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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 **Queen Elizabeth II & Astley Rooms - Castle House, Barracks Road, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 1BL** on **Wednesday, 23rd November, 2022** immediately following the conclusion of the Special Meeting

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 - 12)

To consider the Minutes of the previous meeting(s)

4 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5 PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW (Pages 13 - 24)

6 STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Pages 25 - 28)

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 29 - 30)

A written report is attached for the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee.

The Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee and the Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee have not met since the last meeting of the Full Council.

8 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES (Pages 31 - 34)

Written reports are attached for the Audit and Standards Committee, the Planning Committee and the Licensing and Public Protection Committee.

9 MOTIONS OF MEMBERS (Pages 35 - 36)

One Motion has been received.

10 QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS (Pages 37 - 38)

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin T. Handley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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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Agenda Item 3

Council - 28/09/22

COUNCIL

Wednesday, 28th September, 2022

Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

Present: Mayor - Councillor Gillian Burnett (Chair)

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

Apologies: Councillor(s) Bettley-Smith, Moffat and Talbot

Officers:	David Adams	Executive Director - Sustainable Environment
	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. **HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

A minute's silence was held for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who passed away on 8th September.

[Watch the tributes here](#)

3. **MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July, 2022 be agreed as a correct record.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made two announcements:

The Mayor's Cadet Sergeant Katie Shaw had stood down due to other commitments. Katie was thanked for her dedication during her time as Mayor's Cadet. Cadet Nathan Byron had now taken on the role and was introduced and welcomed at the meeting.

Members were reminded about the 1940's Dance on 12 November at Kidsgrove Town Hall. The event would be in aid of the Mayor's Charity Fund.

5. COUNCIL PLAN - 2022 TO 2026

The Leader introduced a report asking Members to receive the Council Plan for 2022-2026.

The Plan set out the Council's key priorities and vision for the next four years and demonstrated achievements over the previous four years. A copy of the Plan was appended to the report.

Resolved: That the Council Plan 2022-2026 be noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

6. STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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

In respect of paragraph 2, Councillor Sweeney congratulated the Council on the success of the events that were put in place to honour the late Queen. The Leader agreed and thanked St Giles' Church for their involvement in the events and noted that the Garden Room at Castle House had been renamed the Queen Elizabeth II room.

On paragraph 3 regarding Walleys Quarry, there were questions as to the reasons behind reduced odours and the resourcing available to deal with the legal case. The Leader said that time would tell if the reduced odours were purely as a result of weather conditions and assured members that the legal case was adequately resourced.

On paragraph 4, the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth confirmed that there was every intention to retain a the cost of living reserve in next year's budget. The Leader also confirmed that saving proposals would be brought to a future meeting, following the Efficiency Board process which had already begun. On this paragraph, the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth also confirmed that the Council would be involved eligible for funding under the Government's Energy Relief scheme.

On paragraph 5, alternative fuels, the Leader confirmed that the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) was a trial and ultimately the Council would look to investigating hydrogen once the technology existed.

On paragraph 6, the First Quarter Finance and Performance Review report, the Leader stated that 80% of targets being met was excellent but the Council could do even better.

With regard to the Heart of England in Bloom Success, the Leader was asked about community gardening projects. The Leader advised of an event being held at the New Vic Theatre celebrating community involvement in Britain in Bloom. Councillor Gorton was invited to speak with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Heritage or the Executive Director for Sustainable Environment with ideas they could be tied in with the Borough's 850th anniversary celebrations next year.

The Leader was also asked about the award for the Grosvenor Roundabout and agreed that retiling the walls, improved lighting, CCTV and returning of the seating had much improved this area.

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

[Watch the debate here](#)

7. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

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

A verbal update was given by the Chair of the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee. There had been two sittings of the Committee since the last Council meeting. The first was a Call-In on the Local Plan and there were no changes to the previous recommendations.

The next meeting saw a full review of the Council's recycling service and all Members present congratulated the service and the employees within it for their outstanding work.

Resolved: That the reports be received.

8. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES

Written reports were submitted for the Committees that had met since the last Council meeting.

Resolved: That the reports be received.

9. MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

Three Motions were received.

The first Motion concerned Standing up for Responsible Tax Conduct, proposed by Councillor Stubbs and seconded by Councillor Brown.

Following a debate on the substantive motion, a named vote was taken.

Council - 28/09/22

ADCOCK	N	GROCOTT	Y	STUBBS	Y
ALLPORT	Y	HEESOM	N	SWEENEY	N
BARKER	N	HOLLAND	N	J TAGG	N
BEESTON	Y	HUTCHISON	N	S TAGG	N
BETTLEY-SMITH	ABSENT	JOHNSON	N	TALBOT	ABSENT
BROCKIE	Y	D JONES	Y	J WARING	N
BROWN	Y	S JONES	N	P WARING	N
BRYAN	N	LAWLEY	Y	WHIELDON	N
BURNETT	N	MOFFATT	ABSENT	G WHITE	N
CRISP	N	NORTHCOTT	N	S WHITE	N
DYMOND	Y	PANTER	N	WILKES	N
EDGINGTON-PLUNKETT	Y	PARKER	N	G WILLIAMS	Y
FEAR	N	REECE	Y	J WILLIAMS	Y
FOX-HEWITT	Y	RICHARDS	Y	WRIGHT	Y
GORTON	Y	SKELDING	N		

In Favour (Y)- 17

Against (N)- 24

Abstain – 0

The Motion fell.

[Watch the debate here](#)

The second Motion concerned Fire and Rehire proposed by Councillor Dave Jones and seconded by Councillor Fox-Hewitt.

Following a debate on the substantive motion, a named vote was taken:

ADCOCK	N	GROCOTT	Y	STUBBS	Y
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ALLPORT	Y	HEESOM	N	SWEENEY	N
BARKER	N	HOLLAND	N	J TAGG	N
BEESTON	Y	HUTCHISON	N	S TAGG	N
BETTLEY-SMITH	ABSENT	JOHNSON	ABSENT	TALBOT	ABSENT
BROCKIE	Y	D JONES	Y	J WARING	N
BROWN	Y	S JONES	N	P WARING	N
BRYAN	N	LAWLEY	Y	WHIELDON	N
BURNETT	N	MOFFATT	ABSENT	G WHITE	N
CRISP	N	NORTHCOTT	N	S WHITE	N
DYMOND	Y	PANTER	N	WILKES	N
EDGINGTON-PLUNKETT	Y	PARKER	N	G WILLIAMS	Y
FEAR	N	REECE	Y	J WILLIAMS	Y
FOX-HEWITT	Y	RICHARDS	Y	WRIGHT	Y
GORTON	Y	SKELDING	N		

In Favour (Y)- 17

Against (N)- 23

Abstain – 0

The Motion fell.

[Watch the debate here](#)

The Third Motion concerned the Local Electricity Bill, proposed by Councillor Simon Tagg and seconded by Councillor Adcock.

Following a debate on the substantive motion, a vote was taken and carried unanimously.

[Watch the debate here](#)

10. **QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Councillor Wendy Brockie asked:

With particular reference to the problems with anti-social behaviour, drug abuse and related criminality in Newcastle Town Centre, could assurance be given by the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing that full, measurable pressure would be asserted upon the Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire to address the shortcomings of the services as they affected Newcastle under Lyme.

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing stated that creating a vibrant and inviting town centre had been a priority of this administration for the past four years and would continue to be so. Whilst the town centre did suffer to some extent from rough sitters, addressing the challenges was not purely a matter for the police. The Council had employed two street marshalls who had been in post for over a year. There was also a new Town Centre Ranger who was visible around town.

Consultations had been carried out on Public Space Protection Orders for the Town Centre and a report would be taken to the Licensing and Public Protection Committee on 18 October.

The new policing model had seen a significant increase in officers on the ground with a clear priority on town centre issues. The Portfolio Holder was confident that the new policing model and the continuation of the strong partnership working with the Council, tangible improvement would be delivered.

Councillor Brockie then asked:

Could the Portfolio Holder agree that significant monitoring of the local situation regarding offender management, on which the recent inspection of the service had rendered offender management inadequate. Could the Portfolio Holder assure everyone that the secure monitoring, currently in place would be continued and upscaled in order to ensure that the lives of residents and the future chances to whom better support services would make a difference, was continued.

The Portfolio Holder stated that the majority of the supplementary question had been answered in her previous response but reiterated that she would continue to put pressure on the Police and Crime Commissioner through her involvement with the Police, Fire and Crime Panel.

Councillor Brockie asked a further question:

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing was asked if she could provide assurance that the concerns of residents about safe parking in their streets, including the pursuit of infringement where they occurred would be supported with a suitable allocation of resources.

The Leader stated that this was a County Council matter and asked that Councillor Brockie contact him after the meeting to be put in touch with the County Council.

Councillor Brockie asked the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth to provide assurance that repairs and renovations to the shops in Merrial Street, particularly number 6 and nearby properties on that side would be visibly costed and that the future of the buildings would be clarified in order to reassure proprietors and encourage potential businesses to occupy premises in the area.

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that everything had been costed on that street.

Councillor Mike Stubbs asked:

In light of the recent inspections of both Staffordshire Fire and Rescue and Staffordshire Police, which had found both services inadequate in a number of areas and consequently saw HMI issue improvement notices on both services, could the Leader inform Council what measures had been taken since the publication of the very concerning reports to ensure the communities of Newcastle, Kidsgrove and villages inbetween were kept safe.

The Leader stated that regular meetings had been held with Ben Adams about local policing matters, particularly the new policing model that was rolling out across the Borough. The Leader also held monthly meetings with the local Police Commander, John Owen. The Commander had been very proactive on issues relating to the town centre and issues across the Borough. Since the new model had been introduced, there had been a 30% reduction in reported incidents. The Police had also issued a number of Section 35 dispersal notices, prohibiting certain individuals from entering particular areas for up to 48 hours.

[Watch the debate here](#)

11. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

12. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

13. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

There was no confidential business.

**Mayor - Councillor Gillian Burnett
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 9.06 pm

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO

Council
23 November 2022

Report Title: Parliamentary Boundary Review

Submitted by: Executive Management Team

Portfolios: One Council, People and Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: ALL

Purpose of the Report

To inform Council of the consultation from the Boundary Commission for England on parliamentary boundaries that impact the borough.

Recommendation

That Council considers making a recommendation to the Boundary Commission for England.

Reasons

To ensure the Council has an opportunity to make any comments on the proposals.

1. **Background**

1.1 The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has been undertaking a review of parliamentary boundaries. The revised proposals were published on 8 November for a final consultation period of 4 weeks.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 Following the passing of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 and publication of the relevant Parliamentary electorate data in 2021, the BCE commenced a review of parliamentary boundaries. Initial proposals were published in June 2021 and an eight week consultation period was held. The BCE has now published revised proposals for a final 4 week consultation period. Statutory rules mean that each recommended constituency must have no less than 69,724 and no more than 77,062 parliamentary electors. There are some exceptions for 'protected constituencies' but this does not impact Staffordshire.
- 2.2 The proposals for the borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme mean electors will be within one of 3 parliamentary constituencies as below:
- Newcastle under Lyme County Constituency – electorate of 70,025. This constituency will change slightly with the addition of the remaining part of Polling Districts Madeley and Betley which were formerly part of the Stone constituency.
 - Stoke-on-Trent North Constituency – electorate of 69,821. This constituency includes the Borough wards of Kidsgrove and Ravenscliffe, the remaining part of Newchapel and Mow Cop which were formerly part of the Staffordshire Moorlands Constituency, and Talke and Butt Lane.

- Stafford County Constituency – electorate of 70,537. This constituency includes the Borough wards of Loggerheads and Maer and Whitmore and no longer includes part of Madeley and Betley.

2.3 The full detail of the proposals can be accessed via the link below:

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/>

3. **Proposal**

3.1 That the Council considers the proposals and makes any comments by the deadline of 5 December 2022.

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 To enable the Council to respond to the consultation.

5. **Options Considered**

5.1 None.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 None for the council.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 There are no adverse equality impacts identified as a consequence of this report.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 There are no additional financial implications to the council beyond the ongoing cost of managing elections in the borough.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 There are no risks.

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

10.1 N/A





11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 This is not a key decision.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 None

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 None

14. **Background Papers**

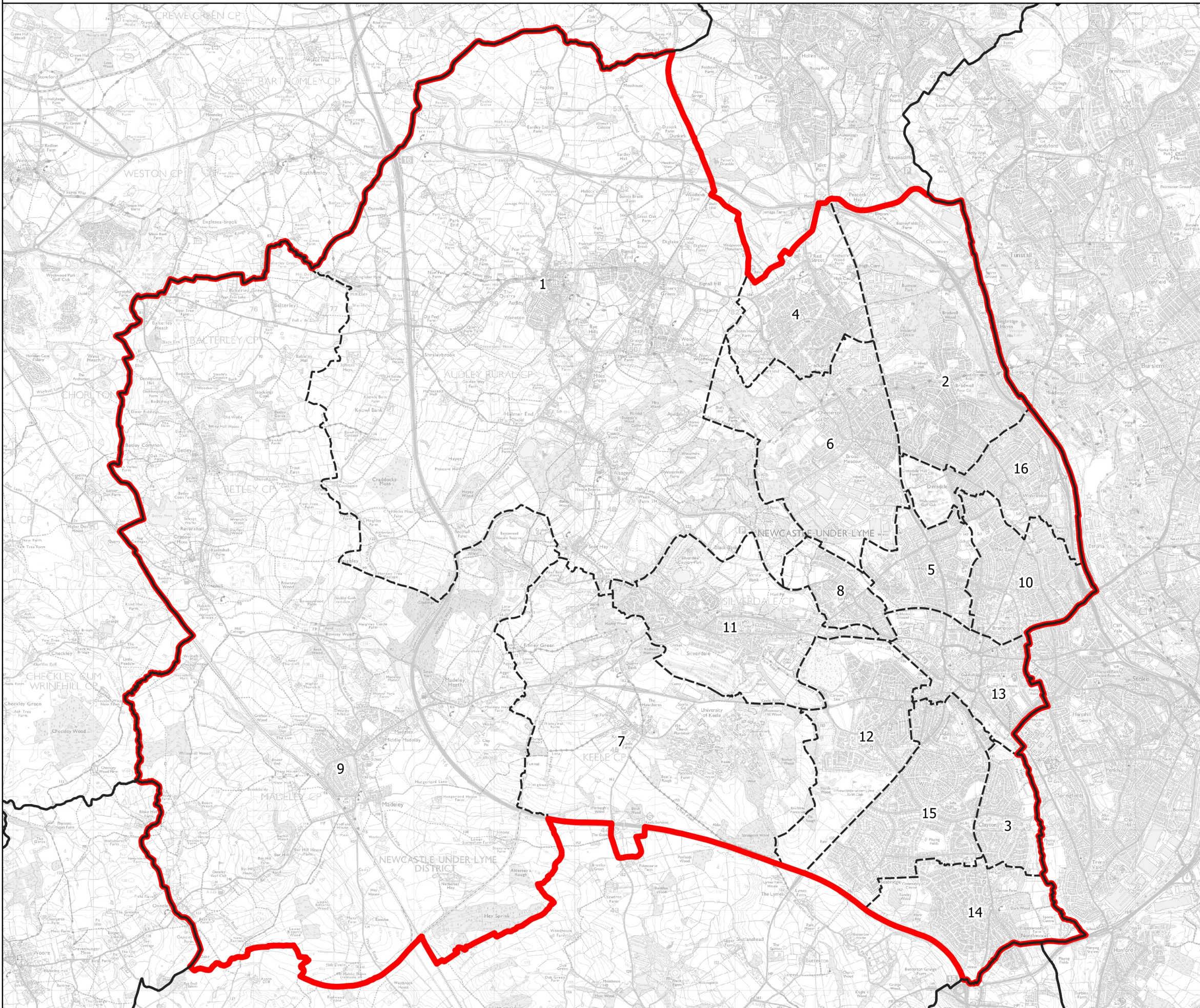
14.1 None.

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Wards:

- 1 Audley
- 2 Bradwell
- 3 Clayton
- 4 Crackley & Red Street
- 5 Cross Heath
- 6 Holditch & Chesterton
- 7 Keele
- 8 Knutton
- 9 Madeley & Betley
- 10 May Bank
- 11 Silverdale
- 12 Thistleberry
- 13 Town
- 14 Westbury Park & Northwood
- 15 Westlands
- 16 Wolstanton



- Constituency
- Local Authorities
- Wards

0 0.7 1.4 km

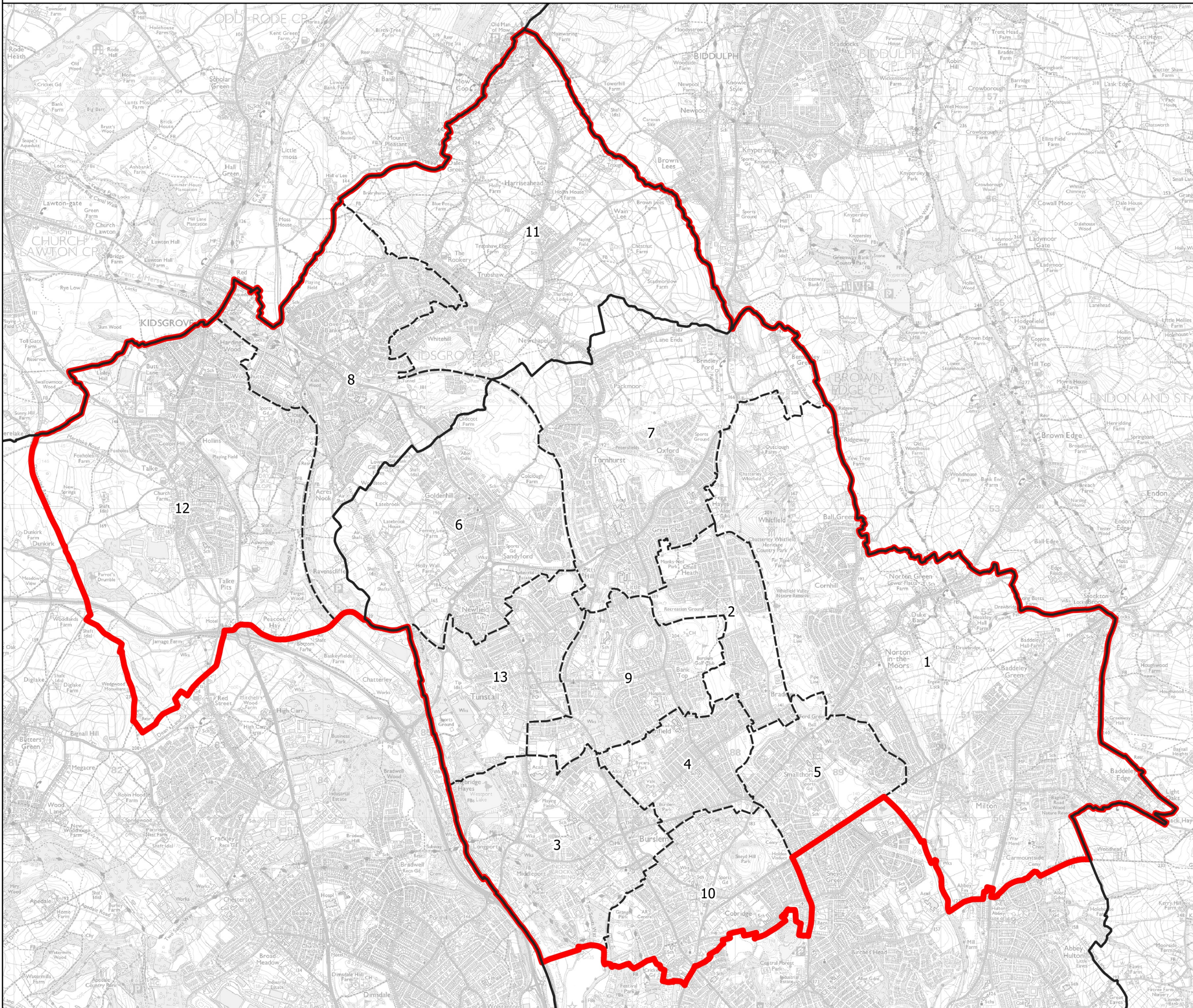
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Wards:

- 1 Baddeley, Milton and Norton
- 2 Bradeley and Chell Heath
- 3 Burslem Central
- 4 Burslem Park
- 5 Ford Green and Smallthorne
- 6 Goldenhill and Sandyford
- 7 Great Chell and Packmoor
- 8 Kidsgrove & Ravenscliffe
- 9 Little Chell and Stanfield
- 10 Moorcroft
- 11 Newchapel & Mow Cop
- 12 Talke & Butt Lane
- 13 Tunstall

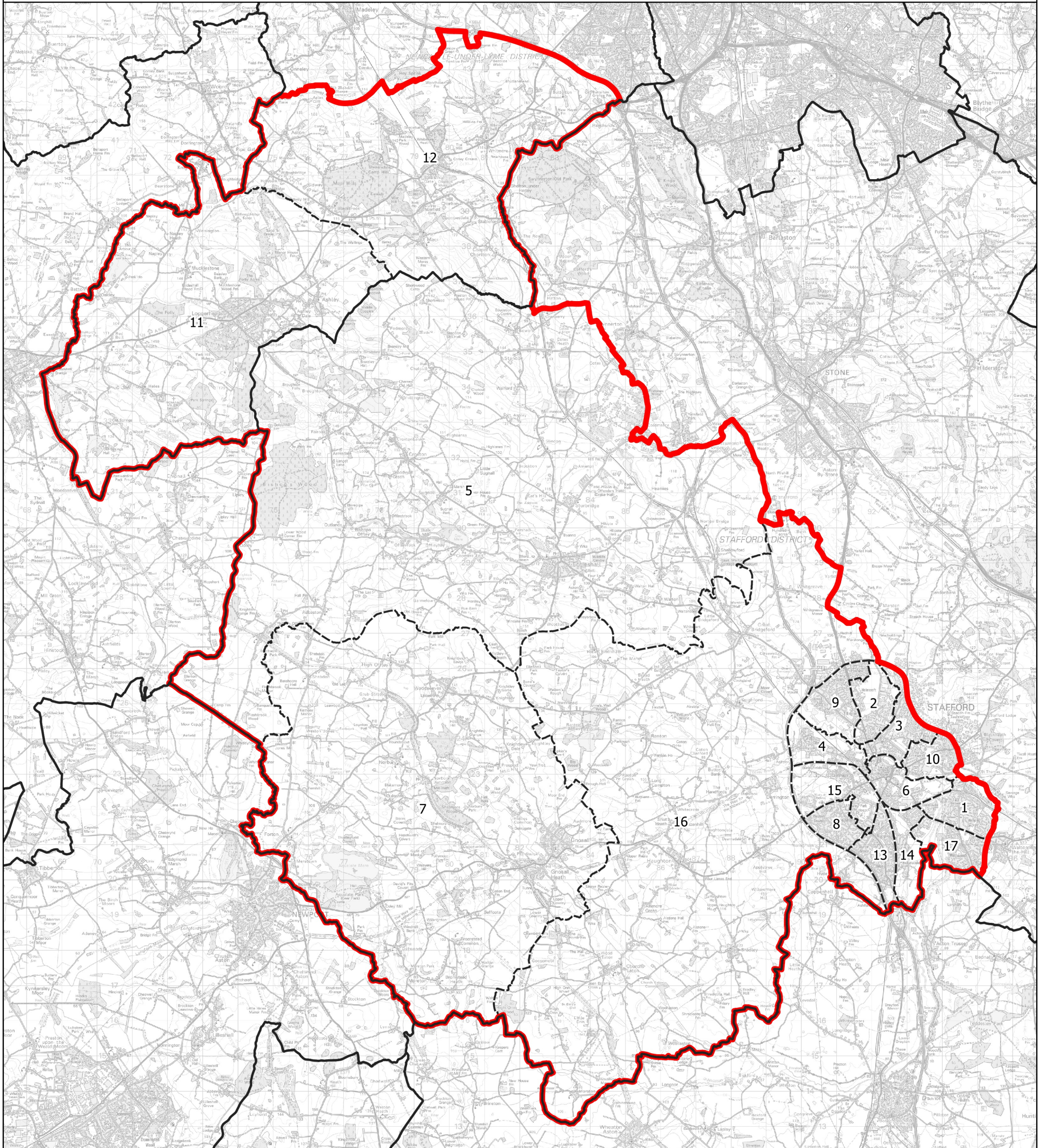


- Constituency
- Local Authorities
- Wards

0 0.5 1 km




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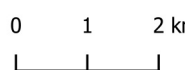
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Wards:

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Baswich | 8 Highfields & Western Downs | 14 Penside |
| 2 Common | 9 Holmcroft | 15 Rowley |
| 3 Coton | 10 Littleworth | 16 Seighford & Church Eaton |
| 4 Doxey & Castletown | 11 Loggerheads | 17 Weeping Cross & Wildwood |
| 5 Eccleshall | 12 Maer & Whitmore | |
| 6 Forebridge | 13 Manor | |
| 7 Gnosall & Woodseaves | | |

-  Constituency
-  Local Authorities
-  Wards



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ITEM 5: PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW

Recommendation proposed By Simon Tagg and Seconded by Mark Holland

Council notes the revised proposals for Parliamentary boundaries published by the Boundary Commission for England on 8th November.

Council welcomes the proposed reduction in the number of MPs representing the Borough from 4 to 3 but believes that the Commission could go further and consolidate all of the Borough's rural south into the Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency.

Council regrets that the Commission has not found it possible to propose a pattern of seats that includes the Maer & Whitmore and Loggerheads wards in the Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency.

Council regrets that the Commission has not accepted representations in the first round of consultation in support of renaming the Stoke-on-Trent North constituency "Stoke-on-Trent North and Kidsgrove".

Council therefore **resolves** to make the following representation to the Boundary Commission in its final consultation round:

"Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council thanks the Boundary Commission for its diligent work in drawing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in our Borough. The proposals will increase electoral equality so that every elector's vote carries a more similar weight.

"We strongly believe that the Maer & Whitmore and Loggerheads wards are an integral part of Newcastle-under-Lyme and this area was previously included in the Newcastle seat, prior to 1983. We ask that further consideration is given to their inclusion in the Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency, which would then total an electorate of 75,768, which is within the acceptable variance of a constituency as set out in statute.

"We also support the representations made at the initial consultation stage that favour the renaming of the proposed Stoke-on-Trent North constituency "Stoke-on-Trent North and Kidsgrove". The town of Kidsgrove has a proud history independent of Stoke-on-Trent and it is right that its name should be included in the Parliamentary constituency that is proposed, which will contain every household within the Kidsgrove Town Council area including those in Newchapel Ward."

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STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL TO FULL COUNCIL – 23rd NOVEMBER 2022

Submitted by: Councillor Simon Tagg

Portfolio: All

Wards affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To provide an update to Members on the activities and decisions of Cabinet, together with the Forward Plan.

Recommendation

That the statement of the Leader of the Council be received and noted.

Reasons

To update Council Members on the activities and decisions of the Leader and Cabinet and to allow questions and comments to be made on the Statement.

1. **Cabinet Meetings**

Cabinet met on 5th & 18th October and 8th November; detailed below is a selection of decisions and other actions of the Leader and Cabinet since the last Leader's Statement.

2. **Walleys Quarry Odour Issues**

Since the last meeting of Full Council, a settlement has been reached in relation to the Abatement Notice for statutory nuisance served by the Council on the operator of Walleys Quarry Landfill. It has taken over a year of intensive work to get to this point, but the settlement means that an Abatement Notice is now in place requiring Walleys Quarry Ltd to abate the odour nuisance off site, and to prevent a re-occurrence of a Statutory Nuisance.

The agreement also affords the community access to information about activities on the site which will be both welcomed and useful. This will include key documents which set out how Walleys Quarry Ltd manage the site in terms of waste acceptance, gas management, capping and odour management are now available on their website. Our officers have begun a programme of regular meetings with the landfill operator to ensure the Council has up to date information about the implementation of these plans and on their impact.

The operator has also agreed to provide advance notification of activities on site which might give rise to odours in the community, and to record meetings of the Liaison Committee and make these available for the residents to review online and refresh the committee's membership.

The Council allocated substantial funds to enable this case to be progressed and, as part of the settlement, Walleys Quarry Ltd have agreed to reimburse the Council £400k

towards the costs incurred in preparing for the appeal and £60k towards future odour monitoring.

The clock has now restarted on the period the operator has to abate the odour nuisance and Cabinet will ensure that this issue continues to be a key priority for the Council on behalf of the local community.

3. **Future High Street Fund and Town Deals update**

Cabinet received updates on the next stage of the multi million pound investment via the Future High Street Fund and Town Deals for both Newcastle and Kidsgrove. Authority was given to appoint the services of Quantity Surveyors to develop the various projects over the next few years. This will include the redevelopment of the Ryecroft site, York Place, Midway and development of new industrial units at Parkhouse Industrial Estate and Chatterley Valley.

The £23m Town Deal Investment Plan for Newcastle will focus on digital connectivity around the town, sustainable transport and regeneration projects in Knutton and Chesterton.

The £16.9m Kidsgrove Town Deal Investment Plan is focussed on improved connectivity to the railway station and canal network, creating a Shared Service Hub as a community focal point for the town centre as well as an expansion of job opportunities at Chatterley Valley.

4. **Kidsgrove Sports Centre Final Account**

Cabinet signed off the final accounts following the completion of the Kidsgrove Sports Centre refurbishment. The Sports Centre and swimming pool reopened in July and is now run by a community interest company and has been extremely well received by local residents.

The overall cost of the project was £7.7m, this comprised of £4.326m capital funding from the Council, £2.848m Town Deal funding, contributions of £355k from Staffordshire County Council, £205k from Sport England and £21k from the community interest company which also financed additional equipment for the centre.

5. **UK Shared Prosperity Fund Contract Award**

Cabinet endorsed the Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan which supports the following priorities – Community and Place, Local Business and People and Skills.

A Grant Funding Agreement will be entered into with the Government for the borough's allocation of £4.8m after which contracts will be awarded to deliver a range of projects including supporting jobs growth and heritage and culture, enhancing green infrastructure, focussing on small business growth, developing job skills and supporting businesses to take advantage of digital opportunities.

6. **Christmas Car Parking 2022**

Free parking is being provided for shoppers visiting Newcastle town centre in the run up to Christmas until 6th January 2023.

The Midway car park will be free from 10am to 1pm every day. After 1pm it will cost just £1 to park until 8am the next day. Sunday parking is free all year round on Council car parks.

This will support the programme of events including the festive market events, the Christmas lights switch-on and late night shopping on Wednesdays.

7. **Additional Space for Cremated Remains Burial at Bradwell and New Cemetery and Crematorium Regulations**

Cabinet approved the extension of the burial area of Bradwell Crematorium to include part of the open space off Chatterley Drive, this will enable the Council to continue to offer the burial of cremated remains on the site for the next 40 years. The remainder of the open space is protected as a carbon capture area to be planted with trees and the existing children's play area will be retained.

8. **Borough Local Plan – Call for Brownfield Sites**

The Council has launched a Call for Sites as part of the Borough Local Plan process. This is aimed at identifying brownfield sites which can be used to build new houses and attract new businesses.

Prioritising the use of brownfield sites was one of the main requests received from the public during the Issues and Strategic Options consultation which took place earlier this year and will allow the best use of available land to ensure we have appropriate development while protecting green space in the borough.

Cabinet, at its meeting on 5th October, agreed a lower housing growth target based on the nationally set Government standard methodology which is 7,000 homes over the 20 year plan period (350 dwellings per annum). This was also a key request from the public during the consultation.

There will be a further public consultation on Preferred Sites in Spring 2023 after which the Borough Local Plan will be finalised and consulted on again before being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination by the end of 2024. The Local Plan will form an essential framework for the borough's housing, employment, retail, leisure and transport requirements for the period up to 2040.

9. **Financial & Performance Review Report – Second Quarter (July-Sept) 2022-23**

Cabinet received a report detailing Quarter 2 performance at its November meeting. For quarter 2 a total of 34 indicators were reported, with 85% of indicators either hitting their target or being within the tolerance level.

Performance across the Council remains strong, with waste & recycling, planning and indicators relating to the town centre all performing well. One area which was highlighted for specific attention is sickness absence, where the target has been missed for a second consecutive quarter. Cabinet has requested action to ensure that cases of repeated or longer term absence are actively managed, and employees are supported to get back into work.

10. **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan can be found at:-

<http://svmma/mqListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=138&RP=118>

Councillor Simon Tagg
Leader of the Council

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SCRUTINY COMMITTEES CHAIR'S REPORTS

Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee

There has been one meeting of the economy and place scrutiny committee since the last full council meeting, and this was a special meeting to review the latest with regard to the abatement notice relating to Walleys Quarry

The Chief Executive gave a presentation and took questions from the committee members

The committee welcomed the latest developments as a positive step forward in the controlling of the site and lessening the nuisance for the community.

Cllr Gary White

Chair

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REGULATORY COMMITTEES CHAIR'S REPORTS

Audit and Standards Committee

The Committee met on 14th November 2022.

The first substantive item of business was to receive and approve the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 and to receive the Audit Findings Report relating to the Accounts. Andrew Smith of Grant Thornton described the audit work carried out, noting that although the audit was substantially complete, there was still some work left to be done in relation to value for money analysis. There had been no issues of any significance to raise with the Audit Committee other than the items on the report which were of a relatively minor nature, and a number of these had been addressed since the Audit commenced. Members asked a number of questions, which were answered by the Officers and the Auditors. The Committee resolved to approve the Audited Accounts.

The Treasury Management Half Yearly Report 2022/23 was then reviewed by Members, where it was noted that due to the various Government investments, the Council currently holds significant amounts of cash. The majority of this is held on short-term deposit with DMADF/DMO, which is felt to be the safest place in the current economic climate. It was confirmed that the Council is currently well within its operational limits in all areas.

Clare Potts, Chief Internal Auditor, then presented the Internal Audit Update Quarter 2, 2022/23, detailing the internal audit work done so far during this year and the outcomes to date. Members agreed to receive the report.

Discussion then turned to the Audit Plan, and the Chair voiced his concerns about the difficulties many Members face when reading risk reports. Some time ago in an attempt to improve understanding, at most meetings, more detailed information would be provided for one or more risk areas. However, it was felt that this process required modification, in order to properly enhance Members' understanding. It was agreed that the Chair and Officers would take a further look at the process and see how it might be improved, prior to the next meeting, in readiness for further discussion by the Committee.

Cllr Paul Waring
Chair

Planning Committee

The committee has met twice since the last full Council meeting; on the 11th of October and 8th of November 2022

The 11th of October heard deliberations from the committee and this revolved the first substantive item on the agenda ;

[APPLICATION FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT - BALDWINS GATE FARM, NEWCASTLE ROAD, BALDWINS GATE. RICHBOROUGH ESTATES. 21/01041/OUT PDF 514 KB](#)

There ensued a lengthy debate and there were several speakers that both supported and objected to the application. The debate centred mainly on the potential harm to the countryside and the relevance to the local NDP policies that the site had sustainability issues such as the limited public transport and an over reliance on the use of a car, the loss of most versatile agricultural land and harm to the character and appearance of the countryside. Members of the committee put forward that NULBC has a healthy 5YLS and thus, policies, even though some were not recent, still held some weighting in determining this application particularly the NDP policies of NE1 and HG1.

The Committee did not agree with the officer's recommendation to permit this application and following the lengthy debate, unanimously voted in favour of refusal.

[APPLICATION FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT - LAND OFF CROSS STREET, CHESTERTON. DURATA DEVELOPMENT LTD. 22/00012/REM](#)

This reserved matters application was permitted by the committee subject to conditions in the report.

There was a third substantive item on the agenda related to [APPLICATION FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT - PARK HILL FARM, PARK LANE. MRS PAT PIMLOTT. 22/00214/FUL PDF 239 K](#)

During this application, the Chair moved an extension of the meeting until 10.30pm. This was unanimously agreed.

Following a lengthy debate, Members felt that there was insufficient information to determine the application and voted in favour of a deferral.

Other items included an item from HS2 which included earthworks to provide bunds required to support associated works on site on land to the northwest of Bower End Farm.

[APPLICATION FOR OTHER DEVELOPMENT - LAND NORTH WEST OF BOWER END FARM, MADELEY. HIGH SPEED TWO \(HS2\) LIMITED. 22/00747/SCH17](#)

The committee resolved that the Schedule 17 application be permitted subject to the condition and carried out in accordance with the approved plans.

The committee also received updates relating to reports of the enforcement items of Boggs Cottages, Keele and Doddlespool, Betley.

The meeting concluded at 10.09pm.

8th of November Meeting.

The meeting on the 8th of November was totally different to the last meeting. The first major item on the agenda> The committee considered an application that was seeking to remove condition 21 of a previous approved decision

[APPLICATION FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT - LAND NORTH OF PEPPER STREET, KEELE. SEDDON HOMES. 22/00094/FUL](#)

A deferral was agreed, members felt that removing the condition was not appropriate in this instance and a variation was required so it was deferred to enable officers, in liaison with Environmental Health colleagues, to advise Members of appropriate wording for a variation to Condition 21.

The next debate focused on Section 106 arrangements

[LAND SOUTH OF HONEYWALL LANE, MADELEY HEATH. MR CHRIS ANDREWS. 20/00972/DOB](#)

A local ward Cllr spoke in favour of the proposal.

Committee members held a brief debate and finalised a unanimous conclusion to approve and go with recommendations laid out in the report in modifying the s106 agreement.

A request was made after the debate from a Committee member for Committee Members to receive guidance or training on Section 106 Agreements in the future.

There was a substantial item that was withdrawn

[APPLICATION FOR OTHER DEVELOPMENT - LAND AT STATION ROAD, ONNELEY. MR J FINNEY. 22/00245/FUL](#)

The evening's agenda concluded with one item of Urgent Business.

URGENT BUSINESS

it was agreed by members that this would be heard in closed session to provide members with a more detailed progress report and protect the interests of parties linked to this. The information was received.

Cllr Paul Northcott
Chair

Licensing and Public Protection Committee

The Licensing and Public Protection Committee has met once since the last Full Council meeting, on 18th October.

In this meeting Members received updates on the following:

- Business and Planning Act 2020, relating to the relaxations in respect of pavement licences and alcohol off-sales.
- Public Space Protection Order - Public Consultation on Newcastle Town Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park PSPO's.
- Results of three Taxi Licensing appeals, all of which were dismissed.

Members noted and approved those updates.

The Committee also discussed the following:

- Food Safety Service Plan 2022/23 and Review of Performance in 2021/22
- Public Protection Sub-Committee Programme
- Proposed Amendments to Taxi Licensing Policy 2021-2025

Members agreed and approved the recommendations in those reports

The Licensing Sub-Committee and Public Protection Sub-Committee have not met since the last Full Council meeting.

Minutes for the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 8th August and the Public Protection Sub-Committee held on 10th August were made available to the main Committee.

Councillor Andrew Parker
Chair

Agenda Item 9

The Labour group of Councillors at Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough Council notes with concern the decision to retire the Realise and Achieve training charity brand from the we are aspire group and the potential impact this will have on the loss of fantastic skills and work apprenticeships that were available through the charity trading arm of Aspire. Realise has invested over £3million into our communities and supported over 20,000 people in its 13 years.

The Labour group wishes to see the charitable funds that were held by Realise put to best use for the borough.

The recent restructuring of Aspire presents Council with an opportunity to evaluate its partnership with Aspire going forward into the future to ensure the needs of the Council and its residents are met, whilst ensuring that Aspire will be able to deliver under the aims of the Councils Emerging Newcastle-under-Lyme local plan.

Therefore;

- Full Council resolves that it recognises the acute need for the provision of affordable housing, particularly housing at a social rent, across the borough and supports initiatives to address this need to ensure the borough's housing strategy is fit for the future.
- Full Council notes the need to deliver on our climate and ecological commitment specifically to protect our local ecology and safeguard our biodiversity.
- Full Council is concerned that the "Newcastle-under-Lyme issues and options consultation" fails to place enough emphasis and planning on creating a suitable and sufficient stock of social housing.
- Council agrees that going forward, Aspire will be required to produce a quarterly performance report that will sit under the relevant scrutiny committee that details the number of complaints from tenants and the average time to remedy complaints by sub category, to be determined by the committee.
- Full Council requests that Cabinet produce detailed reports considering the issues raised by the public, matters arising from the 'Newcastle-under-Lyme issues and options consultation' and Scrutiny Committee's to full council. For clarity this should include reports regarding ecology, drainage, consultation, best value, and consideration of alternative sites.
- Full council further requests the Cabinet not to transfer or propose for development any site in the ownership of the Council which has proven ecological /habitat value and/or community benefit without the prior approval of Full Council following provision of appropriate reports and public consultation.

Proposer: Cllr Dave Jones

Seconder: Cllr Sue Moffatt

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QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

To the Leader of the Council:

1. Can the Leader update the Council on the effects that the cost of living & inflation rises are having on people across the Borough and what actions the Council is able to take to help residents at this difficult time?

Cllr Andrew Parker
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To the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing:

2. Can the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing Holder update the Council on the work being carried out to reduce rough sleepers in the town centre and how many rough sleeper were there at the last count?

Cllr Joan Whieldon
.....

To the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth:

3. Can the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth advise how many people, currently on the Borough Council's waiting list for an allotment have been waiting for two or more years to be offered a plot?

Cllr Richard Gorton
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