



**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, 24th January, 2024** 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 ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 (Pages 15 - 18)**

**6 POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW (Pages 19 - 50)**

**7 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.

**8 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (To Follow)**

**9 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES (To Follow)**

The Audit and Standards Committee has not met since the last meeting.

**10 MOTIONS OF MEMBERS (Pages 51 - 52)**

To consider a motion seeking to ban the giving of live animals as prizes on Newcastle land.

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

**12 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS**

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

**13 URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any communications which pursuant to Section B4, Rule 9 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.

**14 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 style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping tail.

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 B5, Rule 4 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 - 22/11/23**

## **COUNCIL**

Wednesday, 22nd November, 2023

Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

**Present:** Mayor - Councillor Simon White (Chair)

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

**Apologies:** Councillor(s) Barker MBE, S Jones and Lawley

Officers:	Geoff Durham	Civic & Member Support Officer
	Martin Hamilton	Chief Executive
	Simon McEneny	Deputy Chief Executive
	Sarah Wilkes	Service Director - Finance / S151 Officer
	Georgina Evans-Stadward	Service Director - Strategy, People and Performance
	Nesta Barker	Service Director - Regulatory Services
	Anthony Harold	Service Director - Legal & Governance / Monitoring Officer
	Craig Jordan	Service Director - Planning

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 20 September, 2023 be agreed as a correct record.

### 3. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- Thanks were given to everyone involved with the Mayor's Ball last month which raised £27,126
- The Mayors Fireworks event raised £3000
- The Mayor's Christmas Carol Service would be held on Sunday 17 December at St Giles' Church, commencing at 6pm
- Members were asked to clear out their unwanted emails to free up storage space on their electronic devices.

**4. APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER**

The Leader introduced a report regarding the appointment of Anthony Harold as Monitoring Officer.

**Resolved:** That, in accordance with s5 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, Council, Anthony Harold be appointed as the Council's Monitoring Officer.

[Watch the debate here](#)

**5. APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES**

The Leader introduced a report advising of changes to committee membership following the appointment of Councillor Craig Skelding to Cabinet, replacing Councillor Jill Waring and a change in Labour group representation on the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the following changes to committee membership be agreed:
    - Councillor Jill Waring to replace Councillor Skelding on Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee
    - Councillor Jill Waring to replace Councillor Skelding as substitute on the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee
    - Councillor Lewis to replace Councillor Grocott on the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee
    - Councillor Grocott to become substitute on the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee
  - (ii) That Council receive and approve nominations for any other changes to committee places, in line with the political proportionality of the Council.

The Leader introduced a supplementary report on this item following Councillor Beeston now sitting as an Independent member.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That Councillor Beeson be appointed to the Planning Committee as an Independent Member
  - (ii) That Councillor Dave Jones take the vacant seat on the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee

- (iii) That the Labour Group advise the Monitoring Officer by close of business on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November which member was to be removed from the Planning Committee

[Watch the debate here](#)

## 6. **LOCAL PLANNING ENFORCEMENT PLAN**

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning, Councillor Fear introduced a report seeking approval and adoption of an updated Planning Enforcement Plan. A copy of the Plan was appended to the report.

The report had previously been considered by the Planning Committee.

Councillor Brown referred to page 42 which showed 'non-compliance with Section 106 Planning Obligations' as a low priority and asked why this was the case when there had been cases of planning enforcement having a detrimental effect on the amenity or privacy of neighbours.

Councillor Fear stated that the prioritisation referred to dealing with immediate damage that could be done by breaches in Planning legislation and the rapidity in which the Council needed to respond.

**Resolved:** That the Planning Enforcement Plan be approved and adopted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

## 7. **STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Leader, Councillor Simon Tagg presented the statement that had been circulated about the activities and decisions made by Cabinet to allow questions and comments. Reference was made to the Council's best ever success in Britain in Bloom, which was outlined at paragraph 9 of this Statement.

Questions were raised and responses were provided as follows.

### On paragraph 2 – Walleys Quarry Update

Councillor Adcock asked the Leader for reassurance that, following the problems encountered with the monitoring equipment, should the issue worsen again the Council would not hesitate to act and use the powers available to it.

The Leader confirmed that the Council were continuing to monitor the Abatement Notice's trigger points and would pursue it if necessary. Use of the Council's own hand held devices had increased since the news of the incorrect readings from the monitoring stations.

Councillor Dave Jones asked the Leader if the Secretary of State had given any reason for declining a simple request to hold a public enquiry into the failings of the Environment Agency (EA).

The Leader stated that he would distribute a letter that he sent on behalf of the Council, along with the Leader of Staffordshire County Council in which the Secretary of State had indicated that there was to be an independent inquiry by DEFRA into the failures of the EA.

Councillor Stubbs asked the Leader when the Council would receive the correct data.

The Leader advised that there had been a meeting of the Staffordshire Health Scrutiny Committee at Castle House on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November to which the EA did not turn up. The corrected data could be received in the new year.

All of the monitoring stations had now been recalibrated and reporting data on a weekly basis.

Councillor Fox-Hewitt moved a motion to amend the recommendation of this report to include the following:

‘That Council agrees that the Leader of the Council will write to the Secretary of State admonishing them for the failure to support this Council’s request for a public enquiry; to ask them to reconsider their decision and invite the minister or their representatives to meet with representatives of this Council to discuss our concerns.’

The Leader supported this amendment.

#### On paragraph 3 – Newcastle Town Centre Regeneration

Councillor Brockie asked the Leader for assurance that all elected members would be given the opportunity to meet with the representative of the providing companies and see a detailed presentation on what is being proposed for the town.

The Leader referenced the Special Meeting of the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee on 9 November at which this item had been debated following a Call-In. The Capital and Centric Business Model had been explained, along with the financial details. This Council, relevant Scrutiny Committees and the Planning Committee would all have an input as the plans moved forward.

Councillor Allport asked for assurance that the plans for the refurbishment would retain focus on accessibility to the market area.

The Leader stated that the Ryecroft development was about residential accommodation with the hotel and the York Place development would open up and connect that part of the town.

Councillor Gorton asked for more information regarding the rent free stalls for traders on Mondays, in terms of the start date, whether it would be launched on a trial basis and would the stalls be offered on a first come, first served basis.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, Councillor Stephen Sweeney stated that there would be sixty stalls on the first day and the take-up of them would be assessed.

Councillor Wright asked what control and supervision there would be for the provision of short stay parking bays at weekends and asked if the costs of supervision were factored in to the cost of maintaining the area.

The Leader stated that the ‘nipper’ parking would be on days when there were no event markets taking place. The Council’s Multi-Function Teams (MFT) would enforce the parking spaces.

Councillor Richards asked what was being done to ensure that the needs of the town centre were represented to the police authority and if the Council's own resources were being properly and fairly deployed in terms of antisocial behaviour.

The wardens who were part of the MFT would be out and about and would liaise with the police. There was also the CCTV system operating in the town centre and Public Space Protection Orders were also in place.

Councillor Sweeney stated that the regeneration of the town centre did not just include the Ryecroft and York Place developments. Previously vacant units were being brought back into use and there was an idea to have a large television screen at the bottom of the town. Reference was made to the Keele University Hub coming into the Ironmarket. Councillor Dave Jones declared an interest here as he worked for the University and had been involved with that project.

The Leader agreed with Councillor Sweeney stating that it had all been made possible by the Government grants.

Councillor Fox-Hewitt stated that there did need to be a strategy with working with the police to increase the number of dispersal orders.

On paragraph 4 – Sustainable Environment

Councillor Gary White asked the Leader how the infrastructure and cabling would be treated when the solar farm at Keele Cemetery was installed.

The Leader stated the Council was looking to use the highway for the cabling and it would all be detailed in the planning application

Councillor Reece asked for assurance that the Council had the resources to maintain the trees being planted under the Urban Tree Planting Strategy.

Councillor Adcock welcomed the planting of the trees and the introduction of the Tree and Biodiversity Management Plan and asked when that would be coming before committee to be scrutinised.

The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Environment, Councillor David Hutchison confirmed that there was a Tree Management Plan which was being developed into a Borough Council Bio-Diversity Management Operations Plan. It was hoped that the Plan could be presented to the next Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee but it had missed the deadline. The Plan would be completed within the next week and Councillor Hutchison stated that he would email the Plan out to all Members once finished. The Plan would then be considered at the next meeting of the Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee in the new year.

Councillor Dave Jones welcomed the proposed solar farm in Keele but had some concerns regarding the location as the area was highly visible across and into the older part of Keele Village. He stated that the Council had made significant strides in reducing its carbon emissions. However, Councillor Jones had concerns about the amount of papers being presented at meetings and would support all papers being presented online within a suitable timeframe.

The Leader agreed with Councillor Jones' concerns about the proposed solar farm and stated that the Council needed to ensure that they got it right.

Regarding paper usage, the Council had made massive strides in reducing that over the years but there was still further to go. Some items on the agenda did have late deadlines and were therefore published on the day of the Committee. The Leader was discussing with officers and IT as to who actually still needed paper copies and opportunities for laptops or tablets to be provided if they did not have their own equipment.

Councillor Fox-Hewitt asked, as part of the Tree and Bio-diversity Plan, were there any plans to scale up the workforce capacity - the numbers within the Council's team, skills, training to meet future demands.

The Leader assured that part of the Plan would be the budget and the staffing implications as it was a change in the way that the Council worked. More trees meant a less requirement for intensive grass cutting.

On paragraph 5 – Borough Local Plan Update

Councillor Grocott asked when the comments from the public consultations would be available on the Council's website.

Councillor Crisp was pleased that the consultation on the first draft local plan ensured a comprehensive engagement process with an eight week consultation period and asked the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning for confirmation that the accessibility and inclusivity would continue during the next consultation on the Local Plan.

The Leader stated that the first consultation 'options for sites' was the biggest that the Council had ever done and that had now been surpassed by the latest one. People were able to respond online, via email, by letter or in person.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning, Councillor Andy Fear confirmed that the suite of consultation measures used for the Regulation 18 plan would go forward with the Regulation 19 plan. Officers were now working through the responses and the findings would be available in the new year.

On paragraph 6 – Town Deal Update – Projects in Knutton

Councillor Moss asked the Leader what support and financial resources would be made available to ensure that a CIC came forward to run the community centre and, should this not be achieved, would it put the whole project at risk.

Councillor Dave Jones asked if there would be flexibility in the people coming forward to run the centre, as the Council had requested, whether they were to do that under a management group rather than a CIC.

The Leader stated that the new community centre needed to be put onto a sustainable footing. The CIC model should be explored as it could apply for outside funding. There were varied levels of Management Committees with some running the centres themselves and some just taking bookings. The aim was to bring in a group that could run the centre, bring in funding and keep it sustainable in the long term.

Councillor Sweeney paid tribute to Alderman Derick Huckfield who had done a great deal for Knutton and been a great advocate. This current scheme would be putting the heart back into Knutton and a great legacy for Alderman Huckfield.

On paragraph 7 – Temporary Accommodation Policy

Councillor Parker asked which property would be purchased for use as a homeless hub. In addition, the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth was asked if the Chancellor had responded to his letter as yet.

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing, Councillor Gill Heesom stated that, at present the Council was still looking into various properties so there was no definitive answer at this time.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth stated that no response had been received as yet.

The Leader stated that it was not just Newcastle that was making the case for temporary accommodation – extra funding. More and more cases were coming in seeking temporary accommodation. A joint letter had been sent to the government, signed by over 150 district council leaders. A settlement announcement would be received before Christmas.

On paragraph 8 – Financial and Performance Review Report – Second Quarter 2023-24

Councillor Stubbs asked for a full breakdown of the types of membership at J2 and the ability to compare the breakdown from quarter four of the last financial year and quarters one and two of the current year.

The Leader confirmed that this could be provided and sent to Councillor Stubbs.

Councillor Burnett-Faulkner asked for an update on the current position in relation to the external audit for 2022-2023 financial year.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth stated that the auditing of the Statement of Accounts had been completed with the exception of the Staffordshire Pension Fund which was awaited from the County Council. At the last meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee, the external auditors had praised the Council for the standard of the accounts produced, the working papers and assistance provided to them during the audit.

Councillor Stubbs asked the Leader to confirm if the markets were not performing well at present and needed special assistance.

The Leader stated that the current administration had revived the markets into a vibrant events market. There would always be days where occupancy was not full. The free market day proposed for Monday's was to bring it into a more vibrant market.

The proposed changes to the market were being brought in so that it did not look empty on the lower occupancy days but temporary stalls would be erected on days with full occupancy. The Leader stated that the success of the market was a tribute to the Council's Town Centre Manager who promoted the market through social media and working with the traders.

Councillor Paul Waring asked the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth if he was still confident that the Council would still achieve a balanced outturn at the end of the current financial year.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth stated that he was very confident. A cost of living reserve of £400,000 had been established in order to safeguard the Council against inflationary increases in utilities and pay. All finances were closely monitored by the Finance Team, Corporate Leadership Team and the Cabinet. As at the close of period 7, the Council was still on track to deliver a balanced outturn.

On paragraph 9 – Success in Britain in Bloom

Councillor Panter congratulated everyone involved in the tremendous achievement. Winning the Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom Award for the whole country was a phenomenal recognition for the Borough and testament to the dedication and hard work of the staff and residents. Councillor Panter asked the Leader if he agreed that in the Council's 850<sup>th</sup> year, the award would help the Council's bids to be even more successful.

The Leader stated that, this year, more than ever if the Council was going to win the nationals, it had to have a unique selling point which was the 850<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations and that made all the difference.

Councillor Dave Jones praised the hard work and dedication of Council staff and community volunteers who ensured that, every year the Borough returned a fantastic result in Britain in Bloom. Councillor Jones proposed a round of applause for everyone involved.

Councillor Fox-Hewitt asked if there were any plans for reward and recognition schemes for the Council staff that had put in many hours in all weathers.

The Leader confirmed that there was a thank you every year for those involved. The Council also had a recognition scheme and this year would be looking to recognise all those that had made winning the awards possible.

- Resolved:
- (i) That the Statement of the Leader of the Council be received and noted.
  - (ii) That the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State, admonishing them for the failure to support this Council's request for a public enquiry, to ask them to reconsider their decision and to invite the minister or their representatives to meet with representatives of this Council to discuss its concerns.

[Watch the debate here](#)

**8. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

This item was not considered.

**9. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES**

Reports for the Licensing and Public Protection Committee, Audit and Standards Committee and the Planning Committee were attached to the agenda.

**Resolved:** That the reports be received.

[Watch the debate here](#)

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

Two questions were received:

1) Question from Councillor Gorton to the Leader of the Council:

“Does the Leader/Portfolio Holder agree that the revival of Newcastle-under-Lyme Civic Society would be an appropriate way of marking the Borough’s 850th anniversary celebrations. Please could he report the action the Council has taken, or proposes to take, to encourage the re-launch of the Civic Society?”

The Leader stated that the 850<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year had been a tremendous one with many events taking place. Through these events residents and visitors had had more involvement with the town and its organisations and groups. Those groups needed to be brought together to see if they would join the Council in relaunching the Civic Society and the Leader would welcome Councillor Gorton’s involvement with that along with any Councillors.

2) Question from Councillor Parker to the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing:

“Can the Portfolio Holder please update the Council, as winter approaches, on the work being carried out to reduce rough sleepers in the town centre and how many rough sleepers were there at the last count?”

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing stated that at the last count, which took place on 16 November, there had been ten rough sleepers. Throughout the winter months, St George’s Chambers in Merrial Street was utilised as a night shelter and ran from 1 November 2023 to 31 March, 2024 when the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol was active.

Funding had been received from the Shared Prosperity Fund to develop a Homeless Accommodation Hub. Options were being considered but at present there was no particular building in mind.

Councillor Parker asked a supplementary question to Councillor Heesom. Did she know if any of the rough sleepers were ex-Army personnel.

Councillor Heesom stated that there were no ex-Army personnel amongst the rough sleepers.

[Watch the debate here](#)

11. **RECEIPT OF PETITIONS**

There were no petitions.

12. **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

**Council - 22/11/23**

**13. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION**

There were no confidential items.

**Mayor - Councillor Simon White  
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 8.42 pm



## NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Corporate Leadership Team's Report to Full Council

24 January 2024

**Report Title:** Annual Report 2022-2023

**Submitted by:** Corporate Leadership Team

**Portfolios:** One Council, People & Partnerships

**Ward(s) affected:** All

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<b>Key Decision NO</b>
<p>To provide Full Council with assurance of progress and the opportunity to consider the Council's Annual Report for 2022-2023, which provides a high-level summary of the work and outcomes achieved during the first year of the Council's 2022-2026 Council Plan. The Annual Report also provides contextual information on the financial challenges and operating environment, which have informed the Council's priorities.</p>	
<p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p><b>That Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Receive and consider the Council's Annual Report for 2022-2023</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Recognise the achievements of the Council over the reporting period</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Note the publication date of the Annual Report going forward, which will be September each year</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Reasons</u></b></p> <p>The Annual Report is intended to support Council and stakeholders to understand, assess and explore the progress made by NULBC against our own priorities and plan and how this impacts on the Borough. This core document a key element in the Council's governance and assurance framework providing transparency to stakeholders on progress made, the handling of key risks, the financial outlook of the authority and evidence-based strategy development.</p>	

## 1. **Background**

1.1 The Council Plan 2022-2026 sets out an ambitious vision for the Borough of "Good local services, a prosperous borough, and safe and welcoming places for all" and includes core themes, goals and actions identified to achieve this. In order to ensure that the priorities are on track for delivery, we have implemented a number of governance and assurance processes and practices which serve to ensure alignment of efforts and outcomes against this plan. These processes include the revised performance framework and model, the creation of priority delivery plans and enhanced use of research tools to understand our borough and its challenges to a greater extent than ever before. These elements are ongoing and can be reviewed throughout the year with quarterly performance reports received by committees as a recurring measure.

- 1.2 This Annual Report provides an opportunity to review the progress in summary over the reporting period 2022-2023; and to note milestones of achievements made against the Council's stated objectives. It also provides an opportunity to understand and recognise what remains to progress and consider how this may be achieved.

## 2. **Issues**

2.1 The Annual Report includes the following sections, setting out work undertaken and performance outcomes by theme. :

- Understanding our Communities - presenting a place profile for the Borough to inform decision-making
- Listening to our Communities – detailing the consultation and engagement programme for the previous year and how this feedback has been used to inform service improvements
- The Financial Context - outlining the financial challenges facing the authority over the course of its Medium Term Financial Strategy and how we manage risks
- Our Vision for the Borough – as set out in the 2022-2026 Council Plan
- Our Achievements - looking at performance against our own targets and trend data
- Value for Money Services - analysing our performance and costs against national and regional comparisons
- External Assessments - providing objectivity and assurance through the reporting of external assessments of the Council's work and any awards received in recognition of our achievements on behalf of our communities

2.2 The following outcomes achieved within the period are of note:

- Positive report from LGA Corporate Peer Challenge highlighting sound finances sector leading partnerships
- Award of £4.6m in UKSPF monies for use in improvements to our town centres
- 80% of performance targets met
- Creation of the Neighbourhood Delivery Team
- Gold Award in Britain in Bloom
- Achievement of 50% reduction in CO2 emissions since 2009
- Reduction in rough sleepers

2.3 The Report acknowledges the funding gap outlined within the 5-year Medium Term Financial Strategy and the plans to address.

2.4 The Annual Report is published on the Council's website as an important stakeholder document written for councillors, partners and employees and will remain a central element in the Council's annual performance management framework.

2.5 From 2024 onwards the Annual Report will be brought to Cabinet in September of each year, now that the processes and format for publication have been developed and agreed.

## 3. **Recommendation**

3.1 That Full Council :

- Receive and consider the Council's Annual Report for 2022-2023
- Recognise the achievements of the Council over the reporting period
- Note the publication date of the Annual Report going forward, which will be September each year

## 4. **Reasons**

4.1 In line with good governance and assurance, to acknowledge openness of progress, priorities and future planning.

5. **Options Considered**

6. 5.1 N/A

**Legal and Statutory Implications**

7. 6.1 N/A

**Equality Impact Assessment**

8. 7.1 Local authorities have a responsibility to meet the Public Sector Duty of the Equality Act 2010. The Act gives people the right not to be treated less favourably due to protected characteristics. There are no differential equality issues arising directly from this report.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

9. 8.1 N/A

**Major Risks & Mitigation**

9.1 N/A

10.	<b><u>UN Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change Implications</u></b>
	
11.	<b><u>Key Decision Information</u></b>
	11.1 This is not a key decision.
12.	<b><u>Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions</u></b>
	12.1 None
13.	<b><u>List of Appendices</u></b>
	13.1 Annual Report 2022-2023 (Appendix 1): click the link below <a href="https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/downloads/download/708/annual-report-2022-to-2023">https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/downloads/download/708/annual-report-2022-to-2023</a>
14.	<b><u>Background Papers</u></b>
	11.1 Working papers held by the Strategic Hub Team.

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**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S  
REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**24 January 2024**

**Report Title: Polling Districts and Polling Places Review**

**Submitted by: Chief Executive**

**Portfolios: One Council - People and Partnerships**

**Ward(s) affected: All wards**

**Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Council to the polling districts and polling places within the borough, following a review as required by legislation.

**Recommendation**

**That Council approves the amendments to the polling districts and polling places set out in this report**

**Reasons**

Having carried out a Review of Polling District and Polling Places, a decision by the Council on that review is now required to ensure that polling districts and polling places remain beneficial to the electorate.

**1. Background**

- 1.1** A Review of the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations has been carried out in the Parliamentary Constituencies in accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006). Under section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983, the next compulsory review must be undertaken within a 16 month window between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025.
- 1.2** The main purpose of the review is to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting and that all polling stations are accessible to electors who are disabled. However, it should be noted that community

buildings are becoming more difficult to find in some areas compared to previous years.

- 1.3 Existing polling arrangements were assessed and the views of interested groups and individuals were invited. These included electors, political parties, Members of the Council, those organisations who cater for the specific needs of people with different disabilities and the individual Acting Returning Officers for Stoke North, Stone and Staffordshire Moorlands.
- 1.4 In addition, the Boundary Commission for England has recently undertaken a review of parliamentary constituency boundaries. The Commission have now published its final recommendations, and Orders for the new parliamentary constituency boundaries were made on 1 November 2023. The new boundaries will be used for the next general election. If a parliamentary by election is called in the meantime, it would be run on existing boundaries.
- 1.5 Guidance issued by the Electoral Commission stipulates how reviews should be conducted in four stages. The first stage requires the Council to give public notice of its intention to conduct the review. The second requires the Council to review the existing polling arrangements to determine their suitability, or otherwise. The third stage requires the Council to consult widely. This includes local electors, interested groups and bodies, including political parties, elected Members and organisations experienced in assessing the needs of people with disabilities. The final stage relates to the consideration of proposals for changes to polling district boundaries and polling places by the Council, as these can require alterations to be made to the electoral register.
- 1.6 Any comments, suggestions and requests received were explored and those found to be achievable and in the best interests of the electors affected are outlined in the table below and, in further detail, in Appendix A.
- 1.7 One submission was received during the consultation period, noting two concerns in the ward of Silverdale. The initial concern was that due to demolition of bungalows at St Luke's Close, the polling station – Meeting Hall, The Brighton, which serves an electorate of 569 in the polling district NPB, Silverdale ward would no longer be in use. The second concern noted that polling stations were not spaced out enough across the ward of Silverdale, particularly affecting the east side of the ward after Sacred Heart, ST5 6MG where new housing on Silverdale Road, Ironbridge Drive etc. remains a long way from any polling station and involves voters crossing a busy junction.

## 2. Issues

- 2.1 The location and accessibility of polling places has a direct effect on electors' ability to exercise their democratic right to vote.

## 3. Recommendation

3.1 To take all submissions, representations and alternative places suggested into consideration and to amend and update existing polling districts to reflect the changes with future parliamentary boundary constituencies.

3.2 That the Electoral Registration Officer is authorised to take the necessary measures as soon as possible to give effect to parliamentary constituency changes, ensuring that the register reflects existing and new constituencies, until the boundaries are fully in force.

#### 4. **Reasons**

4.1 It is essential to designate polling places that are most beneficial to the electorate

#### 5. **Options Considered**

5.1 Every local authority is required to complete a review, identifying designated polling places for each polling district. Legislation requires that the scheme is kept under review. As required by Section 27 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 this report proposes a full review of the scheme.

#### 6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 Each local authority is obliged according to section 18C (1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended by section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013) to conduct a review of polling districts and polling places within its area. The review must be carried out during the 16-month period commencing 1 October 2013 and every fifth year after that.

6.2 Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983 prescribes the statutory steps for an authority conducting a polling district review.

#### 7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 The Council must seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place for which it is responsible is accessible to electors who are disabled. Any amendments to the current polling districts, polling places and polling stations will take into account the provisions of the Equalities Act, Representation of People Act 1983 (as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006), and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

#### 8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 8.1** There are no significant financial implications arising directly from the proposals in this report. Costs associated with the hire of venues for use as polling stations are recovered in full for all elections, except Borough Council elections

## **9. Major Risks & Mitigation**

- 9.1** The Council is obliged to conduct a review of polling districts and polling stations on a regular basis and to undertake such Community Governance Reviews as are required to keep the electoral arrangements within its area up to date.
- 9.2** The Council must seek to ensure that all electors in a constituency in the local area have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.

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

- 10.1** There is no anticipated environmental impact associated with the recommendations in the report.



## **11. Key Decision Information**

- 11.1** Effects all wards within the borough

## **12. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

N/A

## **13. List of Appendices**

- 13.1** Appendix A – Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2023/202

## 14. **Background Papers**

- 14.1 Section 18C (1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983
- 14.2 Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006
- 14.3 Electoral Commission Guidance on Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations/best practice

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## REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES 2023 -2024

### PROPOSED POLLING ARRANGEMENTS – JANUARY 2024

KEY:

No proposed change
Proposed change

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**Ward: **Audley**

Electorate Total: 6413

Polling District(s)	Current Parliamentary Constituency	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place	Elector Count	Comments
NAA	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	St James Church Hall, Wilbrahams Walk, Audley, ST7 8HL	906	No change to the polling station from last review.
NAB	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	St James Church Hall, Wilbrahams Walk, Audley, ST7 8HL	965	No change to the polling station from last review.
NAC	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Audley Methodist Church, Chapel Street, Bignall End, ST7 8QD	1742	No change to the polling station from last review.
NAD	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Audley Wood Lane Community Centre, 23 Apedale Rd, Wood Lane, ST7 8PH	834	No change to the polling station from last review.
NAE	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Halmer End Methodist Church, Middle Room, High Street, Halmer End, ST7 8AD	1232	No change to the polling station from last review.
NAF	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	St John`s Church, High Street, Alsagers Bank, ST7 8BQ	734	Polling station to revert back to Alsagers Bank Primary Academy formally known as Richard Heathcote County Primary School.

Existing number of polling stations	Proposed number of polling stations
6	6

Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments
Alsagers Bank Primary Academy (formerly known as the Richard Heathcote County Primary School) is situated in the polling district NAF and has been identified as an alternative to St John's Church. Alsagers Bank Primary Academy has been a polling station for a long period of time prior to the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner's and County Council elections in 2021 and the school have recently contacted us to request that we make use of them again.

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**

Ward: **Bradwell** Electorate Total: 6232

<b>Polling Districts</b>	<b>Current Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Elector Count</b>	<b>Comments</b>
NBA	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Bradwell Community Education Centre, Riceyman Rd, Bradwell, ST5 8LF	1740	No change to the polling station from last review.
NBB	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Bradwell Methodist Mission Hall, Bradwell Lane, Bradwell, ST5 8NA	1017	No change to the polling station from last review.
NBC	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	St Barnabas Church Hall, Cauldon Avenue, Bradwell, ST5 8QH	1692	No change to the polling station from last review.
NBD	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Bradwell Lodge Community Centre, Bradwell Lane, Porthill, ST5 8PS	1114	No change to the polling station from last review.
NBE	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Bradwell Lodge Community Centre, Bradwell Lane, Porthill, ST5 8PS	669	No change to the polling station from last review.

Existing number of polling stations	Proposed number of polling stations
5	5

Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments
No change

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**Ward: **Clayton**      Electorate Total: 2192

<b>Polling District(s)</b>	<b>Current Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Elector Count</b>	<b>Comments</b>
NCA	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Clayton Sports Centre, Stafford Avenue, Clayton, ST5 3BN	1095	No change to the polling station from last review.
NCB	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	St James Church Hall, Clayton Road, Clayton, ST5 3EU	1097	No change to the polling station from last review.

<b>Existing number of polling stations</b>	<b>Proposed number of polling stations</b>
2	2

<b>Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments</b>
No change

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**

Ward: **Crackley & Red Street** Electorate Total: 4328

<b>Polling District(s)</b>	<b>Current Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Elector Count</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Comments</b>
NDA	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	1371	St Chads Church Hall, Liverpool Rd, Red Street, ST5 7AF	Venue no longer available. The Jolly Potters Public House to be used.
NDB	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	1389	Mobile Unit Co-Op, Barbridge Rd, Waterhayes Village, ST5 7SB	No change to the polling station from last review.
NDC	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	926	Crackley Bank Primary School, Crackley Bank, Chesterton, ST5 7BE	Venue no longer available. Meeting Hall, Kent Grove to be used.
NDD	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	642	Crackley Bank Primary School, Crackley Bank, Chesterton, ST5 7BE	Venue no longer available. Meeting Hall, Kent Grove to be used.

Existing number of polling stations	Proposed number of polling stations
4	4

<b>Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments</b>
<p>Polling district NDA – The Jolly Potters Public House is situated in the same polling district as St Chads Church Hall. The venue has a car park on site. Though the venue has not been used as a polling station previously, a site visit has been conducted and no issues were found regarding accessibility.</p> <p>Polling district NDB – An alternative has been sought to replace the mobile unit but unfortunately a suitable replacement has yet to be found. Surrounding polling stations within the ward are too much of a distance away to accommodate a dual polling station.</p> <p>Polling districts NDC &amp; NDD - Meeting Hall, Kent Grove is the nearest polling station (10 minute walk) from Crackley Bank Primary School, even though the venue sits in the Holditch and Chesterton ward, it is quite close to the boundary of Crackley and Red Street. The venue is currently used as a polling station of an electorate of 522 and is big enough to accommodate a dual polling station. There is ample parking, including disabled parking on site and the building is compliant with the Electoral Commission's guidance concerning accessibility.</p>

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**Ward: **Cross Heath**

Electorate Total: 4143

Polling District(s)	Current Parliamentary Constituency	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place	Elector Count	Comments
NEA	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Ramsey Rd Meeting Hall, Ramsey Community Centre, Ramsey Rd, ST5 9BJ	1841	No change to the polling station from last review.
NEB	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Cross Heath Methodist School Room, King Street, Cross Heath, ST5 9HQ	334	No change to the polling station from last review.
NEC	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	St Michael's Church Hall, Linden Grove, Cross Heath, ST5 9LJ	1012	No change to the polling station from last review.
NED	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Mobile Unit Cross Heath, Junction Harper Avenue/ Bentley Avenue, Newcastle, ST5 9DF	956	No change to the polling station from last review.

Existing number of polling stations	Proposed number of polling stations
4	4

Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments
An alternative has been sought to replace the mobile unit in polling district NED but unfortunately a suitable replacement has yet to be found. Surrounding polling stations within the ward are too much of a distance away to accommodate a dual polling station.

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**

Ward: **Holditch & Chesterton**

Electorate Total: 3969

<b>Polling District(s)</b>	<b>Current Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Elector Count</b>	<b>Comments</b>
NFA	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Meeting Hall, Kent Grove, Kent Grove, Off Cross Street, ST5 7HG	522	No change to the polling station from last review.
NFB	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Chesterton Community Centre, London Road, Chesterton, ST5 7EA	2307	No change to the polling station from last review.
NFC	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Chesterton Community Centre, London Road, Chesterton, ST5 7EA	1140	No change to the polling station from last review.

Existing number of polling stations	Proposed number of polling stations
3	3

Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments
No change

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**Ward: **Keele**

Electorate Total: 1253

<b>Polling District(s)</b>	<b>Current Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Elector Count</b>	<b>Comments</b>
NGA	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Keele Village Hall, Highway Lane, Keele, ST5 5AN	482	No change to the polling station from last review.
NGB	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Keele Students Union Building, Students Union Building, Keele University, ST5 5BG	771	No change to the polling station from last review.

Existing number of polling stations	Proposed number of polling stations
2	2

Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments
No change

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**

Ward: **Kidsgrove Central & Ravenscliffe**

Electorate Total: 6646

<b>Polling District(s)</b>	<b>Current Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Elector Count</b>	<b>Comments</b>
KHA	Stoke-on-Trent North	Stoke-on-Trent North	Salvation Army, Heathcote Street, Kidsgrove, ST7 1DG	1106	No change to the polling station from last review.
KHB	Stoke-on-Trent North	Stoke-on-Trent North	Kidsgrove Town Hall, Liverpool Road, Kidsgrove, ST7 4EL	216	No change to the polling station from last review.
KHC	Stoke-on-Trent North	Stoke-on-Trent North	Whitehill Methodist Community Church, Whitehill Rd, Whitehill, ST7 4DS	1276	No change to the polling station from last review.
KHD	Stoke-on-Trent North	Stoke-on-Trent North	University Primary Academy Kidsgrove, Gloucester Road, Kidsgrove, ST7 4DJ	321	No change to the polling station from last review.
KHE	Stoke-on-Trent North	Stoke-on-Trent North	St Thomas' Church Hall, The Avenue, Kidsgrove, ST7 1AG	601	No change to the polling station from last review.
KHF	Stoke-on-Trent North	Stoke-on-Trent North	Kidsgrove Town Hall, Liverpool Road, Kidsgrove, ST7 4EL	2219	No change to the polling station from last review.
KHG	Stoke-on-Trent North	Stoke-on-Trent North	Mobile Unit Play Area, Moreton Close, Kidsgrove, ST7 4HP	907	No change to the polling station from last review.
Existing number of polling stations		Proposed number of polling stations			
7		7			
<b>Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments</b>					
An alternative has been sought to replace the mobile unit in polling district KHG but unfortunately a suitable replacement has yet to be found. Surrounding polling stations within the ward are too much of a distance away to accommodate a dual polling station.					

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**Ward: **Knutton**

Electorate Total: 1952

<b>Polling District(s)</b>	<b>Current Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Elector Count</b>	<b>Comments</b>
NJA	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Knutton Ex-Servicemens` Club, John Street, Knutton, ST5 6DT	1099	No change to the polling station from last review.
NJB	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Knutton Ex-Servicemens` Club, John Street, Knutton, ST5 6DT	844	No change to the polling station from last review.
NJC	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Knutton Ex-Servicemens` Club, John Street, Knutton, ST5 6DT	9	No change to the polling station from last review.

Existing number of polling stations	Proposed number of polling stations
3	3

Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments
No change

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**

Ward: **Loggerheads**

Electorate Total: 3656

<b>Polling District(s)</b>	<b>Current Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Elector Count</b>	<b>Comments</b>
SKA	Stone	Stafford	Oddfellows Hall, Church Road, Ashley, TF9 4JY	692	No change to the polling station from last review.
SKB	Stone	Stafford	Hales and District Club, Almington Road, Hales, TF9 2PP	268	No change to the polling station from last review.
SKC	Stone	Stafford	Mobile Unit at The Loggerheads Public House, 1 Eccleshall Road, Loggerheads, TF9 4NX	2367	Loggerheads Community Fire Station to be used.
SKD	Stone	Stafford	Knighton Village Hall, London Road, Knighton, TF9 4HP	329	No change to the polling station from last review.

Existing number of polling stations	Proposed number of polling stations
4	4

<b>Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments</b>
Loggerheads Fire Station (a 4 minute walk from the former polling station at The Loggerheads Public House) is situated in the Loggerheads ward and will accommodate an electorate of 2367. The venue has ample parking, including disabled parking and is compliant with accessibility guidance. Moving to this venue will also comply with Electoral Commission guidance to find alternative venues for mobile units.

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**Ward: **Madeley & Betley**

Electorate Total: 4288

Ward	Current Parliamentary Constituency	Future Parliamentary Constituency	District(s)	Elector Count	Polling Place	Comments
Madeley & Betley	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	NLA	533	Betley Village Hall, Main Road, Betley, CW3 9BH	No change to the polling station from last review.
Madeley & Betley	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	NLB	264	Betley Village Hall, Main Road, Betley, CW3 9BH	No change to the polling station from last review.
Madeley & Betley	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	NLC	188	Betley Village Hall, Main Road, Betley, CW3 9BH	No change to the polling station from last review.
Madeley & Betley	Stone	Newcastle-under-Lyme	SLA	730	The Function Room, The Crewe Arms, Wharf Terrace, Madeley Heath, CW3 9LP	No change to the polling station from last review. Polling district will change from SLA to NLD, for the next parliamentary election
Madeley & Betley	Stone	Newcastle-under-Lyme	SLB	2461	The Madeley Centre, New Road, Madeley, CW3 9DN	No change to the polling station from last review. Polling district will change from SLB to NLE, for the next parliamentary election
Madeley & Betley	Stone	Newcastle-under-Lyme	SLC	112	Onneley Village Hall, Onneley, Nr Crewe, CW3 9QJ	No change to the polling station from last review. Polling district will change from SLC to NLF, for the next parliamentary election

Existing number of polling stations	Proposed number of polling stations
6	6

Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments
No change

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**

Ward: **Maer & Whitmore**

Electorate Total: 2209

<b>Polling District(s)</b>	<b>Current Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Elector Count</b>	<b>Comments</b>
SMA	Stone	Stafford	Whitmore Village Hall, Coneygreave Lane, Whitmore, ST5 5HX	1459	No change to the polling station from last review.
SMB	Stone	Stafford	Whitmore Village Hall, Coneygreave Lane, Whitmore, ST5 5HX	233	No change to the polling station from last review.
SMC	Stone	Stafford	Copeland Cottage Site, Haddon Lane, Chapel Chorlton, ST5 5EE	98	No change to the polling station from last review.
SMD	Stone	Stafford	Maer Village Hall, Maer, Newcastle Under Lyme, ST5 5EF	419	No change to the polling station from last review.

Existing number of polling stations	Proposed number of polling stations
4	4

Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments
No change

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**Ward: **May Bank**

Electorate Total: 6320

Polling District(s)	Current Parliamentary Constituency	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place	Elector Count	Comments
NNA	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Mobile Unit at Orme Academy, Sparch Hollow, ST5 9PF	761	No change to the polling station from last review.
NNB	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	St Mark`s Church Hall, Basford Park Road, ST5 0PG	1220	No change to the polling station from last review.
NNC	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	St Mark`s Church Hall, Basford Park Road, ST5 0PG	1309	No change to the polling station from last review.
NND	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	St Mark`s Church Hall, Basford Park Road, ST5 0PG	1378	No change to the polling station from last review.
NNE	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Meeting Hall, Highfield Grange, Off Stratford Avenue, Newcastle, ST5 0TF	532	No change to the polling station from last review.
NNF	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	The Museum and Art Gallery, Brampton Park, Newcastle, ST5 0QP	985	No change to the polling station from last review.
NNG	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Meeting Hall, Highfield Grange, Off Stratford Avenue, Newcastle, ST5 0TF	135	No change to the polling station from last review.
Existing number of polling stations		Proposed number of polling stations			
7		7			

Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments
No change

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**

Ward: **Newchapel & Mow Cop**

Electorate Total: 4454

Polling District(s)	Current Parliamentary Constituency	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Elector Count	Polling Place	Elector Count	Comments
KOA	Stoke-on-Trent North	Stoke-on-Trent North	1785	Birchenwood Pavillion, Mount Road, Kidsgrove, ST7 4AP	1785	No change to the polling station from last review.
MOA	Staffordshire Moorlands	Stoke-on-Trent North	712	Mow Cop Community Hall, Congleton Road, Mow Cop, ST7 3PJ	712	No change to the polling station from last review. Polling district will change from MOA to KOB, for the next parliamentary election.
MOB	Staffordshire Moorlands	Stoke-on-Trent North	800	Newchapel Methodist Church, Newtown, Newchapel, ST7 4PZ	800	Venue no longer available. St James Church Hall to be used. Polling district will change from MOB to KOC, for the next parliamentary election.
MOC	Staffordshire Moorlands	Stoke-on-Trent North	1157	Thursfield Community Centre, Chapel Lane, HARRISEAHEAD, ST7 4JL	1157	No change to the polling station from last review. Polling district will change from MOC to KOD, for the next parliamentary election.

Existing number of polling stations	Proposed number of polling stations
4	4

Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments
St James Church Hall to be used as an alternative to Newchapel Methodist Church in polling district MOB and will accommodate an electorate of 800. St James Church Hall is also situated in MOB and has ample parking, including disabled parking, at the front and side of the venue.

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**Ward: **Silverdale**

Electorate Total: 4043

Polling District(s)	Current Parliamentary Constituency	Future Parliamentary Constituency	Polling Place	Elector Count	Comments
NPA	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Sacred Heart Parish Room, 1 High Street, Silverdale, ST5 6NG	565	No change to the polling station from last review.
NPB	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Meeting Hall, The Brighton Sheltered Housing, St Lukes Close, ST5 6JS	556	Venue no longer available. Kent's Lane Community Building to be used.
NPC	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Silverdale Cricket Club Pavilion, Off Underwood Rd, Silverdale, ST5 6QF	695	No change to the polling station from last review.
NPD	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Kent's Lane Community Building, Sutton Avenue, Silverdale, ST5 6TA	1240	No change to the polling station from last review.
NPE	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Cornerstone Community Centre, Mill Street, Silverdale, ST5 6PF	987	No change to the polling station from last review.

Existing number of polling stations	Proposed number of polling stations
5	5

Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments
Kent's Lane Community Building is the nearest polling station (10 minute walk) from the Meeting Hall, The Brighton and is situated in the Silverdale ward. The venue is currently used as a polling station with an electorate of 1240 and will big enough to accommodate a dual polling station with parking on site. A representation has been received to suggest a mobile unit as a possible alternative venue but, in line with Electoral Commission guidance, we are trying to find replacement venues for existing mobile units, rather than increasing their use. As Kent's Lane Community Building is in such close proximity, this is considered to be the better alternative.

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**

Ward: **Talke & Butt Lane**

Electorate Total: 6683

<b>Polling District(s)</b>	<b>Current Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Elector Count</b>	<b>Comments</b>
KRA	Stoke-on-Trent North	Stoke-on-Trent North	Buttermilk Dance Studio, 16 West Avenue, Butt Lane, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 1NT	1637	A new polling station introduced in a recent 2023 Town Council by-election, replacing Reginald Mitchell Primary School and allowing the school to stay open on election day.
KRB	Stoke-on-Trent North	Stoke-on-Trent North	Meeting Hall, Hollins Grange, Unity Way, Talke, ST7 1RL	842	No change to the polling station from last review.
KRC	Stoke-on-Trent North	Stoke-on-Trent North	Meeting Hall, Hollinwood Close, Hollinwood Close, Butt Lane, ST7 1DH	1286	No change to the polling station from last review.
KRD	Stoke-on-Trent North	Stoke-on-Trent North	St Martins Church Hall, Crown Bank, Talke, ST7 1PU	1446	No change to the polling station from last review.
KRE	Stoke-on-Trent North	Stoke-on-Trent North	Talke Pits Village Hall, High Street, Talke Pits, ST7 1QQ	1472	No change to the polling station from last review.

Existing number of polling stations	Proposed number of polling stations
5	5

Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments
No change

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**Ward: **Thistleberry**

Electorate Total: 3827

<b>Polling District(s)</b>	<b>Current Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Elector Count</b>	<b>Comments</b>
NSA	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Harriet Higgins Centre, Rotterdam Road, Newcastle, ST5 2PE	1622	No change to the polling station from last review.
NSB	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Whitfield Community Centre, Whitfield Avenue, Thistleberry, ST5 2JH	618	No change to the polling station from last review.
NSC	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Meeting Hall, Falkirk Grange, Thistleberry, Newcastle, ST5 2LL	652	No change to the polling station from last review.
NSD	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle Academy, Ostend Place Entrance, Westlands, ST5 2QY	935	No change to the polling station from last review.

Existing number of polling stations	Proposed number of polling stations
4	4

Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments
No change

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**

Ward: **Town**

Electorate Total: 3865

<b>Polling District(s)</b>	<b>Current Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Elector Count</b>	<b>Comments</b>
NTA	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle Athletic Club, Ashfields New Road, Newcastle, ST5 2SJ	224	No change to the polling station from last review.
NTB	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle Athletic Club, Ashfields New Road, Newcastle, ST5 2SJ	477	No change to the polling station from last review.
NTC	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	St George`s Church, Cherry Orchard, Newcastle, ST5 2UB	631	No change to the polling station from last review.
NTD	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Holy Trinity Scout Hut, Off Grosvenor Road, ST5 1LQ	1340	No change to the polling station from last review.
NTE	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Scout Hall, Off Mount Pleasant, Newcastle, ST5 1DP	576	No change to the polling station from last review.
NTF	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Meeting Hall, Earls Court, Miller Street, Newcastle, ST5 1QJ	321	No change to the polling station from last review.
NTG	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Higherland Methodist Church Hall, Higherland, Newcastle, ST5 2TF	276	No change to the polling station from last review.

Existing number of polling stations	Proposed number of polling stations
7	7

Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments
No change

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**Ward: **Westbury Park & Northwood**

Electorate Total: 3826

<b>Polling District(s)</b>	<b>Current Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Elector Count</b>	<b>Comments</b>
NUA	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Wye Road Community Centre, Wye Road, Clayton, ST5 4AZ	1437	No change to the polling station from last review.
NUB	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Clayton Community Centre, Northwood Lane, Clayton, ST5 4BN	2389	No change to the polling station from last review.

Existing number of polling stations	Proposed number of polling stations
2	2

Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments
No change

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**

Ward: **Westlands**

Electorate Total: 6265

<b>Polling Districts</b>	<b>Current Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Elector Count</b>	<b>Comments</b>
NWA	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	The Coppice Annexe, Priory Road, Westlands, ST5 2EA	1104	Venue no longer available. Whitfield Community Centre to be used.
NWB	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	St Andrew`s Church (Parish Room), Rear of Church, Pilkington Avenue, ST5 3RE	1317	No change to the polling station from last review.
NWC	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	St Andrew`s Church (Parish Room), Rear of Church, Pilkington Avenue, ST5 3RE	1027	No change to the polling station from last review.
NWD	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Roe Lane Playing Fields, Roe Lane, Newcastle under Lyme, ST5 3PH	1451	No change to the polling station from last review.
NWE	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Our Lady & St Werburgh`s R C Church Hall, Seabridge Lane, Clayton, ST5 4AG	1157	No change to the polling station from last review.
NWF	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	The Coppice Annexe, Priory Road, Westlands, ST5 2EA	209	Venue no longer available. Whitfield Community Centre to be used.

Existing number of polling stations	Proposed number of polling stations
6	6

Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments
<p>Whitfield Community Centre is the nearest polling station (10 minute walk) from the Coppice Annexe, even though the venue sits in the Thistleberry ward, it is quite close to the boundary of Westlands. The venue is currently used as a polling station of an electorate of 618 and is big enough to accommodate a dual polling station. There is ample parking, including disabled parking on site and the building is compliant with the Electoral Commission's guidance concerning accessibility</p>

**Appendix A - Schedule of Proposals following the Review of Polling Districts and Places 2024**

Ward: **Wolstanton**

Electorate Total: 6265

<b>Polling Districts</b>	<b>Current Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Elector Count</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Elector Count</b>	<b>Comments</b>
NXA	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	1247	Meeting Hall, Porthill Green, Porthill Bank, Porthill, ST5 0LW	1247	No change to the polling station from last review.
NXB	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	874	St Wulstan`s Community Centre, Church Lane, Wolstanton, ST5 0EF	874	No change to the polling station from last review.
NXC	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	730	Porthill Park Cricket Club, Knutton Road, Wolstanton, ST5 0HU	730	No change to the polling station from last review.
NXD	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	1570	Childrens Centre Room, Ellison Primary School, Ellison Street, Wolstanton, ST5 0BL	1570	No change to the polling station from last review.

Existing number of polling stations	Proposed number of polling stations
4	4

Acting Returning Officer's proposals/comments
No change.

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**Appendix B – Submissions received from the Polling District and Polling Place Review 2023/24**

**Ward:**

Reference	Polling District/Ward	Current Polling Station	Submissions Recieved	Proposal	Action
NULBC_2024_1	NPB Silverdale	Meeting Hall The Brighton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your current polling station: I am the ward councillor for Silverdale. Of the 5 polling stations in this ward I am concerned that 1. Meeting hall The Brightons ST5 6JS will no longer be suitable/usable because of the demolition of the bungalows at St.Luke`s Close and the meeting hall will no longer be in use, unless you have plans I do not know about, your `No change to polling station from last review` seems inappropriate. 2. The 5 stations are not spread out enough across the ward. There is no polling station on the east side of the ward after Sacred Heart ST5 6NG This means that a lot of housing, including new housing of Silverdale road, Ironbridge Drive etc is a long way from any polling station and people have to walk and cross a very busy junction to get into the village polling stations.</li> <li>Your proposed alternative polling station: Ideally the area that used to be the EastEnd working men`s club, but is now a residential home would be ideal to pick up the area above. However due to the lack of public</li> </ul>	Eastend Working Men`s Club Mobile Station situated at the layby at the top of Half way place adjacent to Silverdale road	<p>Polling district revisited, there are no suitable or alternative venues in the polling place area.</p> <p>After reviewing comments from the proposal, a mobile unit would be too costly and unsafe for the electorate to vote on a layby. A residential home formally known as Eastend Working Men`s Club would not be practicable to use as a polling station. Kent`s Lane Community Building is the nearest polling station (10 minute walk) from the Meeting Hall and is situated in the Silverdale ward. The venue is big enough to accommodate</p>

			<p>buildings in this part of the ward I would suggest a mobile polling station situated at the layby at the top of Half way place adjacent to Silverdale road. With notification beforehand, and I would do all I could as ward councillor to let people know. I would also promote postal voting for vulnerable residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments or feedback regarding your polling station, polling district or polling place: Other countries and regions have driven up voter turnout using a range of measures: compulsory voting, auto voter registration, weekend polling and the use of mobile polling stations. I have been informed by long serving councillors that mobile polling stations have been used in the past. If we are serious about democracy we should be looking at this</li> </ul>		<p>polling district NPB &amp; NPD and will be used as a dual polling station for any future elections.</p>

## Motion to ban the practice of the giving of live animals as prizes on Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council land.

### Background

In May 2021 the RSPCA launched a nationwide campaign urging local authorities to ban outrightly the giving of live animals as prizes in their land. The campaign, which was covered in national media outlets, also is urging the local authorities to write to the UK Government to instigate a similar ban on both public and private land.

Statistics received from RSPCA show that between 2015 and 2020 there were 120 cases reported to them of live animals being given as prizes in England, however it is feared many more cases go unreported due to lack of awareness around animal welfare and existing legislations.

The table below show that the number of cases reported has been dwindling in recent years (120 reported to the RSPCA since 2015) which may indicate a change of attitude towards giving live animals as prizes or people have stopped reporting cases of live animals given as prizes for lack of motivation. It will be presumptuous of this report to try and assume the cause of the current decline in the number of incidences. However, as long as the practice is still not outlawed chances are the incidents may increase in the future.

Incidents reported to RSPCA related to pets as prizes in England							Total
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	120
Incidents	30	24	33	16	15	2	

Since the start of the RSPCA campaign, many county, district, and town councils have supported it through issuing statements of intents and passed resolutions to ban the practice of giving animals as prizes in their land and properties. Some Councils have either had to review their events licencing and hiring terms and condition or adopt Animals Welfare Charters to reflect their stance on this practice.

Among the many Councils that have passed resolutions to support the campaign recently include Shropshire County Council, Tamworth Borough Council, Chester West and Chester Council, Sunderland Council and the London Assembly with many more councils such as Staffordshire Moorlands District Council also preparing to vote on the issue.

The current legislations set out in The Animal Welfare Act (England and Wales) 2006, does not for forbid giving live animals as prizes unless they are given to unaccompanied children. The Act makes it an offence, in England and Wales, to give away live animals as prizes if the person can reasonably be believed to be under 16 years of age and is not accompanied by an adult. However, there are some exceptions in section 11 (3)-(6) of the Act.

The RSPCA believes that this legislation does not go far enough and does not cover the animal welfare issues associate with this practice and therefore, they would like to see similar legislation to the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is introduced in England which makes it an offence to give an animal as prize, regardless of age, except within the family context.

The Council has an opportunity to ban this practice in its land and premises by seeking to impose such a condition in any new grant of a lease, licence, permit, or permission in respect of its own land,

or seek a variation to the terms of any existing agreement. This also serves to raise public awareness of animal welfare surrounding the giving of live animals as prizes.

### **Motion**

This Council:

- is concerned about the number of cases reported to the RSPCA each year, regarding pets given as prizes via fairgrounds, social media and other channels in England - and notes the issue predominantly concerns goldfish
- is concerned for the welfare of those animals that are being given as prizes
- recognises that many cases of pets being as prizes may go unreported each year
- supports a move to ban the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council land.

The Council agrees to:

- ban outright the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council land.
- land.
- write to the UK Government, urging an outright ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on both public and private land.

Proposer: Cllr. Rupert Adcock

Seconder: Cllr. Simon Tagg