

Public Document Pack

Date of meeting Thursday, 17th June, 2021
Time 7.00 pm
Venue Astley Room - 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 last meeting of the Committee held on 11th March 2021.
- 4 UPDATE FROM CABINET**
Nothing to report.
- 5 PROGRESS REPORT ON TREE MANAGEMENT** **(Pages 11 - 18)**
- 6 FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND UPDATE**
To consider a presentation.
- 7 TOWN INVESTMENT PLANS FOR KIDSGROVE AND
NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME**
To consider a presentation.
- 8 WORK PROGRAMME** **(Pages 19 - 24)**
- 9 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.
- 10 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), Helena Maxfield (Vice-Chair), David Grocott, Dave Jones, Mark Olszewski, Amelia Rout, Jennifer Cooper, Andrew Fear, John Tagg, Barry Panter and Marion Reddish

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

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, 11th March, 2021
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

Present:	Councillor Gary White (Chair)		
Councillors:	Mark Olszewski Barry Panter Marion Reddish John Tagg	Amelia Rout Dave Jones Andrew Fear Jennifer Cooper	David Grocott Andrew Parker
Officers:	Simon McEneny Daniel Dickinson Georgina Evans David Adams Geoff Durham Shawn Fleet Jordan Ibinson	Executive Director - Commercial Development & Economic Growth Head of Legal & Governance /Monitoring Officer Head of People and Organisational Development Executive Director Operational Services Mayor's Secretary / Member Support Officer Head of Planning and Development Apprentice - Infrastructure Technician	

Note: In line with Government directions for the CV-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted using a hybrid method through video conferencing and attendance in person, whilst observing social distancing - 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**

Apologies were received from Councillor Gill Heesom.

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 17 December, 2020 be agreed as a correct record.

4. **UPDATE FROM CABINET**

There was nothing to report.

5. SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling, Councillor Trevor Johnson introduced the report. During the past two years the country had been concentrating on the sustainability agenda and the threats caused by rising carbon emissions such as loss of habitat and plastic pollution.

In April, 2019, the Council passed a Climate Emergency Motion with the aim of becoming carbon neutral, in respect of the Council's own estates and activities and relating to the Borough's resident and businesses, as soon as possible. In December, 2020 Councillor Trevor Johnson recommended a Sustainable Environment Strategy and Action Plan to the Cabinet for the Council and the Borough which was approved. A copy of the Strategy was appended to the report.

The Council's Executive Director for Operational Services, Dave Adams advised that, underpinning the changes that the Strategy sought to make, there was a commitment that Newcastle-under-Lyme was dedicated to ensuring a sustainable future leading to improvements within the communities and would continue to strive to reduce its own impact on the environment. Reference was made to paragraph 2.3 of the Cabinet report which identified four priority outcomes.

The Strategy would set out a future direction of travel for the Council. The Council would not be starting from a zero base. The section of the Strategy, titled 'Our Current Commitment' gave a wide range of actions, activities and initiatives which would all make a positive contribution towards achieving the aims in these areas. The areas would be: recycling and waste and resource management; Travel and Transport; the built environment; energy and renewables; the natural environment and awareness engagement and behavioural change. The Strategy contained an action plan which covered the next five years. The main focus would be actions which related to the Council's own activities and estate and would include actions which would affect the wider Borough.

Reference was made to paragraph 8 of the Cabinet report, outlining financial and resource implications.

The Council would need to work with its partners in order to deliver some of the aims and to support them in delivering their priorities for change.

Councillor Panter stated that this was one of the most detailed and informative strategies that he had seen. Reference was made to paragraph 2.11 of the Cabinet report which referred to the 2030 target date. Councillor Panter did not think that the date was practical and felt that 2050 was the more practical target.

Dave Adams clarified that, at a previous meeting of this Committee, the matter was discussed and it was resolved to support the date of 2030 being the latest point at which the Council should achieve zero carbon emissions for its own activities, being distinct from supporting the date of 2050 as being the more realistic date for achieving carbon neutrality for the Borough as a whole.

Councillor Jenny Cooper welcomed the Strategy stating that it was important. As part of the education and engagement for the Strategy, could the Council further educate members of the public around the number of times that plastic could be recycled and the number of other single use plastics and alternatives that people could purchase.

Dave Adams noted the comment stating that it was a good proposal.

Councillor Olszewski asked how confident Dave Adams felt that 2030 would be achievable and if there were any doubts, which parts of the Strategy would not be achievable.

Dave Adams stated that this was difficult to answer. 2030 was now less than ten years away and it would be challenging. The Action Plan set out a wide range of actions to work towards that target. Achievability would also depend upon how technology advances for vehicles for example plus the affordability of such new technology. Education and awareness would be key to this to effect behavioural change.

Councillor Olszewski referred to the glass milk and pop bottles that were used in the past which were reused many times over. Those times needed to be looked back upon for a way forward.

The Chair stated that this was, quite rightly an ambitious plan as the Council needed to be leading the way. The plan needed to be reviewed regularly and brought back to this committee twice a year.

Resolved: That the Sustainable Environment Strategy be endorsed and that the comments be noted.

6. TOWN INVESTMENT PLANS FOR KIDSGROVE AND NEWCASTLE

The Council's Executive Director for Commercial Development and Economic Growth, Simon McEneny gave a presentation on the Town Deals.

Kidsgrove Town Deal was the first to be submitted to the MHCLG just before Christmas and on 3 March, 2021 it was announced that the Council had been allocated £16.9m. The Town Deal Board would be asked at an upcoming meeting if they wished to accept the £16.9m and, if so, this would be confirmed back to Government within two months stating how the funds would be reallocated. Once done, business cases would need to be drawn up and confirmed by the Council's S151 Officer. The Government would then release the funding on a project by project basis over twelve months.

Newcastle Town Deal was submitted later – in January and an announcement would be awaited in late spring/early summer, 2021.

A request had been put in to the Government for some additional resource to work up the business cases as the Council did not have that capacity in house. The Government were offering additional twelve months support from external consultants and were asking local authorities to bid for additional funding.

The Chair stated that this was great news with almost £28m granted across the two bids and there was an application in for a further £25m.

The presentation provided information on Advanced Town Deal Funding which showed how £1.75m had been allocated in addition to the Town Deal Funds. This had been allocated in advance of the Town Deals being given. The money had been awarded last August and the Council had been given until the end of March, 2021 to spend £1m in Newcastle and £750,000 in Kidsgrove.

For Kidsgrove, works such as the 3G pitch, works at the Sports Centre and work in Clough Hall Park were undertaken and for Newcastle and Knutton, purchasing the PCT building, a new employment skills hub in Lancaster Buildings, a contribution was made to the demolition of the former Zanzibar building. The last contract for all of these would begin on site on 15 March so the vast majority of money would be spent by the end of March and the Government had allowed the Council to switch budgets in order to show spend on other projects.

Councillor Panter asked about the e-scooter trial and whether there was any evidence as yet on the possible success of the scheme.

Simon McEneny stated the company doing the trial were happy with the take-up which was in line with their aspirations before the trial. More scooters were being deployed across the north of the town centre and the company were considering the possibility of renting the scooters out.

The Chair asked if there were any obstacles in terms of delivery of the projects by the Council.

Simon McEneny confirmed that there were no obstacles. Governance had been set up so the right people were around the table, making the decisions. In addition, plans were already being worked through as if the funding had already been received. Job descriptions had also been written up for project management support.

Resolved: That the information be received.

7. FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND

The Council's Executive Director for Commercial Development and Economic Growth, Simon McEneny gave a presentation on the Future High Streets funding. An announcement had been made in December, 2020 that the Council had been awarded £11m. Just over £17m had been applied for and confirmation had been received about the award. By the end of January, 2021 the Council had to submit back to the Government how the money would be reallocated and which schemes would be reduced or removed. It had been decided that the Midway car park demolition and public realm improvements could be removed to fit the £11m funding awarded. It was hoped that confirmation of the reallocation would be received next week.

Detailed business cases had been worked on over the last fourteen months looking at the capital and running costs to make them Green Book Compliant. Once the Government were happy with the split they would confirm and issue an award letter.

In order to get things underway, the Council was working up contracts for the demolition of the former Civic Offices which would take place by the end of 2021/early 2022 at which time the plans for the Ryecroft could get underway.

The Chair asked if the reduction to £11m from £17m was proportional across England or were there specific reasons behind the decision.

Simon McEneny advised that the bid was oversubscribed and therefore the Government applied a 69% allocation to all bids across England.

The Chair asked how the decision was reached to remove the Midway and Public Realm improvements.

Simon McEneny advised that the original bid of £17m the priorities were examined. Unlocking Ryecroft for redevelopment would be determined by the demolition of the former Civic Offices which had a certain cost. The car park also had costs which were required to complete the project in full. Public Realm improvements could be dealt with through different funding streams, for example CIL or Section 106 Agreements. The Midway car park demolition could come as a commercial investment or as a project in association with another partner.

The Chair asked if there was a time plan upon awarding of the Fund.

Simon McEneny confirmed that the Civic Offices demolition award would start within 2-3 months. Planning permission had already been obtained and contractors were being lined up. Asbestos surveys had already been undertaken. Partners, such as Aspire would be liaised with as to how they wished to lay out their HQ building. Construction works should commence in 2022.

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

8. BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth, Councillor Paul Northcott introduced a report on the Borough Local Plan. The report had been brought to update Members on the decision to leave the Joint Local Plan with Stoke-on-Trent City Council and to produce the Council's own Borough Local Plan.

Two reports had gone through Cabinet on 9 December, 2020 and 13 January, 2021 to scope out reasons and rationale behind going it alone. During the procedure it was evident that there were significant differences in the two Authorities, for example, the Neighbourhood Development Plans that the Borough had going were quite significant in terms of underpinning the planning process. This was not reflected in the Joint Local Plan at the time.

Whilst working on the Joint Local Plan since 2016 there had been numerous stalling blocks and work had been progressing slowly and information was therefore becoming out of date.

The Council's Head of Planning and Development, Shawn Fleet stated that the key word was agility. Working with Stoke on Trent did have its merits. Common interests were shared around housing and employment markets but there were different interests too such as HS2 and the need to integrate neighbourhood plans was important.

Over the Christmas period some survey work had been undertaken consulting with the public and contacting key consultees and neighbouring councils and also gaining independent advice. Two hundred and sixty five responses came back and 85% were keen to see the delivery of a Borough Plan.

Timetables had been looked at to see if it could be achieved and the key target was the Government's deadline of December, 2023 to get an adopted plan in place.

Working with Lichfield, the National Consultancy and others the Council had looked at what needed to be done. There was an element of taking a step back from the

position reached with the Joint Local Plan but it was believed that replotting and following the path of a Borough Plan, the Council could have confidence that the Government deadline would be met.

Key stages would be around issues and options. This was part of the plan that was done for the joint plan but the issues needed to be checked to see if they were still pertinent for the Borough and where the public saw opportunities to deliver development as it moved forward and the growth scenarios that were being considered. Also, settlements in terms of rural and urban areas. This would be looked at in the Autumn with the intention that a draft Plan would be published in September, 2022 identifying sites and looking at detailed policies for people to work around. Over the next year, comments made on the plan would be picked up, examined and the adoption target hit.

Confidence to reach that goal was why the Council had stepped away from the work done on the joint plan and the agenda to reset to a Borough plan in its place. Not only would it pick up on HS2 and neighbourhood plans but being a Borough plan it would also allow the picking up of emerging agendas such as carbon neutrality for the Borough and work on the Future High Streets.

There was a resource element in that the Council was losing some of the skill sets that Stoke had but the Cabinet had committed to bringing in additional staff.

One of the concerns had been losing all of the evidence from the previous joint plan. Fortunately a lot of the work had been structured in terms of being appropriate for both Authorities and some studies had distinct Newcastle chapters making it relatively easy to pick some of the information out. There was a substantial amount of information that could be carried across to the Borough Plan. A lot of evidence would have to be reviewed as a result of Covid to ensure that impacts and opportunities were looked at.

Councillor Panter found it encouraging that Lichfield and a large majority of people favoured a Borough plan.

The Chair stated that he had previously had concerns about moving to a Borough Plan in terms of the time spent on a joint plan and how much of that work had been wasted both from a content and financial point of view and how much needed to be repeated, reinvigorated and reissued to update it.

Shawn Fleet stated that the evidence base was the asset of the whole process which underpinned a lot of the future decision making. This being up to date was paramount. As the plan progressed over the past 7 years some initial evidence was being left behind and the Council went through a process, last year, of updating the evidence with a revised end date of 2037. By taking control, the Council would need to ensure that some of the documents were separated but it could be ensured that evidence accrued could be used effectively.

The Chair asked what the financial implications had been.

Shawn Fleet stated that there had been some implications. Employment and housing studies, particularly, were the core backbone of some of the evidence base. However, with Covid, the information would have needed updating. What had been identified from the joint plan would be sufficient to take the Council through issues and strategic options that would be done in the Autumn. In mid 2022 that would be updated and partially reviewed to ensure that it could be reflected back upon for the

post covid economy, particularly for home working. How would this affect the High Street and places of work.

The key test would come at the examination stage in 2023 when the Inspector asks for proof that the Plan is 'sound' and whether it reflected the market, the environment and be reflective of the Borough's future direction.

Councillor Northcott stated that the change was made before the major spend on the final stage of the Joint Local Plan. A lot of officer time would be dedicated to the development of the Plan.

It was not given that the Inspector would accept the Joint Local Plan, bearing in mind the changes that were going to happen. In that instance another Plan would have had to have been produced because evidence was not robust and that would have incurred more cost.

A Borough Local Plan would be tailor made to Newcastle and would more closely reflect its needs. In addition, it would be more robust in terms of challenge going forward.

The Chair asked if there were any implications in moving to this on the Neighbourhood Development Plans that were coming to fruition. Councillor Northcott stated that those would be a snapshot of what was required at a local level. Some adjustments may be needed in the Plans where they had appropriated growth in their area.

The Chair asked about the struggle to bring Planning Officers into the Authority and what Shawn Fleet's view was on attracting them. Shawn Fleet advised that adverts had been sent out a few months ago for a junior post and this had now been appointed to and the successful candidate had started working. Further posts had been worked on and Shawn Fleet was confident that good candidates would come forward for those positions.

Councillor Northcott added that Newcastle was a good Planning Authority and commended Shawn Fleet and Jemma March's teams for their work and commitment.

Resolved: That the information be received and the comments noted

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**

The following item was considered urgent due to its content in relation to the Extraordinary Council meeting being held on 18 March, 2021.

Walley's Quarry Landfill

The Chair advised Members of the special meeting being held on the 18th March and the work of the Scrutiny Review Working Party - Walley's Quarry which would need to be considered by Council.

The usual process would be for the Working Party to report back to this Committee first prior to it being considered by Council. Given the time constraints this would not be possible and therefore, Members were asked for their authority to proceed on that basis.

Members were in agreement.

CLLR GARY WHITE
Chair

Meeting concluded at 8.05 pm

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Choose an item.

17 June 2021

Report Title: Progress Report on Tree Management

Submitted by: Executive Director – Operational Services

Portfolios: Environment and Recycling

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To provide the committee with a report on progress with the management of the Council's tree stock and associated risks

Recommendation

That

- 1. The committee receives the report and acknowledges the current approach to tree management and associated risks**
- 2. The committee endorses the proposed mechanism to enable Parish Councils and other organisations to implement and fund tree work which is considered to be a local priority**

Reasons

To ensure that the Council is managing its tree stock and associated risks appropriately, within the resource constraints which apply

1. Background

- 1.1** The Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee has received reports in the past on the Council's approach to tree management. The Chair has requested an update report.

2. Issues

As at 1st April 2021 an assessment of the Tree Management System (TMS) database has revealed that there are a total of 4,489 trees awaiting attention by way of pruning or felling. This includes all trees that are the responsibility of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, and includes all identified work from low risk/low priority pruning to high risk/high priority work.

In addition, 80 locations have been identified where woodland thinning is desirable, but these are large tasks of relatively low priority.

The figure is deemed to be as accurate as possible and has been achieved following a detailed assessment of every entry within the TMS that contains outstanding work.

At the end of March 2020 a total of 2,951 trees were estimated to be awaiting attention, so the 2021 figure of 4,489 represents an increase of 1,538 trees, although the updated interrogation of the TMS has resulted in greater accuracy in the figure this year.

Although this may appear to suggest that the backlog of work is increasing, rather than decreasing, it is important to note that while this is the case overall (as more trees are inspected and added to the system faster than the existing work programme can remove cases), good progress is being made in dealing with the high priority work, which in risk management terms, offers the best possible protection to the community and the council. The majority of the backlog work is therefore rated as low risk.

In order to improve the council's tree management approach, the following progress has been made:

The Streetscene Arboriculture team moved from a seasonal team (operating 7 months per year) to all year round in April 2020. Year-round working, coupled with the acquisition of a MEWP (Mobile Elevated Work Platform) has had a positive effect on work completion times despite the impact of COVID, severe summer weather and a large number of emergency call-outs. A three-operative tree team has now been assembled to operate throughout the year, to replace the traditional seasonal approach, and this has had a positive effect on work output.

The council's contractual relationship with Hamps Valley has continued, assisting with previously unplanned and more complex jobs on the tree work programme where extra equipment is required with the hire of cranes, traffic management, power line outages, and cable-bracing trees. A budget of £30,000 per annum is available for this contract and is fully utilised each year. It is planned to re-tender for tree work support in 2021/22 to ensure the council continues to achieve value for money in relation to this budget.

As previously reported, tree work continues to be prioritised using the following criteria:

- Health & Safety
- Trees causing nuisance
- Routine works largely as a result of public requests or complaints.

Lower priority work, such as woodland thinning, cannot realistically be programmed yet and is not added to the work list.

The total number of tree works completed during the financial year 2020/21 was 793, an increase of 214 over financial year 2019/20. Of these, 697 were completed by the Streetscene Arboriculture team and 96 by Hamps Valley Ltd. The number for Hamps Valley is considerably lower than previous years as they have been engaged for complex tasks requiring specialist input.

Numbers of operations attended to were as follows:

Streetscene:

- 163 tree fells
- 445 tree prunes
- 84 fallen trees/branches cleared away.
- 2 woodland thinning tasks
- Other tasks including control of ivy on trees and removing ropes from trees

Major Streetscene interventions were at: Parkhouse Industrial Estate; Brampton Park; Silverdale Mineral Line; Madeley Pool; Grosvenor Roundabout; Priors Road Woodlands; The Three Parks; Hillwood Road Open Spaces; Bathpool Park; Lyme Valley Park.

Hamps Valley:

- 20 tree fells

- 66 tree prunes
- 2 fallen trees cleared away
- 2 trees braced
- 6 stump-grinds

Major Hamps Valley interventions were at: Harriseahead Park; Clough Hall Wood; Kids Wood; Newcastle-under-Lyme Town Centre (CCTV Project).

As identified above there is still considerable outstanding demand for tree work comprising 4,489 known pruning and felling tasks. However with the realignment of staffing resources, purchase of a MEWP and engagement of external support the council is reducing exposure to litigation claims and/or damage to property and/or persons by addressing high risk issues as a priority. It should be noted that even with this risk-based approach in place, the council has an extensive, maturing tree stock that will always pose an element of risk for the local authority.

The agreed approach to low risk/low priority work which is unlikely to be programmed due to the ongoing identification of higher risk work via the inspection regime, is to offer residents the opportunity to pay for work to be brought forward.

The resident payment scheme has been running for two years. This enables residents to pay for tree work, using our negotiated tendered rates (+VAT), for works to council-owned trees with a view to reducing waiting times for non-urgent work. Such work is undertaken by the council's contractor, Hamps Valley. In 2020/21 one resident and one parish council took up the offer to finance work. The protocol for charging residents for tree works that would otherwise be subject to delays is currently being expanded to enable a slightly different approach for parish councils to engage competent contractors other than the council's nominated contractor.

The proposed protocol is attached to this report at Appendix 1.

It should be noted that although the council is reducing the risk of litigation by undertaking intervention to an increased number of trees, should the current levels of resources not be maintained, the risk factors will increase.

3. **Proposal**

That

3.1 The committee receives the report and acknowledges the current approach to tree management and associated risks

3.2 The committee endorses the proposed mechanism to enable Parish Councils to implement and fund tree work which is considered to be a local priority

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 To ensure that the Council is managing its tree stock and associated risks appropriately, within the resource constraints which apply

5. **Options Considered**

5.1 The options considered are set out in the body of this report.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 The council has a duty to maintain its tree stock safely.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 No negative equality impacts have been identified as part of this report.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 There are no new financial and resource implications arising from this report.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 There are major risks associated with the council's tree stock, and they are managed via the Tree Management System which provides a recognised and defensible regime of inspection, risk assessment and intervention..

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

10.1

The council's tree stock and management approach contributes towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals 3, 13 and 15 and the council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

LGA Guidance is here:-

https://30312f94-9adb-4918-80dd-708c590bada3.usfiles.com/ugd/30312f_79b08331d11e44bc888e1ee08c05474e.pdf



11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 This report does not require a key decision.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 None

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 Appendix 1 – Procedure for Enabling Parish Councils to Fund Tree Work on Borough Council Land

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 None

This page is intentionally left blank



APPENDIX 1 PROCEDURE FOR ENABLING PARISH COUNCILS TO FUND TREE WORK ON BOROUGH COUNCIL LAND MAY 2021

A procedure was agreed in 2018, whereby if the Council was agreeable to undertaking low-priority tree work in response to a public request, but could not commit to the work quickly in view of workload issues, then the resident can be invited to fund the work. This work would then be issued to the Council's contractor, leaving the in-house tree team to continue with planned work without interruption. This document proposes a new procedure for similar circumstances where a parish council, rather than a private resident, is requesting tree work.

Waiting Times for Requested Tree Work

There is currently a large backlog of outstanding non-urgent tree work such that the council's tree work programme is oversubscribed for the next seven years. New non-urgent works are currently being listed for completion in financial year 2023/24. However, priority trees continue to be identified, which push non-urgent works further down the programme. Summer and winter storms result in major interruptions to work plans every year, as a result of which lower priority work is constantly deferred to following years. For these reasons, commitments for timings for tree work can never be confirmed. Parish Councils and ward councillors are made aware of the likely delays and the inability to promise dates for tree work. On some occasions, Parish Councils have asked if the work can be brought forward if they pay. It is therefore proposed to establish a procedure for this as follows:

Procedure for Enabling Parish Councils to Fund Tree Work on Borough Council Land

1. If the Parish Council requests tree work on Borough Council land the Borough Council will undertake that work if it is deemed to be a of a sufficiently high priority. Otherwise, if the Borough Council is agreeable to the work then it will be placed on the normal waiting lists.
2. Also, if the work is placed onto a waiting list the Parish Council will be given the opportunity to fund the work, either in accordance with the procedure set out for private residents, or by the following actions, depending upon the choice of the Parish Council.
3. The Borough Council would promote joint working by enabling the Parish Council to take ownership of the particular request, to seek quotes and appoint a contractor to undertake the work. The Parish Council could specify the works subject to the approval of the Arboricultural Officer.
4. The Parish Council shall submit a specification to the Arboricultural Officer for approval

5. Once the specification is agreed the Parish Council shall seek quotes. Contractors should be Approved Contractors of the Arboricultural Association, the list for which is accessed at www.trees.org.uk. If a non-approved contractor is preferred then the Parish Council will need to submit details of their own vetting of qualifications and insurance cover and submit these for the approval of the Arboricultural Officer.
6. The Parish Council will then appoint their contractor if otherwise approved.
7. Either the Parish Council or the contractor would be responsible for seeking any necessary consents under the Town & Country Planning Act, or any other such consents e.g. Archdeacon's consent in closed churchyards.
8. The contractor will then need to seek a licence to work upon Council-owned land. This would be obtained from the Property Section and the application should be accompanied by Insurance details, risk assessments and method statements. Contractors should be made aware of this by the Parish Council and account in their quote for the charges that may be made for such a licence.
9. The contractor will then liaise with Streetscene to arrange a suitable date for undertaking the work, so that there is no conflict with other work being undertaken on site.
10. The Parish Council will inform the Arboricultural Officer that work is complete.
11. The Parish Council is advised to await the Arboricultural Officer's inspection before paying the contractor's invoice.

ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2019/21

Chair: Councillor Gary White

Vice-Chair: Councillor Maxfield

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

Portfolio Holders covering the Committee's remit:

Councillor S Tagg, Leader – One Council, People and Partnerships (for Economic Development Strategy)

Councillor Sweeney, Deputy Leader – Finance, Town Centres and Growth

Councillor Heesom – Cabinet Member – Community Safety and Wellbeing

Councillor Johnson - Cabinet Member – Environment and Recycling

Councillor Northcott - Cabinet Member – Strategic Planning



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

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**

Taxi ranks	Parks and Gardens Maintenance
Bus Station	Flooding and Drainage
Markets	

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

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**

	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
	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	

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**

	Economic Development Year 1 Action Plan	
	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	

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**

	Benchmarking Exercise	Cabinet Report on benchmarking visits to town centres and markets.
	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.

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**

	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 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	Aboriculture update Future High Streets Fund update Town Investment Plans for Newcastle and Kidsgrove – update on progress	
29 September, 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 		

June 2021

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**