the local planning process;
 - Engaging with the stakeholders identified in this report to better understand their position regarding a Borough Local Plan;

5. Reasons for Proposed Solution

- 5.1 To ensure the most appropriate local plan is delivered for the Council.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- a. In reaching a decision in this matter, it is important that Cabinet are content that they have identified and evaluated the full range of likely impacts of each available course of action, associated cost implications and identified and carefully considered all of the relevant factors, and has taken into account representations from those who may be affected by each available option. Cabinet must then balance these issues in arriving at a decision it believes is in the best interests of the proper planning of the area.
- b. A main consideration will be the potential impact on the outcome of planning applications during any period that the council's development plan is considered to be out of date, and the extent to which the National Planning Policy Framework and/or Neighbourhood Plans will be sufficient to ensure plan-led development. That will need to be balanced against the longer-term advantages Cabinet feels can be achieved by taking one approach over any other.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 Both maintaining progress with the JLP and commencing work on a new Borough plan allow equal consideration to be given to equality matters. It is considered that the impact of each decision is comparable in this respect.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

- a. Subject to replacing an agency member of staff with permanent staff which is scheduled to take place once the JLP is released for consultation, resourcing has been put in place for the delivery of the JLP.
- b. If a move is made now to commencing work on a Borough plan, officers will need to revisit the Local Development Scheme and the issues and options papers before commencing work in the draft plan. Delivery at pace will require additional resourcing as set out in this report, amounting to an additional £550,000 over the period 2021-2023, and these costs will need to be reflected in the Medium Term Financial Plan, as well as an allowance for any residual risks associated with this decision.

9. **Major Risks**

- a. Failure to have an adopted plan in place may expose the Council to the risk of negative appeal decisions on planning applications which result in harm to the borough.
- b. To put this in context, such decisions may include small sites of under ten houses to very large schemes in excess of 200 properties. Permissions by appeal also have the potential to deliver obligations in a less than desirable form taking little account of local needs or being removed all together. It also leaves the Council of being seen by the community as unable to determine its own future regarding the shape that development takes in the Borough.

10. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

- 10.1 Climate change and sustainability is a core element of any development plan. By establishing a Borough Local Plan the Council will be able to address the matter of the Climate Emergency target.

11. **Key Decision Information**

- 11.1 This is not a key decision

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

- 12.1 None

13. **List of Appendices**

- 13.1 None

14. **Background Papers**

- 14.1 None

Published 11th January 2021

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Cabinet

13th January 2021

Report Title: Local Plan – Options

Submitted by: Chief Executive

Portfolios: Planning & Development

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

The report seeks to provide Cabinet with an update following consultation in December and January on options for staying with, or separating from Stoke on Trent on the Joint Local Plan

Recommendation

That Cabinet consider the information provided in this report and determine whether to commence work on a Borough Local Plan for Newcastle under Lyme. If minded to commence work on a Borough Local Plan, then Cabinet is recommended:

- i. To withdraw from the preparation of a Joint Local Plan with Stoke on Trent City Council;
- ii. To commence work on the development of a Borough Local Plan, under the stewardship of a member Steering Group chaired by the Leader of the Council or the relevant Portfolio Holder;
- iii. To make provision in the Medium Term Financial Plan for the costs associated with delivering a Borough local Plan, amounting to £550,000 over the period 2021-23.

Reasons

To ensure that the Council has in place the most suitable Local Plan to guide the development of the borough.

1. Background

- 1.1 On 9th December, Cabinet considered a paper on the option of continuing to work with Stoke on Trent on the Joint Local Plan or departing from Stoke and commencing work on a Borough Local Plan.
- 1.2 The resolution of that meeting was that Cabinet supports the option of commencing work on a Borough Local Plan, and it agreed to:
 - Commission further advice on the impact of COVID and BREXIT on the local economy, and the local planning process; and
 - Engage with the stakeholders identified in this report to better understand their position regarding a Borough Local Plan
- 1.3 That work was undertaken following the meeting and findings can now be presented to Cabinet for consideration.
- 1.4 Consultation was undertaken through four channels:

- Direct approaches were made to a number of key stake holders including Parish Councils, developers and external bodies engaged in the Plan making process;
- Notice was provided on the Council's website informing people of the review and providing opportunity for comments to be submitted to the Council;
- An on-line survey was offered to allow people to express an opinion on the options;
- An external consultancy was commissioned to provide advice on issues relating to commencing a Borough Local Plan.

1.5 Each of these routes of communication provided information to guide this report.

Lichfields Planning Consultancy Advice

2.1 Following the December Cabinet meeting, officers commissioned Lichfields, a planning and development consultancy, to assist the Council in determining its approach to the local plan by reviewing the options available and the issues associated with the preparation of a Borough Local Plan. The company is a leading consultancy practice in the country and has been engaged in advising councils and developers on the planning system for over 50 years.

2.2 Their report looked at three key areas.

- The current plan position
- Emerging issues including Brexit and Covid 19
- Options for a Borough Plan

Current Plan Position

2.3 With regard to the current plan position, it was noted that the current Local Plan was adopted in 2003 and covered the period 2001 to 2011. The Joint Core Strategy was adopted in 2009 and covered the period 2006 to 2026. Both of these documents preceded the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) first published in 2012.

2.4 Together with the 2017 Staffordshire Minerals Plan, the joint 2013 Staffordshire and Stoke Waste Local Plan and the adopted Neighbourhood Plans, these documents make up the development plan for Newcastle Under Lyme.

2.5 The background to the JLP was reviewed including the Issues and Options consultation in 2016, the Strategic Options consultation in 2017 and the Preferred Options review in 2018. A summary was also provided of the current evidence base citing all the reports and studies that underpinned the work in the three earlier rounds of consultation and the next steps in making the emerging plan.

Emerging Issues

• Planning White Paper

2.6 On the emerging plan, Lichfields considered the effects of Brexit, Covid 19 and the government's Planning White Paper from October, Planning for the Future. The key expectation from the White Paper is that all local planning authorities (LPA's) will have an adopted Local Plan in place by the end of 2023. If they do not then there is the risk of intervention. These plans should themselves be no more than five years old.

2.7 The process proposed in the white paper involves the use of less reliance on repeating policies already set out in national guidance, the use of identified zones for growth, renewal or protection and other policy initiatives like First Homes and changes to permitted development rights. In addition, the importance of adhering to the Standard Methodology for defining the base line for housing delivery in

the plan area is highlighted and the December adjustments to the formulas to steer the level of housing to be provided across the country.

2.8 In the case of Stoke, the 35% proposed increase over their base line 500 dwellings per annum is noted as leading to a requirements for 675 houses per annum. Whilst notable, Lichfields recognise this is still below their past average of 810 dwellings per annum the city has delivered over the past three years.

2.9 For the Borough, they have confirmed that the annual delivery target will remain at 355 dwellings per annum, with an average delivery of 303 dwellings per annum over the last three years.

- **Covid19**

2.10 Lichfields note that the major changes experienced during the pandemic are likely to have long term impacts on where and how people work. Regarding Covid 19, changes in demand notably for leisure, recreation, retail and hospitality sectors are expected along with shifts in travel patterns and increases in home working. As these changes may result in significant excess stock of properties in one or more sectors, new plan policies will need to be sufficiently flexible to allow reuse or redevelopment of these premises.

2.11 One key shift anticipated is the move to more home working and a reduction in demand for high density office space. Not only would this affect town centres and office parks but also housing development as people seek home office space in their new properties. As the effects of Covid 19 remain unclear on the property sector, it will be ever more important for plans to be flexible in their nature to accommodate changing circumstances.

- **Brexit**

2.12 With regard to Brexit, this too is anticipated to have a significant impact on the country the effects of which are not fully known at the moment. Again, flexibility will be a key requirements going forward with any plan.

- **Progressing a Borough Plan**

2.13 Lichfields recognise that working jointly with another authority adds complexity into the process which inevitably causes delay and after seven years the JLP still has not progressed to consultation. Whilst not revisiting the reasons behind the delays with the plan to date, Lichfields state that it can be assumed that a single Local Plan, with the Borough in control of the process and programme, should create an environment where more rapid progress can be made.

2.14 The Lichfields report underlines the importance of reviewing the evidence base which underpins the plan, to enable elements to be re-used for a Borough specific plan. They note that progressing a Borough Local Plan will allow for the policies to be better adapted to the needs of the Council, and observe that there will probably be a need for additional land to be identified unless it can be demonstrated those needs will be met in Stoke on Trent.

2.15 They regard the Duty to Co-operate as an important issue to maintain focus on in the separation of the two plans as this is likely to give rise to complications going forward is not properly addressed. In addition, they observe that a Borough Local Plan will need to address the historic borough experience regarding affordability of housing affecting younger people, and under provision of housing against delivery target. An overly optimistic approach to delivery not previously experienced risks derailing any future examination process.

- **Delivery Programme**

- 2.16 Regarding delivery of a Borough Plan, Lichfields envisage that the following timescales could be achievable:
- Revision to the Core Evidence Base Early 2021
 - Publish Evidence Based Docs (inc. Green Belt, IDP etc.) along with updated suite of Technical Notes Summer 2021
 - Publication Draft (Regulation 18) Consultation Summer 2021
 - Submission Draft (Regulation 19) Consultation Spring 2022
 - Submission to SoS Summer 2022
 - Examination in Public Late 2022
 - Main modifications / Adoption Early 2023
- 2.17 This allows for a six to nine-month buffer period to allow for further modifications to be made to any draft Borough local Plan. However, it is critical that the timetable is maintained for the Regulation 18 and 19 consultations to avoid any significant delays. On balance, Lichfields are of the view that delivery by 2023 is probably more likely by a single comprehensive Local Plan for Newcastle under Lyme than the current two part approach to the JLP.
- 2.18 Their review did not find any significant hurdles to the Borough in achieving that goal. The programme is tight, but achievable. Resource implications will need to be considered internally. However, the evidence of other Local Plan processes shows that a robust/flexible plan produced on a short timescale is more likely to get through the process, than a long drawn out one.

3 Responses to Consultation

- 3.1 In addition to commissioning expert advice, the Council invited comment from interested stakeholders, including an online survey for residents of the borough. This feedback is summarised below, with a focus on the key issue of whether the Council should progress with a Borough Local Plan or continue with the Joint Local Plan. Whilst some contributors have made comments regarding issues which would need to be addressed in any Borough Local Plan, these are not repeated here, but will be reflected on when progressing a plan of whichever form.
- **Residents**
- 3.2 The on line survey elicited 265 responses with including responses from every ward in the Borough (only two responses were from outside the borough). In addition to background questions asking respondents for their background and importantly, postcode, three questions were asked:
- Do you think Covid 19 and the departure from the European Union (Brexit) will result in a different outlook for 2021 than expected a year ago?
 - Do you think Stoke on Trent and the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme should operate as a single economic and housing area or as two distinctly different parts of North Staffordshire?
 - Do you think Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council should stay with Stoke-on-Trent City Council working on a Joint Local Plan or commence work in 2021 on its own Borough Local Plan?
- 3.3 On the first question, 79% of people thought Brexit and Covid 19 would have an impact on the outlook for 2021 with only 15% not believing this to be the case and 6% unsure.
- 3.4 On the question as to whether people felt the Borough and the City should work as one area, only 14% agreed and 2% were undecided. A significant 84% of people though felt the two Councils act as two distinctly different parts of North Staffordshire.

3.5 For the final question, again there was a marked level of support for the Council to proceed with its own plan. 85% supported the idea of the Council stepping away from Stoke and commencing work on a Borough Plan with only 13% of people not supporting the idea and 2% undecided.

- **Comments from local Councils**

3.6 Staffordshire County Council and Cheshire East Council have both commented that the decision on whether to progress with a joint plan with Stoke on Trent, or commence the development of a Borough Local Plan is a matter solely for the borough council to determine, and that they would support and work with the Council regardless of its choice.

3.7 Of the three Parish Councils which responded, two (Loggerheads and Keele) favoured the development of a Borough Local Plan, whilst Silverdale favoured completion of the Joint Local Plan.

Industry Stakeholders

3.8 Industry stakeholders commented on issues such as the Duty to Cooperate, and the need to step up delivery of housing to meet government targets, and making best use of sites which are easier to develop without significant upfront costs. On the specific issue of Borough Local Plan or Joint Local Plan, those members of the business community who responded to the consultation favoured the continuation of the Joint Local Plan process. The key representations received were as follows:

- The Chamber of Commerce strongly support the completion of a joint local plan with Stoke on Trent, as they see as a mechanism to draw in investment into the area which may otherwise be lost to Cheshire East, Staffordshire Moorlands and Stafford.
- Wardell Armstrong did not offer a definitive opinion, but reiterate issues to be alert to, in particular around the Duty to Co-operate;
- Hollings Strategic Land support the continuation of the Joint Local Plan and then head to review within five years, noting the risk of delay in housing delivery, and the issues around Duty to Co-operate;
- URBME support the continuation of the Joint Local Plan process;

Interest Groups

3.9 Two interest groups responded to the consultation:

- Campaign for the Protection of Rural England support the continuation of the Joint Local Plan, and then preparing a new Local Plan under the new legislation which emerges from the White Paper.
- Save Our Green Space, an interest group which has grown up around the proposals to develop the former Keele Golf Course, advocated delaying a decision on the approach to the local plan until the national and local economic picture is clearer following Brexit and the pandemic. Underlying this, the group was keen to advocate a brownfield first strategy to development to assist in the preservation of the Green Belt.

Summary of Issues

3.10 From the evaluation prepared by Lichfields, and from the response received from the wider consultation, there are a number of themes which emerge:

- Residents strongly favour the development of a Borough Local Plan focussed on the emerging needs of Newcastle under Lyme as opposed to a Joint Local Plan with Stoke on Trent;
- Businesses voices who responded largely support the continuation of the Joint Local Plan, because of concerns about potential delay generated by a change in approach at this stage; his position is not supported by the Lichfields advice which points to a Borough Local Plan being able to be delivered in the required timeframe.

- Duty to co-operate – industry representatives highlighted the need for sustained engagement between the two councils, and indeed with other neighbouring councils, regardless of the approach taken to ensure that housing and infrastructure needs are met and that any plan is sound;
- Housing Delivery – whatever approach is taken, the consultation points to a need to facilitate housing delivery in line with the government's standard methodology for calculating housing numbers. This sets a baseline for annual housing delivery, which is currently 355 dwellings per annum.
- Greenbelt – While featuring in a number of responses, there is no consensus on this, with interest groups and industry each having different perspectives. Nonetheless, it is clear that this will be an issue which needs to be the subject of careful reflection in any Local Plan, regardless of whether Borough or Joint.

4 Proposal

- 3.1 Cabinet is invited to consider the issues raised in this report, taking account also of the issues raised in the initial report on this matter to Cabinet in December, and determine how to progress with the development of a Local Plan which addresses the needs and aspirations of the Borough. In its December meeting Cabinet was advised that, if minded to progress with a Borough Local Plan, and deliver at pace on that plan, it would require additional resourcing amounting to an additional £550,000 over the period 2021-2023, and these costs will need to be reflected in the Medium Term Financial Plan, as well as an allowance for any residual risks associated with this decision. It is clear from comments received that the pace of delivery is a critical issue, and any decision now to commence work on a Borough Local Plan would need to be matched by the resourcing necessary to progress without delay. Lichfields have confirmed that delivery at pace should allow the 2023 deadline to be met.
- 3.2 With the Brexit deal now completed, and the national vaccination programme generating an anticipation of being able to regrow the economy following the pandemic, there is a real need for the Borough to have a local plan through which that growth can be shaped. Additionally, investment in HS2 will both impact the borough during construction, and potentially influence demand for both employment and housing land as the opportunities associated with the development of Crewe station materialise. These issues combine to make this a key time to ensure the Council has an up to date local plan which directly addresses the needs of the borough.
- 3.3 If minded to support the development of a Borough Local Plan, Cabinet may wish to adopt the following resolution:
- i. To withdraw from the preparation of a Joint Local Plan with Stoke on Trent City Council;
 - ii. To commence work on the development of a Borough Local Plan, under the stewardship of a member Steering Group chaired by the Leader of the Council or the relevant Portfolio Holder;
 - iii. To make provision in the Medium Term Financial Plan for the costs associated with delivering a Borough local Plan, amounting to £550,000 over the period 2021-23.

4 Reasons for Proposed Solution

- 4.1 To ensure the most appropriate local plan is delivered for the Council, with resourcing to enable the plan to be delivered at pace.

5 Legal and Statutory Implications

- 5.1 In reaching a decision in this matter, it is important that Cabinet are content that they have identified and evaluated the full range of likely impacts of each available course of action, associated cost implications and identified and carefully considered all of the relevant factors, and has taken into

account representations from those who may be affected by each available option. Cabinet must then balance these issues in arriving at a decision that it believes is in the best interests of the proper planning of the area.

- 5.2 A main consideration will be the potential impact on the outcome of planning applications during any period that the council's development plan is considered to be out of date, and the extent to which the National Planning Policy Framework and/or Neighbourhood Plans will be sufficient to ensure plan-led development. That will need to be balanced against the longer-term advantages Cabinet feels can be achieved by taking one approach over any other.

6 Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 Both maintaining progress with the JLP and commencing work on a new Borough plan allow equal consideration to be given to equality matters. It is considered that the impact of each decision is comparable in this respect.

7 Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 If a move is made now to commencing work on a Borough plan, officers will need to revisit the Local Development Scheme and the issues and options papers before commencing work in the draft plan. Delivery at pace will require additional resourcing as set out in this report, amounting to an additional £550,000 over the period 2021-2023, and these costs will need to be reflected in the Medium Term Financial Plan, as well as an allowance for any residual risks associated with this decision.

8 Major Risks

- 8.1 Failure to have an adopted plan in place may expose the Council to the risk of negative appeal decisions on planning applications which result in harm to the borough.
- 8.2 To put this in context, such decisions may include small sites of under ten houses to very large schemes in excess of 200 properties. Permissions by appeal also have the potential to deliver obligations in a less than desirable form taking little account of local needs or being removed all together. It also leaves the Council of being seen by the community as unable to determine its own future regarding the shape that development takes in the Borough.

9 Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

- 9.1 Climate change and sustainability is a core element of any development plan. By establishing a Borough Local Plan the Council will be able to address the matter of the Climate Emergency target.

10 Key Decision Information

- 10.1 This is a key decision

11 Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

- 11.1 Agenda item 7: Local Plan Update to Cabinet meeting of 9th December 2020

12 List of Appendices

Published 11th January 2021

12.1 None

13 Background Papers

13.1 None

ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2019/21

Chair: Councillor Gary White

Vice-Chair: Councillor G Heesom

Members: Jenny Cooper, Fear, Grocott, Jones, Olszewski, Panter, Reddish, J. Tagg and Rout

Portfolio Holders covering the Committee's remit:

Councillor S Tagg, Leader – Corporate and Service Improvement, People and Partnerships (for Economic Development Strategy)

Councillor Trevor Johnson - Cabinet Member – Environment and Recycling

Councillor Paul Northcott - Cabinet Member – Planning and Growth



The following services fall within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee:

Planning Policy and Development Control	Facilities Management
Building Control	Recycling and Waste Management
Land Charges	Streetscene and Litter Control
Housing Strategy (incl) Housing Advice and Homelessness) and Development	Crematorium and Cemeteries
Private Sector Housing	Climate Change, Sustainability and Energy Efficiency
Operational and Commercial Property Management	Environmental Enforcement
Strategic Transport	Environmental Health
Economic Development	Grounds Maintenance
Tourism	Community Open space
Taxi ranks	Parks and Gardens Maintenance
Bus Station	Flooding and Drainage
Markets	

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The core Work Programme is determined at the beginning of the municipal year. Issues can be added throughout the year with the Chair's approval or where a new priority area comes to the Committee's attention.

For more information on the Committee or its work Programme please contact Denise French on 01782 742211 or at denise.french@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES
Wednesday 4 July 2018	Work Programme	To discuss the work programme and potential topics that Committee members would like to scrutinise over the forthcoming year
	Recycling Service - Update	Items listed at Chair's request. Relevant Officers and Cabinet members requested to attend.
	Grass Cutting Team – Performance	
	Arboriculture Department- Workload and Resource	
	Planning/Development Control – Performance and Staffing	
Wednesday 26 September 2018	Work Programme	To discuss the work programme and progress of scrutiny activity and to consider any amendment/additions to the Programme
	Chair to report on Executive response to Tree Management representations	
	Recycling Service – Update	Report deferred from last Committee
	Borough Market Update	Committee to receive an interim update on the management of the Borough Market – report requested by Member of the Committee
	SMART Motorway (use of the hard shoulder as 4 th land)	Report to include action taken to lobby for the scheme to include Junction 15 – requested by Member of the Committee

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	Representatives from the BID invited to attend the meeting	Request from Member of the Committee to look at how the Borough can support and help build a strategy to enhance the reputation of the Borough
Thursday 13 December 2018	Work Programme	To discuss the work programme and progress of scrutiny activity and to consider any amendment/additions to the Programme
	Representatives from appropriate bodies invited to attend the meeting to enable Members to consider the issues surrounding development of the SMART Motorway and HS2	To encourage economic prosperity and development of our area
	Scrutiny of the charging policy at the Borough Town Centre car parks	Request from Members of the Committee to encourage footfall in the town centre
	Clarification of the Business Rates Support Scheme	Request from the BID
	Update on the planning and modelling of the new recycling service including the communication plan, what contingencies were put in place to deal with inclement weather and high staff absences in the department	
	Update on the Borough Market	
Thursday 14 March 2019	Work Programme	To evaluate and review the work undertaken during 2018/19
	Update on Tree Management Operations Budget Allocation	
	Economic Development Year 1 Action Plan	

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	Homelessness Policy (deferred to June meeting)	
	Allocations Policy	
	Future Recycling Strategy	
	Single Use Plastics – following motion at Council	
	Management of the Borough Market	
Thursday 20 June 2019	Update of Planning and Enforcement Recruitment	Request from the Chair
	Allocations and Homelessness Policy	Deferred from last meeting
	Recycling Service Update	Committee decision
	Work Programme	To discuss the work programme and potential topics that Committee members would like to scrutinise over the forthcoming year
Wednesday 25 September 2019	Update from Cabinet including car parking strategy	
	Recycling Service Update	
	Review of Single Use Plastics Reduction Strategy	Request from Cabinet – 5 June 2019
	Climate Change Mitigation	Request from Council – 3 April 2019 – deferred for special meeting
	Update on the development of the Ryecroft Area	Consideration deferred to December Committee
Monday 25 November 2019	Climate Change Mitigation	
Tuesday 17 December 2019	Update on the development of the Ryecroft Area	
	Joint Allocations Policy	
	Benchmarking Exercise	Cabinet Report on benchmarking visits to town centres and markets.

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	Bradwell Crematorium	Report on Bradwell Crematorium to include expenditure and maintenance programme and the feasibility of setting up a Friends of Bradwell Crematorium Group. Request from Member of the Committee.
	Recycling Service Update	
Wednesday 5 February 2020	Air Quality update Draft Joint Local Plan	
Thursday 26 March 2020 (meeting cancelled)	Air Quality – presentation of Outline Business Case Recycling Service Update	Deferred
Thursday 18 June 2020	Coronavirus Pandemic Update	To provide the Committee with the opportunity to scrutinise actions undertaken to date and the proposals for the next phases of recovery
Thursday 30 September 2020	Recycling Service Update	Report on the implementation of the new Recycling and Waste service detailing any issues encountered and anything learned in moving forward.
	Development of the Ryecroft area	To provide the Committee with an update on how the two Town Centre Bids for Newcastle and Kidsgrove are progressing, the current position including anything conducive to the two bids.
	Environmental Enforcement	A review of the Environmental Health Department's additional workload as a result of the Covid outbreak and Government Requirements. To further review the resourcing levels in place to achieve these requirements and risk to any current services as a result. Are any further support mechanisms required either in the short or long term from Council.
Thursday 12 November 2020	Air Quality project	To give the Committee the opportunity to consider the Air Quality Report prior to consideration by Cabinet
Thursday 17 December, 2020	Town Deals Update	To provide the Committee with an update on how the two Town Centre Bids for Newcastle and Kidsgrove are progressing, the current position and which schemes were being worked up to.
	Review of Planning Enforcement	To provide the Committee with an overview of the processes undertaken by the team. The effect that Covid has had on the

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		number of reported enforcements and the potential to lobby MPs to discuss enforcement in Parliament.
	Review of litter bins in the Borough	To give the Committee the opportunity to consider what to include in the review of litter bins across the Borough
11 March, 2021	Sustainable Environment Strategy Future High Streets Fund update Town Investment Plans for Newcastle and Kidsgrove – update on progress Borough Local Plan	Request from the Chair
17 June, 2021	Environmental Enforcement	Request from the Chair
<p>To keep under review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling Service Update • Development of the Ryecroft area • Update report following review of the tree management contract in February 2020 • Bradwell Crematorium • Local Plan – proposals to undertake a Borough Plan 		

February 2021

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