

Public Document Pack



PLEASE NOTE THAT PRAYERS WILL BE HELD AT 6.50PM BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL.

THE MAYOR REQUESTS THAT ANY MEMBER WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN PRAYERS BE IN ATTENDANCE BY NO LATER THAN 6.45PM.

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the Borough Council of Newcastle-under-Lyme to be held in the **Garden & Astley Rooms - Castle House, Barracks Road, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 1BL** on **Wednesday, 28th September, 2022** at **7.00 pm**.

B U S I N E S S

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations of interest from Members on items contained within this agenda.

3 MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 14)

To consider the Minutes of the previous meeting(s)

4 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5 COUNCIL PLAN - 2022 to 2026 (Pages 15 - 36)

6 STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (To Follow)

To receive a statement by the Leader of the Council on the activities and decisions of Cabinet and items included on the Forward Plan.

7 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (Pages 37 - 38)

Chairs reports are attached for the following meetings:

- a) Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee

A verbal update will be given for the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee

The Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee has not met since the last meeting of Full Council.

8 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES (Pages 39 - 40)

Chairs reports are attached for the following meetings:

- a) Audit and Standards Committee
- b) Planning Committee

The Licensing and Public Protection Committee has not met since the last meeting of the Full Council.

9 MOTIONS OF MEMBERS (Pages 41 - 46)

Three Notices of Motion, under Appendix 7 – Standing Order 12 have been received

10 QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS (To Follow)

11 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

To receive from Members any petitions which they wish to present to the Council.

12 URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any communications which pursuant to Appendix 7, Procedure Rule 8 of the constitution are, in the opinion of the Mayor, of an urgent nature and to pass thereon such resolutions as may be deemed necessary.

13 DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following report(s) as it is likely that there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs contained within Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Yours faithfully



Chief Executive

NOTICE FOR COUNCILLORS

1. Fire/Bomb Alerts

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately, following the fire exit signs..

Fire exits are to be found at the side of the room leading into Queens Gardens.

On exiting the building Members, Officers and the Public must assemble at the statue of Queen Victoria. DO NOT re-enter the building until advised to by the Controlling Officer.

2. Mobile Phones

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

3. Notice of Motion

A Notice of Motion other than those listed in Procedure Rule 14 must reach the Chief Executive ten clear days before the relevant Meeting of the Council. Further information on Notices of Motion can be found in Section 5, Standing Order 20 of the Constitution of the Council.

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

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COUNCIL

Wednesday, 6th July, 2022
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

Present: Mayor - Councillor Gillian Burnett (Chair)

Councillors:	Adcock	Fear	Talbot
	Allport	Fox-Hewitt	S Jones
	Barker	Skelding	Lawley
	Beeston	Gorton	Panter
	Bettley-Smith	Stubbs	Whieldon
	Brockie	Grocott	G White
	Bryan	Heesom	S White
	Brown	Holland	Wilkes
	Crisp	Sweeney	G Williams
	Dymond	S Tagg	J Williams
	Parker	Hutchison	Wright
	Edginton-Plunkett	Johnson	
	Richards	J Tagg	

Apologies: Councillor(s) Reece, D Jones, J Waring, Moffat, Northcott and P Waring

Officers:	Geoff Durham	Mayor's Secretary / Member Support Officer
	Martin Hamilton	Chief Executive
	Simon McEneny	Executive Director - Growth and Development
	Daniel Dickinson	Head of Legal & Governance /Monitoring Officer
	Sarah Wilkes	Head of Finance / S151 Officer

Also in attendance:

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 18 May, 2022 be agreed as a correct record.

3. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor made three announcements:

- 27 July - Kidsgrove Sports Centre would reopen for business.

- 7 August – from midday, a Garden Fete would be held at the Old Hall Country House in Madeley in aid of the Mayor's Charity Fund.
- 12 November – A 1940's evening would be held at Kidsgrove Town Hall in aid of the Mayor's Charity Fund.

4. WALLEYS QUARRY UPDATE

The Leader introduced an update on issues associated with odours from Walleys Quarry. This had been one of the biggest issues that the Council had faced over the past two years.

Actions had been taken to try and hold the operator to account, including abatement notices and trying to force the Environment Agency (EA) to take a more rigorous approach.

The Council's Chief Executive, Martin Hamilton gave a presentation outlining the work that the Council was doing to remedy the situation which had been going on for a number of years. In 2021 the Council received over 22,000 complaints and the EA received over 43,000.

The landfill gas, Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S) could be easily traced and had defined characteristics around the levels at which it became offensive and problematic to health.

Four Air Quality Monitoring stations had been placed around the site which gave weekly reports of H₂S levels. Two thresholds had been identified by the World Health Organisation - the Annoyance threshold and the Long Term Health Impact threshold.

The presentation included a graph which showed the number of complaints received and the levels of H₂S at the four monitoring stations.

The EA had been enforcing the environmental permit for the site and had identified breaches. The site had been identified as level F which was the lowest grading that a landfill site could get.

The Council served an Abatement Notice in August, 2021 requiring abatement of the nuisance within five months. The Notice had a right of appeal, which Walleys Quarry Limited did in September, 2021. A court hearing had been scheduled for four weeks in October, 2022. The option of a mediated resolution remained open.

Temporary clay capping had been completed in Phase 2 and permanent capping was being carried out for Phase 1.

It was queried whether any health bodies were monitoring or recording the number of GP visits, prescriptions or treatment and potential causation to Walleys Quarry operations.

Syndromic monitoring was being carried out to assess any differences in reporting in the area, over time. In addition, changes to prescriptions had been monitored. Staffordshire County Council had got a health symptom tracker on their website. Also, work had been commissioned by health colleagues to work with Keele University to do a longer term study.

Clarification was sought regarding the long term health threshold and whether it was being exceeded as the length of time of the odours continued.

The HAS had been focussed on the long term health threshold and there was a lot of debate as to whether or not the threshold was being met at the particular sites. This was difficult as the health threshold was measured over a long period of time – 2mg over the period of a year.

It was asked if the odour had impacted upon workers at Garners Garden Centre.

Businesses had been engaged with to discuss what the issues were and what the impacts had been.

Assurance was sought that pressure would continue to be put on the EA to resolve the issues.

The Council was working with them through the multi-agency effort co-ordinated by a strategic co-ordination group. The Council had engaged with the EA to try and make progress.

Reports had been made regarding an Enforcement Notice being withdrawn despite a deadline not being met. It was asked whether this was true.

The Enforcement Notice had been issued by the EA and had been withdrawn due to sufficient information being received from the operator.

Regarding the lorries stacking up on Cemetery Road. There had been talk about them being admitted to the site, had there been any progress with that?

The Council was organising dialogue between the County Council, Police, EA and this Council to find a solution.

It was asked whether links could be added to committee report which opened up sites such as the County Council's symptom tracker.

A link was included on the Council's website to the symptom tracker.

All of the monitoring was based on Hydrogen Sulphide. Other gases were included within landfill gas and it was asked if the Council had details of the thresholds for those other gases.

Other components of landfill gas were routinely monitored and there had been nothing to suggest problems with any other gases.

In summary, the Leader thanked the Chief Executive for the presentation. There was still a lot to be done and pressure needed to be kept up on the EA to hold the operator to account.

Resolved: That the update be received.

[Watch the debate here](#)

5. **STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Council - 06/07/22

A report was submitted which provided an update to Members on the activities and decisions of the Cabinet, together with the Forward Plan.

Paragraph 2

The Leader was asked if there was a plan to roll out more EV charging points in Council car parks.

King Street and Goose Street car parks had already had EV charging points installed. The County Council had been asked to put forward a strategy on rolling out EV across the County. The Strategy would be delivered later in the year and this would be followed by the seeking of a partner within the private sector to deliver it.

It was asked when the next tree planting phase would start and where they would be planted.

The next phase was already being considered by officers to decide which areas to bring forward. A list had been presented to Cabinet and to Full Council in February and included many areas across the Borough.

In view of the tree planting, it was queried whether the Council had enough grounds staff to maintain the trees in the future.

The right species would be planted in the right places. More trees would mean less grass cutting and therefore, the grass cutting staff could become more maintenance orientated.

Paragraph 3

It was asked what evaluation processes had been put into place to ensure that residents were not encountering any negative experiences.

There was a One Council Board, run by elected members and there were regular meetings were held with the unions. In addition, items were regularly taken to Cabinet and to the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee.

Reassurance was sought that residents would still be able to phone in and visit the Council as well as accessing the services online.

This was confirmed.

The Once Council Programme could be seen as the next phase of a previous corporate priority of the Administration which had been 'Transforming Council Services to Achieve Excellence'. The Leader was asked to join in congratulating the staff who had been involved in the One Council Programme.

The Leader was asked if the public were being surveyed regarding the One Council Programme.

Customer feedback forms were available online for those using the new website and online services.

Paragraph 4

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth was asked why the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy had been updated.

The new Policy had been devised in conjunction with a scoring matrix, awarding points based on answers given on the application form. This in turn would determine the amount of discretionary relief that could be awarded to ensure that all applications were treated equally.

Paragraph 5

The Deputy Mayor was asked, as Heritage Champion, if he would be working with the relevant Councillors to create the strategy.

Members would be able to interact in the programme as it progresses and through items going to Cabinet and Scrutiny. If any members had any ideas or suggestions, they were advised to email or call the Deputy Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor was asked to consider doing something to commemorate Sergeant Kite who had received the Military Medal three times during World War Two and whose memorial was outside of Castle House. Sergeant Kite had attended Hassell County Primary School as a child.

The Leader was asked if Kidsgrove would be included in the programme.

As the anniversary covered the whole Borough it must be ensured that Kidsgrove be involved in the celebrations and use venues such as the Victoria Hall for example.

Paragraph 6

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing was asked how the new Police model would improve policing in the Borough.

Policing numbers had increased significantly across the County. The number for Newcastle could not be confirmed at present as they were still looking at the structure. However, Newcastle would, in addition to neighbourhood officers, have officers based at Newcastle who were previously classed as response. The officers would be allocated to specific areas, therefore getting to know the area, individuals and problems.

Chief Inspector Owens had been invited to the Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee to give an overview on 5th September, 2022 and Members were invited to go along as spectators if they so wished.

The Head of Sustainable Environment Services and his team were congratulated for their work on recycling which had increased as the amount being sent to landfill had decreased.

In the Borough, recycling was now above fifty percent, residual waste was down by eleven percent and the landfill figure was three percent and falling. In addition, care homes had recently been brought in to the weekly food waste collections increasing the collection to 100 tonnes per week which was all being put to good use.

Paragraph 7

The proposed bus gate and any chargeable Clean Air Zone would not remove any carbon out of the atmosphere but move the problem to other areas. It was therefore vital that the Council received support from its partners to ask if the numbers could be reappraised - in light of rising fuel prices taking cars off the roads and more

Council - 06/07/22

electric vehicles being used. In addition to reappraise the number of journeys, congestion and traffic pollution in the area.

It was understood that the area was now at a natural level of compliance and if the situation was not assessed, traffic would relocate, potentially going past schools.

Considering the amount of concern over the bus gate, the Leader was asked to consider establishing a cross-party sub-committee to scrutinise the final business case.

The Leader agreed with Members and stated that Red Industry lorries used Basford Bank en-route to Walleys Quarry and would be banned from doing so when the bus gate was operating. Those lorries would re-route up Grange Lane, passing several schools. Covid had changed travel patterns and this had possibly expanded the rush hour and could have led to the natural compliance which should be pressed further. Local MP's also needed to be involved.

There would be further scrutiny on the matter as it moved forward. The Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Party would be the correct place to set up a Working Group and asked the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee to take it on board.

The Leader was asked what could be done for local businesses on Basford Bank.

As the area was now reaching compliance there was a need to ensure that it would be kept there – and below. The Council needed to look at behavioural change and possibly giving funding to businesses to switch to electric vehicles. The Government were spending a large amount of money on this, therefore the Council could ask for funding to help to bring in more electric vehicles.

Paragraph 8

There had been an omission of acknowledgement of Kidsgrove Town Council's grant of £70,000 towards the project.

The Leader apologised for the omission but stated that all finances had been discussed in Cabinet meetings.

Clarification was sought from the Mayor regarding the opening date. In the Mayor's announcements the 27th had been mentioned whereas the Sports Centre website stated the 25th.

The main opening day would be Saturday 27th.

Paragraph 9

It was queried what had happened to the beacons that were lit for the Jubilee celebrations and whether they had gone to the Museum for future generations.

Confirmation was given that the beacon used at Apedale was now in the Museum for people to see.

Support was given for the renaming of the Astley Room to Queen Elizabeth II. In addition, congratulations were given to everyone who had put on community events over the weekend of celebrations.

Discussions were underway with the County Council regarding the renaming of the room which could be tied in with the 850th anniversary celebrations next year.

Resolved: That the Statement of the Leader of the Council be received and noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

6. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Reports were submitted for the Scrutiny Committees that had met since the last Council meeting.

Resolved: That the reports be received.

7. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES

Reports were submitted for the Regulatory Committees that had met since the last Council meeting.

Resolved: That the reports be received.

8. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Councillor Andrew Parker asked the Leader the following:

The Leader would be aware that residents had been complaining about the poor standard of Highway grass verge cutting across the Borough by the County Council's contractor. The frequency and quality of the cuts this year had been abysmal.

Was there anything the Borough Council could do about the situation?

Issues had been identified in the Spring regarding the length of time it was taking to do one division and the poor quality of the cut. It appeared that the contractor was not doing a full week. County Councillors applied pressure for the matter to be resolved to a degree by getting the contractor back to do the cuts much quicker, although the quality was still an issue. The Council had been in negotiation to take back the grass cutting so that the Borough teams could do it.

Councillor Parker asked if the Leader agreed that after the next cut, residents would begin to see an improvement.

The Leader agreed that they would but the quality would still be an issue.

Councillor Joel Edgington-Plunkett asked the Leader the following question:

All wards across the borough had seen vital bus services reduced or removed. Local affordable public transport was vital for the economy, work, medical access and social isolation. Could the borough prosperity fund explore subsidising money for local transport to get the people of the borough moving again?

The borough prosperity fund was called the shared prosperity fund. One of the criteria was supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whole

growing the local economy. Bids coming forward could be looked at from a transport angle. Through the Town Deal, a new bus service was already planned, going through Keele University, Knutton and Silverdale and into Newcastle. This would be sought to be a green bus service – possibly hydrogen or electric. It was hoped that new services could be replicated out to the north and east of the Borough too.

Councillor Edgington-Plunkett asked if people with bus passes would be included when demand was considered.

The Leader confirmed that the normal discretionary travel situation would be on any new routes which were brought in. When new planning applications were brought in, it needed to be ensured that there were bus services and funding for them to ensure that green travel plans were part of it.

Councillor Mike Stubbs asked the Leader:

On the 15th of June, Lord Giedt was forced to quit as the Prime Minister's Ethics Advisor, the second to do so after Alex Allan quit in November 2020. On Monday, Lord McDonald was forced to write to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards Kathryn Stone over No 10's statements on MP Chris Pincher "to ensure confidence is not eroded in our local democratic process". Does the Leader condone the behaviour of the Prime Minister or does he think that the seven principles of public life are to be ignored like the Prime Minister?

A process was underway regarding the MP in question and nobody could condone that behaviour. The Leader had ensured that this Council's Constitution contained the latest LGA Code of Conduct, relating to Standards and the seven principles. All Members signed up to them and the public could hold the Council to account.

Councillor Stubbs asked:

Staffordshire Police had been told it must improve after being placed in 'special measures' and Staffordshire Fire had also just released figures that their second fire engine had seen its availability go from 95% last year to 70% this year. Would the Leader of the Council apportion the blame for this substandard performance at the door of the Conservative Staffordshire Commissioner Ben Adams, or maybe that of the former Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner Mathew Ellis? Could the Leader guarantee to the residents of Newcastle that the Fire Service would not follow the Police into special measures after the pending HMI report.

The Leader stated that it had been a body blow for the Police coming at a time when changes were taking place with Ben Adams and a new Chief Constable and team. The Leader had confidence that they could deliver for the Police and also the Fire Service which was part of the new joint Commissioner role.

[Watch the debate here](#)

9. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

10. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

11. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

There was no confidential business

**Mayor - Councillor Gillian Burnett
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 8.55 pm

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO

Council
28th September 2022

Report Title: Council Plan 2022-26

Submitted by: The Leader of The Council

Portfolios: One Council, People and Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To enable Council to receive the Council Plan 2022-2026.

Recommendation

That Council note the Council Plan 2022-26

Reasons

The Council Plan sets out the Council's medium terms priorities and objectives. The current plan covers the period 2018-22 and, following the May election it is timely to refresh the plan to reflect the political priorities of the Council's administration. The Council Plan 2022-2026 was approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 6th September.

1. Background

- 1.1 In September 2018 Cabinet adopted the Council Plan 2018-22, setting the priorities for the Council, and detailing a number of specific actions to be taken to deliver those priorities. The Council plan informs the Medium Term Financial Plan, Service Plans and the work programme of every Council officer. In addition, it provides the source document against which the Council has publicly reports its performance each quarter.
- 1.2 With the current plan expiring in 2022, and with the May 2022 elections providing a fresh mandate for the administration, it is timely to prepare and adopt a new Council Plan which reflects the administration's election pledges and policy objectives.

2. Issues

- 2.1 The Council Plan 2022-26, attached at Appendix 1 to this report builds on the previous plan. It reviews progress against the 2018-22 Plan, refreshes the Council's priorities, and sets an ambitious programme of work for the next three and a half years.
- 2.2 Since 2018 the Council has delivered across the major policy objectives set in 2018. These are detailed in the quarterly reports submitted to Cabinet and to Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee each quarter, and summarised in attached plan. These achievements range from the successful roll out of a new recycling service and the re-opening of

Kidsgrove Sports Centre following a full refurbishment, to re-energising Newcastle's historic market and acting to secure a step change in the Council's contribution to Net Zero.

2.3 The priorities for 2022-26 reflect the progress made with the Once Council programme, the refreshed commitment to environmental sustainability, and the opportunities afforded by the Government's Levelling Up agenda. The proposed priorities are:

- One Council Delivering for Local People
- A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough
- Healthy, Active, and Safe Communities
- Town Centres for All

2.4 The Plan sets out the key delivery commitments which sit under each priority, together with the performance indicators which will be monitored through the quarterly performance reports.

2.5 When formally published on the Council's website the document will include hyperlinks to enable speedy access to the underpinning action plans (eg the Future High Streets Programme, or the Sustainable Environment Strategy). Where necessary, such plans will be updated to ensure alignment to the time horizon of the Council Plan.

3. **Proposal**

That Council note the Council Plan 2022-26

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 Adopting a Council Plan for the period up to 2026 will ensure that the Council's resources are targeted on the clear priorities set by the administration.

5. **Options Considered**

5.1 No other options have been considered as it is essential that the Council has a current Council Plan.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 There are no legal issues directly arising from this report

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 The Council Plan seeks to ensure that opportunities for social and economic benefit are available to all residents in the borough.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The Council Plan will inform the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

9. **Major Risks**

9.2 The Council plan identifies the key priorities, and associated actions, to be delivered by the Council over the next three and a half years. Where appropriate, major projects will have their own risk registers through which major risks are identified and managed.

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



11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 This is a key decision

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 Cabinet; September 2022

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 Council Plan 2022-26

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 None.

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COUNCIL PLAN

2022 - 2026



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One Council Delivering for Local People

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Town Centres for All

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OUR VISION

Good local services, a prosperous borough, and safe and welcoming places for all



Leader of the Council
Simon Tagg

"This plan sets out an ambitious vision for the borough as a place where people have good jobs, live in vibrant communities, and receive quality services.

"We are creating a sustainable borough where green parks and open spaces are protected and providing new homes in the right places to meet people's needs.

"Government funding secured under the Town Deal and Future High Streets programmes gives the Council a once in a generation opportunity to boost the local economy and enable our communities to thrive.

"Delivery of this plan over the next four years will see that opportunity realised."

Foreword

Welcome to the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council Plan 2022-2026. This plan sets out the Council's priorities for the next four years and serves to focus the work of everyone at the Council.

The Council Plan is shaped around our four key priorities:

- One Council Delivering for Local People
- A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough
- Healthy, Active, and Safe Communities
- Town Centres for All

This plan sets out how we will work to make Newcastle-under-Lyme a better place for everyone who lives here or comes here to work, to study or for leisure. Our aims can only be achieved by taking advantage of every opportunity available and developing further opportunities through innovation and collaborative working.

The Council is committed to strong and sustainable economic growth for the borough, focusing on opportunities around Keele University, Newcastle town centre and Kidsgrove.

The Council has worked hard to secure more than £50m from government programmes aimed at boosting the economic fortunes of areas such as ours. This plan includes a transformational portfolio of major projects but also reflects our ambition to attract yet more funding and take this work even further.

The Council Plan builds on four years of achievement, despite the huge disruption caused by the Covid-19 lockdowns. It is very likely that the initial period of this plan's delivery will be strongly influenced by the impact of rising energy costs and their impact on the cost of living. Our key achievements, summarised in the plan, provide an excellent foundation from which to respond to this issue and to shape the next four years of delivery and improvement.

Good local services, a successful, sustainable borough, and safe and welcoming places for all

Outcomes

In Newcastle



Residents have easy access to good quality services



Businesses flourish and residents have access to good, well paid, jobs



Everyone has the opportunity to be active, healthy and fulfilled

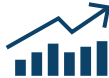


Town Centres are vibrant places to live, work and visit

Priorities



One Council Delivering for Local People



A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough

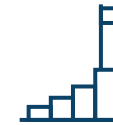


Healthy, Active, and Safe Communities



Town Centres for All

Approach



Our Employees will be supported and empowered to succeed



we will work closely with valued partners to deliver skills, jobs and growth



We will support our communities to improve lives and life chances



We will develop opportunities which will help our town centres thrive and grow



OUR PRIORITIES

Priorities for our Borough

The Council has developed four priorities to focus delivery:

One Council Delivering for Local People

This underpins everything we do. We will be a Council that listens to its local residents and communities and is responsive to their needs. We will work with them to deliver first-class, efficient services while keeping Council Tax low.

A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough

We will build a strong and sustainable economy to ensure opportunities and support are available to everyone to improve their lives.

Healthy, Active, and Safe Communities

We will ensure everyone enjoys a safe environment and access to a wide-range of facilities and activities to support and improve their health and quality of life.

Town Centres for all

We will transform Newcastle and Kidsgrove town centres to ensure their future as places everyone can live, work, shop, study and spend their leisure time.

PRIORITY ONE:

One Council Delivering for Local People

The Council will closely manage all of its resources to ensure we deliver the services that local people need, and to prepare for future challenges. Our One Council Programme ensures efficient and effective service delivery and makes it much easier for the public to access services and information online, 24 hours a day. The programme makes use of multi-skilled teams to address challenges faced by our residents and communities.

Over the past four years the Council has:

- Introduced a new recycling service as part of an ongoing drive to improve recycling rates in the borough.
- Secured the future of the historic Guildhall as a community resource and voluntary sector hub, encouraging people to keep using our town centre.
- Launched the One Council programme, saving £1m per year and giving residents better access to services.
- Moved the planning service fully online, improving efficiency for those making and reviewing planning applications.
- Delivered award-winning services, including winner of the APSE 'Most Improved Performer' for Cemetery and Cremation Services, and shortlisting by APSE for Street Cleaning Services.
- Brought partners and communities together to meet the challenges of Covid-19, creating a working foundation for more collaboration in the future.
- Created a Cost of Living reserve fund to help the Council meet the challenges of rising costs.



To achieve our priority we are committed to:

- Delivering the One Council Programme to ensure our services are efficient and accessible. We will:
 - improve digital access;
 - simplify how we work;
 - improve performance management;
 - improve customer satisfaction.
- Delivering a Workforce Strategy, developing professional talent across the Council and providing opportunities for staff to grow their careers.
- Ensuring strong financial discipline across the Council, identifying and delivering opportunities generate income from commercial development.
- Working with our communities to ensure services reflect local need.
- Working with partners, including Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Leaders Board, Newcastle Business Improvement District (BID), Keele University, Aspire Housing and the Newcastle Partnership, to deliver the best for our communities.
- Delivering our services to a high standard every day.
- Continuing to keep Council Tax low for the borough's residents.



PRIORITY TWO:

Page 26

A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough

The Council will grow the borough's economy and build on recent successes. We have the foundations for growth: good transport links, excellent education opportunities at Keele University and Newcastle-under-Lyme College, strong local communities and excellent partnerships. We have caught the attention of government and secured £50m to invest in the borough's development.

Our aim is for the borough to be a place where the economy is strong and sustainable, where local people have the skills and opportunities to take up the good jobs with good wages that are created, and where everyone benefits from economic growth. This also means that we need to ensure that there are good homes for everyone and that every citizen has a safe and secure place to live.

The next phase of the borough's development will move us closer to securing carbon net zero and will actively drive environmental sustainability.

Over the last four years the Council has:

- Secured more than £50m in government funding to drive the transformation of the local economy – this forms the basis of growth plans for the next four years.
- Adopted a Sustainable Environment Strategy and committed to delivery of a detailed work programme.
- Served an abatement notice against the odour pollution from Walleys Quarry, with work ongoing to assert this notice.
- Transformed, along with Aspire Housing, support for residents who are at risk of homelessness or who are sleeping rough.
- Delivered long standing commitments to release sites for housing in Loggerheads, Knype Way, Sidmouth Avenue, Knutton and Red Street.



To achieve our priority we are committed to:

- Delivering the Newcastle Local Plan to support the sustainable development of our towns and villages.
- Protecting our communities by improving how we use our enforcement powers.
- Delivering the Sustainable Environment Strategy: protecting parks and green spaces for future generations, ensuring that the Council's operations are carbon neutral by 2030.
- Securing a carbon neutral borough by 2050, working with the county-wide Staffordshire Sustainability Board.
- Delivering the £16m Kidsgrove Town Deal, including:
 - Facilitating the Chatterley Valley Enterprise Zone development to deliver 1700 quality jobs for local people;
 - Enhancing Kidsgrove Railway Station and access to the local canal network;
 - Developing a Shared Service Hub with key partners.
- Delivering the £23m Newcastle Town Deal, including:
 - Development of key gateway sites including the 'Zanzibar' and Midway;
 - Connecting residents and businesses to skills training for the digital world;
 - Improving bus, cycling and walking infrastructure;
 - Delivering a circus-themed performing arts centre;
 - Building more than 400 homes in Knutton and Chesterton.
- Delivering the £4.8m Uk Shared Prosperity Fund programme, including:
 - Improving the town centre;
 - Supporting culture and heritage;
 - Skills development for local people;
 - Supporting the most vulnerable people.
- Continue to bid for government funding to support a pipeline of ambitious projects, including the further development of Keele Science and Innovation Park and the University Growth Corridor.
- Secure a successful resolution to the Walleys Quarry odour problem.



PRIORITY THREE:

Healthy, Active, and Safe Communities

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We want our communities to be healthy, happy and active and able to enjoy living in a safe environment.

The Council provides an outstanding suite of facilities so that residents and visitors alike can enjoy an active and fulfilling experience in the borough: six Green Flag parks, Jubilee2 and the successful Britain in Bloom programme - which involves residents, businesses, schools, community groups and a wide range of volunteers. Plus, we have Brampton Museum, the 'jewel in the crown', providing free access to our rich heritage, history and identity.

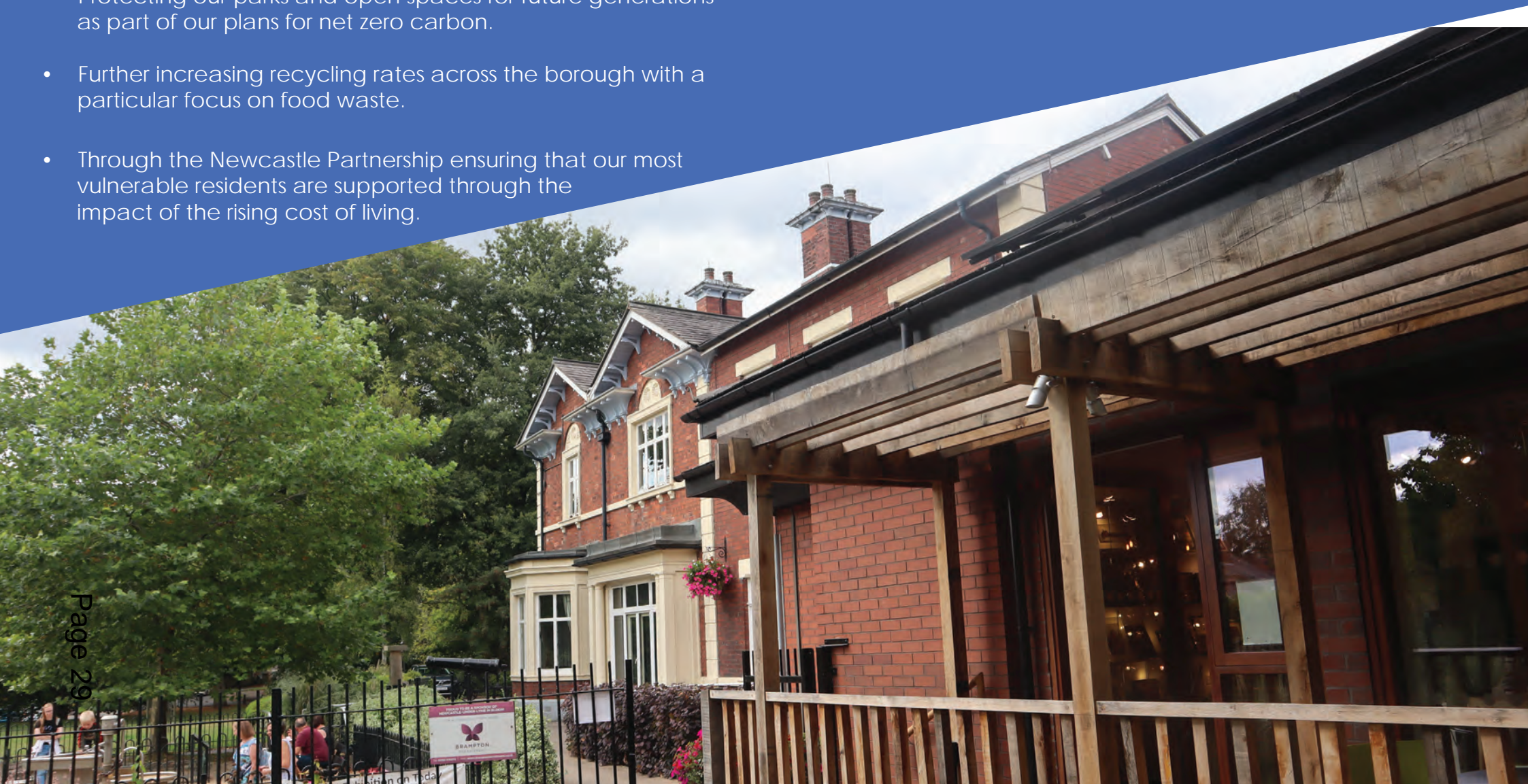
Over the last 4 years we have:

- Delivered the refurbishment and reopening of Kidsgrove Sports Centre. The centre has been transferred to a local trust and is now once again serving the community.
- Delivered a new BMX Pump Track and new 3G football pitches in Kidsgrove for community use.
- Delivered improvements to Jubilee2, including renewal of all gym equipment and addressing legacy issues concerning build quality, ready to support more residents in achieving their fitness goals.
- Secured our 19th consecutive Gold Award in the RHS Heart of England Britain in Bloom competition.
- Supported our communities and our businesses through the Covid 19 Pandemic, rapidly getting the borough "back on track".
- Used the multi-agency Daily Vulnerability Hub to address the complex needs of the borough's most vulnerable citizens.
- Extended and refurbished Brampton Museum to provide enhanced gallery space and improve our offer to local schools.



To achieve our priority we are committed to:

- Securing a step-change in street cleanliness and the quality of the public domain through the expansion of the street warden scheme and the creation of neighbourhood delivery teams.
- Protecting our parks and open spaces for future generations as part of our plans for net zero carbon.
- Further increasing recycling rates across the borough with a particular focus on food waste.
- Through the Newcastle Partnership ensuring that our most vulnerable residents are supported through the impact of the rising cost of living.
- Building on our work with Staffordshire Police and other partners to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in our communities.
- Working with partners to support the development of community solutions to local problems through effective community bodies.
- Delivering an economic and cultural legacy from the celebration of the borough's 850th anniversary in 2023.



PRIORITY FOUR:

Town Centres for All

We are working to make the town centres in Newcastle and Kidsgrove vibrant and successful. We want to ensure that they have the diverse offer and vibrant environment necessary to attract visitors and businesses. Town centres across the country are under pressure from retail parks, online shopping and the impact of Covid-19 on footfall. The Council continues to focus on addressing these challenges.

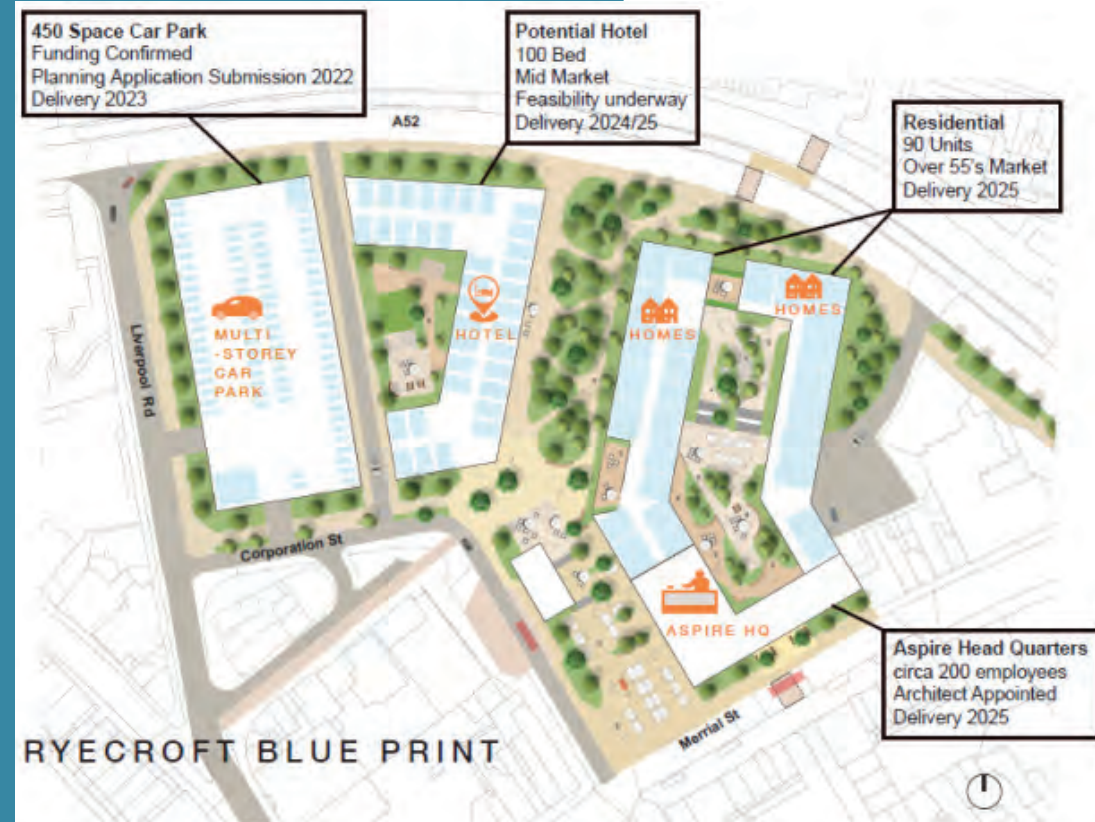
Over the past four years the Council has:

- Secured a £16m Town Deal for Kidsgrove to enable key town centre developments.
- Secured £11m from the Future High Streets Fund for Newcastle to enable the redevelopment of the Ryecroft site and other town centre improvements.
- Cleared the Ryecroft site and purchased York Place to facilitate regeneration.
- Established a Town Centre Strategy for Newcastle and delivered:
 - A Town Centre Officer – to coordinate cross agency work to support traders.
 - A refocused historic market hosting diverse, award-winning events to increase visitor numbers.
 - A parking strategy that supports business growth.
 - Improved CCTV coverage for Newcastle, with the Newcastle Business Improvement District.
 - Targeted support for 'rough sitters' in the town centre with our marshalls and Staffordshire Police colleagues.
- Used Advanced Town Deal funding to develop Grosvenor Roundabout as a safe and attractive active travel route.



To achieve our priority we are committed to:

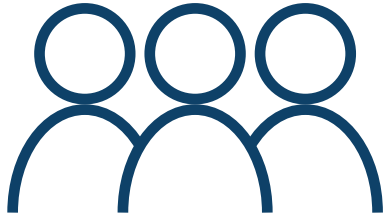
- Continuing to work with key partners to deliver the redevelopment of opportunities across the borough.
- Increasing the number of people living, working and using Newcastle town centre, and to use and enhance its historic architecture as a backdrop for excellent and inviting public spaces.
- **Redevelopment of Ryecroft Site:**
 - High quality offices
 - Residential development
 - Multi-story car park
 - Hotel or commercial space
 - Public open space
- **Redevelopment of York Place:**
 - Restaurants and eateries
 - Commercial space
 - Plaza linking Ironmarket and Ryecroft
- Redeveloping Midway car park to provide aspirational town centre residential accommodation.
- Further enhance the historic market and public realm and boost our signature specialist market programme.
- Delivering the Town Deal programme for Kidsgrove, including:
 - Enhancing Kidsgrove Railway Station and access to the local canal network.
 - Developing a Shared Service Hub with key partners.
- Developing a Town Centre Strategy for Kidsgrove to encourage visitors and support local businesses.



Newcastle-under-Lyme Facts and Figures

THE BOROUGH

HAS A POPULATION OF



123,300

(The source for all the above is 2021 Census)

21.7%

OF RESIDENTS ARE

65 PLUS

(26,700)

15.2%

OF RESIDENTS ARE AGED

15 AND UNDER

(18,800)

28.5%

OF RESIDENTS ARE YOUNG PEOPLE

UNDER 24

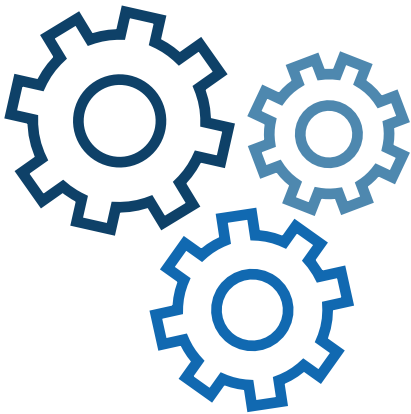
(35,100)

42.3%

OF RESIDENTS ARE AGED

50 PLUS

(52,200)



79.7%

OF RESIDENTS OF WORKING AGE ARE IN EMPLOYMENT

(66,200)

The source for all of the below, and to the left and right, is NOMIS August 2022

63.1% OF RESIDENTS ARE OF WORKING AGE

AGED 16 - 64

(5 1 , 6 0 0)



6.1%

OF WORKING AGE POPULATION ARE OUT OF WORK DUE TO

ILL HEALTH

(APPROX. 5,000)

35.7%

OF ADULTS HAVE

NVQ4+

QUALIFICATIONS



LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

FOR MALES IS 78.5 YEARS

AND FEMALES IS 82.3 YEARS



Corporate Performance Quarter 1 2022 - 23

Newcastle's Cabinet is committed to maintaining a strong corporate culture of performance management. It will publish performance against the following indicators each quarter. These will be available to the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee to discuss and challenge performance.

Performance reporting will be enhanced during 2022-23 to provide more trend data where this is available. For some indicators, where performance is largely beyond the Council's direct control, targets are not set. Instead, the 2021-22 out-turn data is used to provide a baseline against which future performance can be assessed. In the tables below such indicators are marked *.

Priority 1: One Council delivering for Local People

Ref	Indicator	Out turn 2021-22	Target 2022-23
1.1	Percentage of food premises that have a zero or one national food hygiene rating	0.9%	5%
1.2	Percentage of Category A and B food business inspections completed on time	40%	90%
1.3	Number of accidents/incidents reported (RIDDOR)	4	4*
1.4a	Percentage of household collections from the kerbside comprising dry recycling	24%	25%
1.4b	Percentage of household participation in food waste collection		30%
1.4c	Amount of residual waste per household per annum	440kg	440kg
1.4d	Number of missed kerbside collections (per 100,000 collections)	59	60
1.5	Levels of street and environment cleanliness (LEQ survey) free/predominantly free of :		
	Litter	95%	91%
	Detritus	93%	91%
	Graffiti	99%	97%
	Fly-posting	99%	99%
1.6	Percentage of requests resolved at first point of contact	97%	97%
1.7	Percentage of unmet demand (number of calls not answered as a percentage of total call handling volume)	16%	20%
1.8	Total number of digital online transactions per annum	55,278	63,000
1.9	Total number of unique users to the website per quarter	95,197	95,000

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1.10	Time taken to process Housing Benefit new claims/change events	6.11	10 days
1.11	Percentage of Council Tax collected	97.4%	97.5%
1.12	Percentage of National Non-Domestic Rates collected	95.6%	96%
1.13	Average number of days per employee lost to sickness	8.86 days	8.8 days
1.14	Staff turnover	4.9%	10%
1.15	Staff vacancy rates	6.6%	6.6%*

Priority 2: A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough

Ref	Indicator	Out turn 2021-22	Target 2022-23
2.1	Percentage of investment portfolio vacant (Council-owned)	10%	12%
2.2	Speed of major development applications (P151a)	99%	66%
2.3	Quality of major development applications (P152a)	5.5%	10%
2.4	Speed of non-major development applications (P153)	99%	70%
2.5	Quality of non-major development applications (P154)	0.7%	10%
2.6	Percentage of complainants informed within the required timescales of any action to be taken about alleged breaches of planning control.		75%

Priority 3: Healthy, Active and Safe Communities

Ref	Indicator	Out turn 2021-22	Target 2022-23
3.1a	Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) cases New cases received during the quarter	147 av/qtr	147*
3.1b	Current open cases at the end of the quarter	36 av/qtr	36*
3.1c	Cases closed in the quarter	120 av/qtr	120*
3.2	Number of referrals made regarding vulnerability by participating organisations at the Daily Hub	65 av/qtr	65*
3.3 New	Number of People Accessing the Museum's collections online and in Person	162,000	180,000
3.4	Jubilee 2 Membership	2392	2900

3.5	Jubilee 2 Customer Satisfaction – Net Promotor Score		40%
3.6	Live application on the housing register	1245	1245*
3.7	Number of lets to registered providers from the housing waiting list	513	513*
3.8	Emergency homeless presentations	419	419*
3.9	No of customers in temporary accommodation at the end of the quarter	12	12*

Priority 4: Town Centres for All

Ref	Indicator	Out turn 2021-22	Target 2022-23
4.1	Car parking usage:-Number of tickets purchased	337,078	340,000
4.2	Town Centre Footfall - Newcastle	553,000	553,000*
4.3	Average stall occupancy rate for markets	56%	60%
4.4	Total rough sleepers verified in the quarter	69	69*
	- New rough sleepers	18	18*
	- Returning rough sleepers	32	32*
	Entrenched rough sleepers	19	19*

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SCRUTINY COMMITTEES CHAIR'S REPORTS

Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee

The Committee met on 5 September 2022 and the following matters were considered:

- Police Commander and DCI John Owen gave an update on the new policing model. The new model included 10 local policing teams with one for the borough of Newcastle under Lyme with dedicated officers.
- The committee considered an update on the new recycling service following its introduction in 2020. The committee was advised that the new service had received positive feedback from residents; the streets looked tidier; tonnage volumes of recycling had increased and the overall volume of waste had decreased. The aims for the future were to increase separate food waste collections, enhance provision of services for residents living in flats and look at options for participation in recycling by commercial and business properties. The committee was also informed of the longer term implications of the Environment Act 2021.
- The committee considered the latest report to Cabinet on odour issues at Walleys Quarry.
- The committee considered the regular reports from the County Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Police, Fire and Crime Panel and notes of a meeting with the Integrated Care Board.
- The Work Programme was discussed and Members proposed items for the next meeting on 28 November on the proposals by Tri-Services to set up a hub to support mental health, investment in the borough's tennis courts and the commemorations for the 850 anniversary of the borough.

Cllr Ian Wilkes
Chair

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REGULATORY COMMITTEES CHAIR'S REPORTS

Audit and Standards Committee

The Committee met on 7th September 2022.

The first substantive item was the Internal Audit Update for Quarter 1 2022, presented by Clare Potts. The two Audits completed during the period had been categorised as “good”, the highest rating in use. It was noted that the highest number of outstanding recommendations related to the Chief Executive’s department and this was due to the relatively large number of areas of work in that department. Members then turned to the Corporate Risk Management Report for Quarters 4 2021/22 and 1 2022/23. The head of Legal/Governance presented the report and explained that work was underway to ensure that risks are clearly mapped to the council’s corporate priorities and that this process will develop as the restricting programme takes place.

While discussing the work plan a member proposed that the Town Deal spend vs budget be reported-on to the committee. Following discussion, it was felt that as the process was about to be subject to an internal audit and that such a proposal was not really within the remit of this committee and would be looked at by the Economic Development committee, it would not be appropriate at this time.

Cllr Paul Waring
Chair

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee has met twice since the last Council
19th July and 16th August 2022

At the July meeting

A substantive item concerned Morston House in the Midway in centre of Newcastle [APPLICATION FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT - MORSTON HOUSE, THE MIDWAY, NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME. THE DIRECTOR - WUKPG. 22/00300/FUL PDF 209 KB](#)

There were many reservations regarding this application regarding the proposed changing to a five-storey building and the visual impact that it would have on the town centre.

It was also felt that the building, in terms of its size and massing would have an overbearing impact on St Giles Church and on the Conservation area within the Town.

Members had concerns over the lack of parking provision and access for disabled users. This application was subsequently refused.

The other substantive agenda item was [APPLICATION FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT - LAND OFF CHEMICAL LANE, TUNSTALL. RAVENSDALE](#)

[PROP. SERVICES LTD & HARWORTH ESTATES INVEST LTD.
22/00353/FUL PDF 239 KB](#)

This was approved subject to conditions agreed by the Committee

There was an item of urgent business that related to 5 Boggs Cottage and another postponement by the Inspectorate for the planned hearing 12th of July. It was resolved that the Chair, Portfolio Holder for Planning with the CEO of the Council write to the Inspectorate, expressing the collective disappointment and dissatisfaction of the committee at the proposed rescheduling of the hearing take place next year.

The August meeting agenda was light in term of items, however there was one substantive item [APPLICATION FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT - ONE LONDON ROAD, NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME, ADOBE MANCHESTER LIMITED,
22/00548/FUL PDF 239 KB](#) This was permitted subject to conditions agreed at the meeting .

[UPDATE ON BREACH OF PLANNING OBLIGATION ENTERED INTO IN ASSOCIATION WITH 11/00284/FUL FOR THE ERECTION OF TWENTY THREE HOUSES AT THE FORMER SITE OF SILVERDALE STATION AND GOOD SHED,
STATION ROAD, SILVERDALE PDF 257 KB](#) this report was received.

Officers reported that following the planning committee's resolution to write to the inspectorate at their previous meeting in July there had been a positive response received by the Council in that the offer of a hearing next year (31st of January 2023) had been improved upon and brought forward to the 7th of September 2022. This was unanimously received by the Committee.

The meeting of the Planning Committee due to take place on the 13th of September was postponed to respect of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and the period of national mourning that followed.

Cllr Paul Northcott
Chair

Standing up for Responsible Tax Conduct

Full Council notes that:

1. The pressure on organisations to pay their fair share of tax has never been stronger.
2. Polling from the Institute for Business Ethics finds that “corporate tax avoidance” has, since 2013, been the clear number one concern of the British public when it comes to business conduct.
3. Two thirds of people (66%) believe the Government and local councils should at least consider a company’s ethics and how they pay their tax, as well as value for money and quality of service provided, when awarding contracts to companies.
4. Around 17.5% of public contracts in the UK have been won by companies with links to tax havens.
5. It has been conservatively estimated that losses from multinational profit-shifting (just one form of tax avoidance) could be costing the UK some £17bn per annum in lost corporation tax revenues.
6. The Fair Tax Mark offers a means for business to demonstrate good tax conduct and has been secured by a wide range of businesses across the UK, including FTSE-listed PLCs, co-operatives, social enterprises and large private businesses.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Council believes that:

1. Paying tax is often presented as a burden.
2. Tax enables us to provide services from education, health and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies.
3. As recipients of significant public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property.
4. Where councils hold substantive stakes in private enterprises, influence should be wielded to ensure that such businesses are exemplars of tax transparency and tax avoidance is shunned.
5. More action is needed, however, as current and proposed new UK procurement law significantly restricts councils’ ability to either penalise poor tax conduct (as exclusion grounds are rarely triggered) or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services.
6. UK cities, counties and towns can and should stand up for responsible tax conduct - doing what they can within existing frameworks and pledging to do more given the opportunity, as active supporters of international tax justice.
7. Council shall encourage our public sector partners/anchor institutions to also take a lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Approve the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration.
2. Lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities.
3. Ensure our contractors implement IR35 robustly and pay a fair share of employment taxes in line with our employees.
4. Not use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty.
5. Undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately by suppliers as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates which should benefit the Borough.
6. Demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of our suppliers and their consolidated profit & loss position.
7. Promote Fair Tax Mark certification especially for any business in which the Council has a significant stake and where corporation tax is due.
8. Support Fair Tax Week events in the area and applaud the tax contribution made by responsible businesses who say what they pay.
9. Support calls for urgent reform of UK law to enable the Council and all other local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies to achieve best economic value for Newcastle's businesses and residents.
10. To encourage our public sector partners/anchor institutions to also take a lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct.

Proposed: Councillor Stubbs

Seconded: Councillor Brown

Council Motion – Fire and Re-Hire

That this Council notes:

- 1 in 10 workers have experienced ‘fire and rehire’ - told to reapply for their jobs on worse pay, terms and conditions or face the sack, with BME workers facing this at twice the rate of white workers, since March 2020 (TUC research, January 2021). A quarter of all workers have experienced a worsening of their terms and conditions – including a cut in their pay – since the pandemic began.
- That while out-going Prime Minister Johnson had called the practice “unacceptable” he had continually refused to take action to outlaw the practice, raising concerns that government will not intervene in this race to the bottom as an escalating number of employers across all sectors, using our weak employment protections force their staff to accept worse terms and conditions, leaving many having to work longer hours and for lower pay, with what can be devastating consequences for workers and their families.
- Even before the pandemic, 1 in 9 workers - 3.8 million people - were already ‘insecure’, meaning they did not have access to basic rights at work and could be dismissed at will; including those on zero hour contracts and agency workers.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Recognise that local residents should be protected against such unscrupulous employers and agrees to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the new Prime Minister requesting she outlaw ‘fire and rehire’ and act now to keep governments promise to local residents to protect their employment terms and conditions;
- Not use ‘fire and rehire’ itself as an employer and to discourage its use by council contractors and to ensure that the council’s procurement practices ensure that we are working with contractors that have good employment, equality and environmental records, for example, fostering good Trade Union relationships;
- Promote the increasing number of progressive local employers prioritising their employees’ standard of living and their wellbeing, work with our anchor institutions and key partners to bring forward plans to ensure all have best practice employment and to work with recognised trade unions on this;
- Support the TUC campaign for a ‘New Deal for Working People’.

Proposed: Cllr D Jones

Seconded: Cllr A Fox-Hewitt

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Motion Supporting the Local Electricity Bill

The Local Electricity Bill has had its first reading in Parliament. The Bill seeks to adjust the energy market rules and enable the potential for local renewable energy supply businesses to increase twentyfold. This would help reduce fossil fuel pollution and reduce energy bills whilst giving a boost to local economies.

This Council:

- (i) Acknowledges the efforts that the Council has made to reduce its carbon emissions and move to renewable energy;
- (ii) Notes the disruption to energy market cause by international conflicts and the importance of energy security;
- (iii) And also recognises:
 - that very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so,
 - that making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would create significant opportunities for local companies, community groups and councils to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, if they wished, and
 - that revenues received by such local companies, community groups or councils that chose to become local renewable electricity providers could be used to help improve the local economy, local services and facilities and to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions;
- (iv) Notes that the Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee, as a result of its 2021 Technological Innovations and Climate Change inquiry, recommended that a Right to Local Supply for local energy suppliers be established to address this;
- (v) Accordingly resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, currently supported by a cross-party group of Members Parliament, including the local MPs that represent the Borough and which, if made law, would establish a Right to Local Supply which would promote local renewable electricity supply by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply company; and
- (vi) Further resolves to
 - inform the local media of this decision,
 - write to the new Secretary of State to make him aware of the Council's position

Proposed: Cllr Simon Tagg
Seconded Cllr Rupert Adcock

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