

Public Document Pack

Date of meeting Thursday, 17th March, 2022
Time 7.00 pm
Venue Garden & Astley Rooms - 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 - 6)**
To consider the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 16 December 2021.
- 4 UPDATE FROM CABINET**
- 5 NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)**
- 6 STREETSCENE - UPDATE ON POSITION STATEMENT** **(Pages 7 - 10)**
- 7 FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND AND TOWN INVESTMENT PLANS FOR KIDSGROVE AND NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME UPDATE**
- 8 WORK PROGRAMME** **(Pages 11 - 18)**
- 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.
- 11 DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION**

To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following report, because it is likely that there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) 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.

Agenda Item 3

Economy, Environment & Place Scrutiny Committee - 16/12/21

ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT & PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 16th December, 2021
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

- Present:** Councillor Gary White (Chair)
- Councillors:** David Grocott Andrew Fear Marion Reddish
Mark Olszewski John Tagg
Amelia Rout Barry Panter
- Apologies:** Councillor(s) Helena Maxfield and Jennifer Cooper
- Substitutes:** Deputy Mayor - Councillor Gillian Burnett (In place of Councillor Helena Maxfield)
Councillor Ian Wilkes (In place of Councillor Jennifer Cooper)
- Officers:** Geoff Durham Mayor's Secretary / Member Support Officer
Elaine Burgess Markets and Regeneration Officer
- Also in attendance:** Portfolio Holder for, Finance, Town Centres and Growth

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest stated.

2. MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September, 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

3. UPDATE FROM CABINET

There was nothing to report from Cabinet. However, the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, Councillor Sweeney made reference to the resolution of item 17 of the previous Minutes stating that this had been missed and would chase it up.

4. FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND AND TOWN INVESTMENT PLANS FOR KIDSGROVE AND NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME - UPDATE

Councillor Sweeney introduced the item stating that the Council had received over £15m from Government, coming in three different tranches.

Economy, Environment & Place Scrutiny Committee - 16/12/21

The Committee were given a verbal update from Elaine Burgess, Regeneration Manager on Future High Streets Fund and Town Investment Plans for Newcastle under Lyme and Kidsgrove.

The update for the Future High Streets Fund noted:

- Morgan Sindall had been appointed as contractor for the design and development of a new multi-storey car park on the Ryecroft site.
- The Purchase of the York Place/Astley Walk shops had been approved at Cabinet.
- Demolition of the former Civic Offices was currently underway with the stripping out internally.
- Aspire Housing had confirmed its interest in building a new flagship development on the Ryecroft site.

Councillor Fear stated that, as this involved the demolition of old buildings and erection of new on key sites, the Cabinet and relevant officers should be urged to maximise the amount of consultation with Members with regard to the form of the buildings.

The Chair agreed and asked that, at the earliest opportunity the designs be brought back to either this Committee or through a wider engagement.

Councillor Panter asked what percentage of overall costs the consultants were likely to take up. Elaine Burgess stated that the normal procurement route had been gone through and stated that, as a percentage of the overall spend it would be very small. The exact percentage would be checked and made known to Members.

The Chair made reference to the demolition of York Place and asked if the existing tenants would be engaged with and if they needed to relocate, would they receive financial support. The Chair was advised that, options were being explored. All existing tenants, if relocated, would aim to be placed within the town centre and the Council would expect to support those tenants in any moves that may be necessary.

The Chair referred to the former Civic Offices and asked when it could be expected for external works to begin. The Chair was advised that this would probably be towards Autumn, 2022.

Kidsgrove Town Deal:

- The refurbishment of Kidsgrove Sports Centre was the first project authorised and was progressing well.
- Chatterley Valley was the next business case submitted and had been approved.
- Business cases would need to be submitted for the remaining projects by the end of March, 2022.
- Ridge and Partners had been appointed for the Kidsgrove Railway station project and plans were progressing.
- Consultants had been appointed for a mixed use development in front of the Railway Station.
- Improvement of the canal area adjacent to the Station and Harecastle Tunnel.

Councillor Burnett stated that she was on the Town Deal Board for Kidsgrove Sports Centre. Councillor Burnett queried when the lifts would be functional at the Railway Station and was advised that this was a Network Rail issue.

Newcastle Town Deal:

- This was submitted in a later phase than the Kidsgrove Town Deal and therefore had slightly longer to develop and submit its business cases.
- Procurement of the consultants as supporters and developers of the business cases had been completed – with Stantec being appointed.
- Business cases for projects needed to be submitted by the end of June, 2022.

Resolved: That the updates be received.

[Watch the debate here](#)

5. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) FOR NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME

The BID Manager sent her apologies. The item would be taken to the next meeting in March, 2022.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Work Programme. The Chair stated that, due to two substantive items being deferred from this meeting, they would automatically be moved to the March meeting:

- The update on the Borough Local Plan
- The update from the BID

There would also be the standard update on the two Town Deals and Future High Streets Fund.

If Members wanted anything further included on the agenda, they were asked to inform the Chair or Democratic Services.

Resolved: That the Work Programme be updated for the meeting in March, 2022 with the above information:

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

**Councillor Gary White
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 7.24 pm

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Choose an item.

17 March 2022

Report Title: Streetscene – Update on Position Statement

Submitted by: Executive Director – Operational Services

Portfolios: Environment and Recycling

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To provide the committee with an update on the current position with the Streetscene team in relation to planning for future demand

Recommendation

That

- 1. The committee receives the report and acknowledges the current position in relation to Streetscene service planning for future demand and the work which is in progress as part of the One Council Programme**

Reasons

To respond to a request from the committee to review the strategic direction of operational services based on the next 5 – 10 years growth and consider how the service can be protected and grown, proportionate to predicted growth.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee received a report on the current position with Streetscene, at the meeting of 29th September 2021.

RESOLVED: that the Cabinet be requested to review the strategic direction of operational services based on the next 5-10 years growth and consider how the service can be protected and grown, proportionate to predicted growth.

2. Issues

2.1 The Cabinet have considered the current position with Streetscene and its strategic direction over the next 5 – 10 years in conjunction with officers, and support the approach detailed in the following sections of this report, should growth in the Borough create demand for additional service investment.

It should also be noted that the One Council Programme which is now well underway, is reviewing the strategic direction of the entire organisation and seeking to create a new operating model which will deliver all appropriate services proportionate to predicted growth.

The Streetscene service will be incorporated into the new operating model, and therefore cannot be reviewed in isolation – it has to be considered in the wider context of prioritising and resourcing demand.

In the meantime, the current ongoing service challenge and review measures will continue as follows.

2.2 The Streetscene service is continuously reviewed and flexed to adapt to changing demands, both short term and longer term where known or anticipated. This is mainly done via realigning existing staff and fleet resources to deliver defined priorities as set in the Council Plan and other strategic objectives.

This review process is undertaken annually through service and budget planning and any additional pressures are considered in the wider corporate context, so that they can be balanced against other service priorities.

Throughout the year, operational peaks and troughs in demand are monitored, and the Streetscene service is flexed to respond to reactive need. Further work is planned via the One Council Programme to review demand and to continue to move towards demand led service provision, in response to clearly defined customer need.

2.3 Succession Planning is undertaken regularly in order to respond to modern and different ways of working and as employees retire or move on, job roles are reviewed and adapted where appropriate to ensure that new recruits have the required skill sets to deliver services in a more efficient and effective way. This is supplemented by training and upskilling of existing team members where appropriate and affordable, and by investing in modern equipment, technology and machinery to reduce the physical demands and risks of work tasks, and to improve systems for receiving, allocating and actioning service requests.

2.4 The Council has a Fleet Replacement Programme for all of its operational vehicles which is funded by the capital programme and is regularly reviewed with a view to staggering fleet replacement to spread expenditure more evenly over each year, rather than have significant peaks and troughs. This, as it is a 10 year rolling strategy, assists with long to medium term financial planning and allows flexibility to move items back or forward in the programme in accordance with their remaining useful life. It also helps to maximise the economic life of particular vehicles and ensure that the Council achieves the best value for money possible for each vehicle and item of machinery/equipment. The Streetscene fleet is included in this replacement programme and has been regularly renewed at appropriate junctures.

2.5 In terms of next steps for Streetscene, it has been agreed that the team will be included in phase 2 of the One Front Door/Customer Hub project in the One Council programme and this will present opportunities to develop and improve the service further, particularly around the themes of technology, productivity and prioritisation, and the customer journey. Work has commenced and is in progress with the team, and will continue throughout 2022. Work is also in progress on the Mobile Multi-Functional (MMF) Team project as part of the One Front Door Programme, and this is linked to Streetscene, but separate and distinct from it.

2.6 It is also intended that the Customer Hub and the internal support services hub will field and triage customer enquiries and service requests for Streetscene, filtering out requests which are not the responsibility of the service and also dealing with administrative and process driven tasks (eg financial day books and invoices etc) thereby freeing up manager and supervisor capacity to deal with specialist Streetscene issues. In terms of MMF, this team will focus on community safety and environmental crime issues, perhaps providing some limited operational capacity around low level, minor littering and waste incidents which will allow Streetscene to focus on core cleansing activities and reduce the call on reactive work. It is likely that there will be some elements of crossover between the teams, as the

One Council operating model develops and becomes embedded, and this is a normal and anticipated element of the agile working approach.

2.7 A further linked initiative is the Councils recently approved Urban Tree Planting Strategy. As part of this sustainable environment and carbon capture initiative, significant areas of tree planting will be undertaken over the coming years, starting this spring. This will provide opportunities to review grounds maintenance operations on sites where planting reduces the need for regular grass cutting, reducing future maintenance burdens and ultimately creating new wildlife habitat in support of the Councils Nature Recovery initiatives.

3. **Proposal**

That

3.1 The committee receives the report and acknowledges the current position in relation to Streetscene and the work which is in progress as part of the One Council Programme

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 To respond to a request from the committee to review the strategic direction of operational services based on the next 5 – 10 years growth and consider how the service can be protected and grown, proportionate to predicted growth.

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 number of statutory duties in relation to street cleansing, grounds maintenance and other activities which are delivered by the Streetscene team.

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 directly from this report.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 There are major risks associated with the council's statutory duties and other activities delivered by the Streetscene team. These risks are recorded and managed via a number of mechanisms, including health and safety risk assessment, monitoring and recording, budget management, business continuity planning, inspection and repair and legislative compliance.

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

10.1

The council's Streetscene function 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.usrfiles.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 Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee – 29th September 2021

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 None

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 None

ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2019/22

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

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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

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	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	

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	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	

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	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 Kildgrove 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 Kildgrove are progressing, the current position and which schemes were being worked up to.

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	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 Sustainable Environment Strategy, Action Plan Streetscene	Request from the Chair 6 monthly review requested by Committee
16 December 2021	Future High Streets Fund update & Town Investment Plans for Newcastle and Kidsgrove – update on progress Update on the Newcastle Business Improvement District (BID)	Regular update Requested by the Committee

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<p>17 March 2022</p>	<p>Update on the Newcastle Business Improvement District (BID)</p> <p>Future High Streets Fund update & Town Investment Plans for Newcastle and Kidsgrove – update on progress</p> <p>Streetscene</p>	<p>Deferred from 16 December</p> <p>Regular update</p> <p>Update from previous report</p>
<p>15 June 2022</p>	<p>HS2 – look ahead to the next 12 months on works impacting on the Borough</p> <p>Sustainable Environment Strategy, Action Plan</p> <p>Future High Streets Fund update & Town Investment Plans for Newcastle and Kidsgrove – update on progress</p> <p>Borough Local Plan</p>	<p>Requested by the Chair</p> <p>Regular update as requested by the Committee</p> <p>Regular update</p>
<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 		

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March 2022

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