



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 Annual Council 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, 14th May, 2025** 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 ELECTION OF MAYOR 2025/26

When the Mayor has declared the result of the election, the Mayor, preceded by the Mace Bearers, will retire from the room, accompanied by the Chief Executive and the Mayor Elect.

The Mayor Elect will then be robed and invested with the chain of office. The Mayor Elect will then return to the meeting room preceded by the Mace Bearers and accompanied by the Chief Executive.

The Mayor will take the chair and make the declaration of acceptance of office.

5 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2025/26

Following the appointment of the Deputy Mayor, he/she will make the declaration of acceptance of office.

6 MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

The Mayor will announce appointments to Civic Roles for the forthcoming year.

7 MAYORAL ADDRESS

To receive the Mayoral address

**8 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS (Pages 15 - 24)
FOR 2025/26**

To appoint Members to committees.

9 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES (Pages 25 - 42)

10 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.

11 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 'Gulman', with a horizontal line extending from the end.

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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COUNCIL

Wednesday, 16th April, 2025
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

Present:

Councillors:	Beeston	Heesom	Skelding
	Berrisford	Holland	Stubbs
	Bettley-Smith	Hutchison	Sweeney
	Brown	Johnson	J Tagg
	Bryan	D Jones	S Tagg (Leader)
	Burnett-Faulkner	Lawley	J Waring
	Casey-Hulme	Lewis	P Waring
	Dymond	Northcott	Whitmore
	Edginton-Plunkett	Parker	G Williams
	Gorton	Reece	J Williams
	Grocott	Richards	

Apologies: Councillor(s) Adcock, Allport, Barker MBE, Crisp, Fear, Fox-Hewitt, S Jones, Whieldon, Wilkes and Wright

Officers:	Gordon Mole	Chief Executive
	Simon McEneny	Deputy Chief Executive
	Anthony Harold	Service Director - Legal & Governance / Monitoring Officer
	Sarah Wilkes	Service Director - Finance / S151 Officer
	Geoff Durham	Civic & Member Support Officer
	Sam Clark	Service Director - IT & Digital

1. ELECTION OF MAYOR

One nomination was received, for Councillor Bettley-Smith.

This was proposed by Cllr Simon Tagg and seconded by Cllr Sweeney.

Resolved: That Councillor Robert Bettley-Smith be appointed as Mayor for the remainder of the 2024-25 Municipal Year.

The meeting was adjourned whilst the Mayor Elect was invested with the chain of office.

The Mayor took the chair and made the declaration of acceptance of office.

The Mayor made the following appointments:

- **Mayoress:** Mrs Judy Bettley-Smith
- **Chaplain:** Rev. Tim Watson
- **Mace Bearers:** Ms Jenny Otter and Mr Glenn Martin-James

[Watch the proceedings here](#)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Holland, as a member of the Planning Committee, stated that all members of the Planning Committee should be aware that item six of this agenda related to items that had yet to be determined by this Authority and therefore their interest should be noted.

3. MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March, 2025 be agreed as a correct record.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor thanked those present for electing him to the office of Mayor for the remainder of the current Municipal Year.

The Mayor paid tribute to the late Mayor, Councillor Barry Panter and stated great respect Members held for their late friend and fellow Councillor.

As Deputy Mayor, Councillor Bettley-Smith had hosted a Charity Ball last month, celebrating the life of Barry Panter which had raised over £2,200 towards Mayor Panter's charity fund.

[Watch the announcements here](#)

5. CONTRACT AWARD FOR ASTLEY PLACE, MIDWAY CAR PARK AND THE RYECROFT DEVELOPMENTS

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Simon Tagg introduced a report and moved the recommendations providing an update on the Astley Place, Midway Car Park and Ryecroft developments in the town centre and to agree a contract award for the three projects.

The three projects represented a combined investment of over £85m in committing to create a vibrant, thriving town centre.

The former York Place site was now partially demolished paving the way for the new development. The Midway car park was now ready to be repurposed and redeveloped and the Ryecroft was earmarked for housing and a hotel.

Financing for the developments was structured to ensure cost certainty and minimised financial impact of the Council, building on the Future High Street and Town Deal Funds. A short term financing model coupled with a buy-back agreement was detailed in the agenda report which limited the Council's borrowing to the duration of the building phase.

Councillor Sweeney seconded the recommendations and reserved his right to speak.

Councillor Stubbs stated that the redevelopment would inject new life into the town centre and create much needed economic revitalisation. The projects would provide enhanced urban living and the amenities would create an attractive and convenient living environment. The proposed financial model, involving short term borrowing would significantly reduce interest costs. However, there were still financial risks as the Council would need to secure substantial funding up-front and any delays could strain the Council's financial resources. In addition, the reliance on external grants introduced a level of uncertainty. There would also be disruption in the town centre during the construction phase. Councillor Stubbs stated that it was important to note that the three developments would result in a reduction of the Council's asset base.

Councillor Paul Waring welcomed Capital&Centric's approach to retaining and re-engineering the existing structures which was a good example of sustainable development. The funding model was innovative and was an excellent example of how public sector funding could go hand in hand with private sector funding.

Councillor Gorton raised a question on paragraph 2.16 of the report which stated that Capital&Centric were currently in discussion with Homes England regarding a grant from their BIL programme to subsidise some of the project costs. He asked, how confident was the Council that the funding from the BIL programme would be secured and was there an alternative plan should the decision go against or less than was hoped was received.

Councillor Parker welcomed the fact that Joules Brewery would incorporate a live music venue into the Astley Place development adding a vibrant and cultural element to the project and compliment the already thriving night-life in the town.

Councillor Sweeney stated that the Council was not reliant on the Homes England funding; it would be a bonus if it was received. It was an exciting project and the funding model was good. The Council financed everything and after Capital&Centric have completed building, they pay all of the money back to the Council including any interest and if the market value was higher.

Councillor Richards asked if adequate contingencies been put in place due to the economic climate and cost of materials.

Councillor Holland stated that he would much rather see the Ryecroft and former Civic offices sites redeveloped than sitting on the Council's assets book doing nothing. He had great confidence in Capital&Centric having seen some of their other work.

In summing up, the Leader stated that the development was not reliant on the Homes England bid being successful. Regarding disruption in the town during construction, the Council had a good record of the works going on to date with disruption at a minimum.

A comment had been raised as to whether too many properties were being built and wouldn't be taken up. The Local Plan, currently being inspected included a commitment to build on brownfield sites and there was the requirement from the Government to build houses.

Resolved: (i) That the progress made to date by Capital&Centric on the partially demolished Astley Place development project in Newcastle Town Centre, be noted.

- (ii) That the progress made to date by Capital&Centric on the Midway Car Park development project in Newcastle Town Centre, be noted.
- (iii) That the progress made to date by Capital&Centric on the Ryecroft development project on Newcastle Town Centre, be noted.
- (iv) That expenditure of up to (either £18,213,758 in total or £16,111,895 minus costs already approved) be approved to complete the Astley Place scheme to practical completion in readiness for occupation.
- (v) That expenditure of up to (either £37,518,885 or £35,954,885 minus costs already approved) be approved to complete the Midway scheme to practical completion in readiness for occupation.
- (vi) That expenditure of up to (£34,444,256 or £33,131,668 minus costs already approved) be approved to complete the Ryecroft scheme to practical completion in readiness for occupation
- (vi) That the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, and Portfolio Holder for One Council, People and Partnerships, be authorised to progress legal agreements, subject to planning approval, to enable the appointment of Capital&Centric under a Development Services Agreements (DSA) for the development of all three schemes through a direct award under the Pagabo Development Management Framework;
- (viii) That the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, and Portfolio Holder for One Council, People and Partnerships, be authorised to progress the legal agreement for the 'buy back' of the schemes by Capital&Centric upon completion of the developments.
- (ix) That the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, be authorised to progress the legal agreements with Homes England to accept a grant as a subsidy for the development and become the accountable body for the grant, subject to Homes England approving the grant.

[Watch the debate here](#)

6. CONSTITUTION UPDATE - OUTSIDE BODIES

The Leader introduced a report reviewing the framework for appointments onto outside bodies and updating the constitution accordingly and moved the recommendations.

A Constitution Working Group had recently been convened and a number of issues had been raised.

The Leader made reference to the final recommendation, to undertake an annual review of the constitution to allow the safe and mature running of the Council.

Councillor Sweeney seconded the recommendations.

Councillor Dave Jones stated that the Constitution Working Group did some thorough work on this and the Labour group were pleased to endorse the report.

Councillor Holland moved a grammatical correction to recommendation (i)(a) requesting that 'a 4-year terms of office' be amended to read correctly.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the Service Director, Legal & Governance, be authorised to make the following amendments to add the following to section B1:6 of the Council's constitution.
 - (a) 6.2 Appointees to Outside Bodies will serve a 4-year term of office on Outside Bodies.
 - (b) 6.3 Council portfolio holders shall be appointed as of right to designated outside bodies.
 - (c) 6.4 Appointees to Outside Bodies shall provide a bi-annual report in relation to the business carried out/matters dealt with by the relevant Outside Body to full Council as appropriate.
 - (ii) That the undertaking of an annual review of the Constitution including updates to the Scheme of Delegation and legislative changes, be endorsed.

[Watch the debate here](#)

7. URGENT DECISION NOTIFICATION - COMMITTEE SEAT ALLOCATIONS

The Leader introduced a report asking Members to note a decision made by the Council's Chief Executive to re-allocate seats on committees following the resignation of Councillor Moss.

Resolved: That the Urgent Decision notification be received.

[Watch the debate here](#)

8. 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.

Questions were raised and responses were provided as follows.

On paragraph 2 – Walleys Quarry Odour Issues

Councillor Dave Jones stated that the Environment Agency (EA) made a better operator than regulator as issues had plummeted since they had been in control of the site. The Leader was asked if he agreed that this vindicated all along that the problems with the site had been down to a rogue operator who had been unable to manage the site properly.

Councillor Holland stated that the EA was a broken regulator, however, since they had been stewarding the site things did appear to be improving. The Leader was asked if he thought that the measures being taken would, in the long term significantly improve things and would it make the quality of life better for nearby residents.

The Leader agreed with both Members and stated that it was key now that capping was completed and restored and that gas management was undertaken safely. This Council would continue doing what it had been – in holding whichever operators of the site to account for any odours. The report stated that future works may create an increase in odours but this had to be seen in the context of the improvement in the long term.

On paragraph 3 – Proposed Creation of Lyme Park Countryside Park

Councillor Northcott stated that this was a wonderful initiative which would help the community's health and wellbeing as well as protecting a significant part of the former golf course. The standard of grass cutting had been better this year than in previous years. The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Environment, Councillor David Hutchison was asked to thank the grass cutting teams and to comment on how this could be sustained for the rest of the year.

The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Environment stated that grass cutting was at a frequency of eight cuts per year starting in March. Two permanent and three seasonal staff had recently been employed. Four ride on mowers were procured last year and a further five had now been ordered to supplement the existing mowing fleet.

Councillor Dave Jones also thanked the Council's grass cutting team. He stated that the creation of a Countryside Park was a fantastic amenity and bringing in more manageable paths would make it even more useable. A significant issue at present was anti-social behaviour caused by dirt bikes going around and asked for a pledge that when the country park was established that it be ensured that all measures be taken to prevent the access of these vehicles.

The Leader agreed with the issue of the dirt bikes and stated that prevention measures should be investigated. The Police were currently targeting the problem, across the Borough.

Councillor Holland stated that it was under the Labour administration that the former golf course closed and failed to reopen as a golf academy and the site had been left since then. The previous Joint Local Plan would have created 1800 homes on the site. The Leader was asked if he agreed that the Labour group should be ashamed of its record or be grateful to the current Administration for the designation of the country park and planting of 850 trees, meaning that two thirds of the site would be protected against development.

The Leader agreed and stated that it was about doing the right thing. The Council needed to provide new housing within the Borough at a sustainable level. The site was not sustainable as a golf course and this proposal was in the best interest of the Borough with 66% of the site protected from housing development.

On paragraph 4 – Expansion of Recycling Materials Collected to include Flexible Plastics and Cartons

Councillor Edgington-Plunkett stated that this was good to read and really good that there were information stickers to guide people and would be welcomed by all residents.

Councillor Bryan stated that expanding the service ahead of the deadline was a great step towards further sustainability and make the recycling service more convenient for residents. The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Environment was asked if he felt that it would help to increase the Council's recycling rate even further.

Councillor Richards asked what happened to the things now able to be recycled that could not be done before.

The Portfolio Holder stated that increasing what was collected was beneficial in many ways. It would further boost recycling performance which was currently at 53%. It would also reduce carbon emissions and help with net zero objectives. The Council was currently looking at places where the plastic bags and films and wrappers could be sent to.

Councillor Grocott echoed everything that had been said and thanked the Portfolio Holder and the recycling team.

On paragraph 5 – UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) 2025-26

Councillor Jill Waring stated that she was pleased that the Council had secured a further £1.5m through the Fund to support community projects. The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing, Councillor Gill Heesom was asked for an update on the development of Navigation House.

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing state that Navigation House would fulfil two roles; it would be a multi-agency assessment centre where rough sleeping or vulnerably housed individuals could be engaged with services – gaining advice, support and help. It would also provide safe, secure accommodation for individuals ready to engage with services and to secure a pathway into secure accommodation.

Work was ongoing to refurbish Navigation House with completion due later this year and invitations have been published to tender for the management and delivery of the supported accommodation to ensure that a provider was in place upon completion of the refurbishment works.

Councillor Gorton welcomed the collaboration with Keele University to encourage the creation of local businesses and the University's expertise would be used to benefit the wider community. The Leader was asked if he could be more specific, whether any projects had been finalised with Keele. If not, when could the Council expect to see projects launched and would the Council commit to publishing a report which would be made available to Members which recorded how the funding was being used.

Councillor Holland stated that it was welcome that the Council had received further investment from the Fund which was designed to replace the Strategic European Union Grant.

The Leader stated that the Cabinet agenda provided details of projects that were upcoming. Working with Keele University was one of the Council's priorities having

worked with them a lot previously on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Town Deal and Future High Street Funds.

The Fund was previously given for three year funding, committed under the previous government but now it was only one year funding.

On paragraph 6 – Devolution and Forced Local Government Reorganisation (FLGR)

Councillor Berrisford believed that the Council's firm stance against forced reorganisation showed a strong commitment to the Borough's history of local governance. The Leader was asked when he expected to hear the Government's response to the Council's Interim Plan.

The Leader stated that the Council was hoping to receive a response from the Government in early May after which, more discussions could be held with partners.

Councillor Gorton drew Members' attention to the statement by the Chairman of the Staffordshire Leaders' Board which read "there is a growing consensus that a more strategic authority would bring extra investment and freedoms to boost our economy further. This is the real prize we are working towards". While there were many benefits of a strategic authority, we don't want the body to be run by a Mayor. Did the Leader believe that this Council should join the growing consensus and support the creation of a Mayoral Strategic Authority.

The Leader stated that at the previous meeting, it was resolved that it was in the Council's Interim Plan that a Strategic Authority would be supported but there was no need for an Elected Mayor. There were some benefits from a Strategic Authority, which all Leaders from Stoke and Staffordshire districts agreed last year that it was a programme that could take Authorities through on devolution under the Leaders' Board but the government wish to enforce Elected Mayors.

Councillor Dave Jones stated that at the previous meeting of the Full Council the report identified potential merger options with neighbouring Authorities. The Leader was asked if he had had any conversations with the other Councils and if so, Could he update Members on the outcome of those discussions.

The Leader stated that the options were investigations. The recommendations had been that the two-tier system was best for the Borough and should stay in place. Ideas were put forward and the preferred option went in with the bid. At the last Council meeting it was resolved that this Council wished to see either the two-tier preserved or that it become a Newcastle Unitary Authority.

On paragraph 7 – Borough Heroes Awards 2025

Councillor Skelding extended congratulations to the winners of the awards and thanked everyone involved in the awards including sponsors. In addition he showed his appreciation to everyone nominated for awards.

Councillor Dave Jones extended his groups congratulations to those who won awards and those who were unsuccessful. The Council should be proud that it had residents within its Borough that were so embedded and had such great achievements.

Councillor Parker stated that the Heroes Awards were now in its third year and was a wonderful initiative celebrating the contribution of individuals who had made a

significant impact on the community. Recognising local heroes not only highlighted their dedication but also inspired others to get involved. He was pleased to see Andrew Van Buren receive the Lifetime Achievement Award for promoting the work of Philip Astley.

The Leader echoed all comments and added that it was pleasing to see the happiness in the faces of the recipients of the awards.

The Mayor stated that on Saturday 19th May – World Circus Day, he would have the privilege of visiting the Astley Centre.

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

[Watch the debate here](#)

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

No written questions had been submitted.

11. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

12. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

13. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

There were no confidential items.

14. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Reports for the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee, the Health Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee and the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee were attached to the agenda.

Resolved: That the reports be received.

[Watch the debate here](#)

Council - 16/04/25

**Cllr Robert Bettley-Smith
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 8.36 pm



NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO

Council
14 May 2025

Report Title: Appointment to Committees, Chairs and Vice-Chairs

Submitted by: Service Director, Legal and Governance

Portfolios: One Council, People and Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To appoint Members to committees, elect chairs and vice-chairs and note appointments to Political Group Leader and Deputy Leadership positions.

Recommendation

That:

(a) Council makes the committee appointments set out in the Appendix to this report and notes the appointed Group Leader/Deputy Leadership positions.

Reasons

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, and to enable council business to be conducted through committees (Sections 101 & 102 of the Local Government Act 1972; Section 6 of the Licensing Act 2003) and to comply with the requirements in respect of Scrutiny (Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000).

1. Background

Committee Appointments

- 1.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the 1989 Act") imposes political proportionality requirements in respect of the appointment of committees (other than the Executive). Specific provision is made in Section 15 of the Act as to how proportionality requirements should be prioritised as between the number of seats available on each committee and the number of available committee seats overall.
- 1.2 To meet these requirements, minor adjustments often need to be made where, for instance, a strict calculation results in an entitlement to less than one whole seat on any given committee.
- 1.3 It now falls to Council to appoint members from the relevant political groups to the seats allocated to those groups. Council will then need to elect a chair and vice-chair for each committee. Nominations made by the groups will be set out in an appendix to be tabled at the meeting.
- 1.4 Government advice on Scrutiny Committees suggests that local authorities might consider it appropriate to have all or some of these committees chaired by members outside the majority group.

- 1.5 The constitution states that there shall be 2 non-voting co-opted members on the Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee as set out below:

“In addition, there shall also be 2 non-voting co-opted members, representing the young people of the Borough drawn from the Student’s Union at Keele University and the Student Representative Body at Newcastle College. Both establishments are to be invited to nominate a co-opted member at each Annual Council.”

It is recommended that the Head of Legal and Governance/Monitoring Officer be granted delegated authority to make these arrangements.

Group Leadership/Deputy Leadership

- 1.6 For completeness, Political Group Leader and Deputy Leaderships are also reported to Annual Council. These will also be set out in Appendix 1 to this report tabled at the meeting.

Armed Forces Champion

- 1.7 Following the death in office of the previous Armed Forces Champion, the report includes nominations for this position until the next election.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 Set out above.

3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 That Council makes the committee appointments set out in the Appendix to this report and notes the appointed Group Leader/Deputy Leadership positions.

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

- 4.1 To comply with the legislative requirements and Council’s Constitution.

5. **Options Considered**

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 6.1 Dealt with in the body of the report

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 8.1 There are no significant direct financial or resource implications arising from the proposals. There is no change to the number of chairmanships or vice-chairmanships so no impact on members’ allowances.

9. **Major Risks**

- 9.1 It is essential that the council's decision-making structures and processes are robust and established in line with the relevant legislation and principles of good governance, to minimise the risk of legal challenge. The proposed approach seeks to ensure those aims are met.
- 9.2 The appointment of scrutiny committees enables the Council to achieve enhanced accountability and transparency of decision-making process. Scrutiny is a key element of the Council's executive arrangements and is the main way by which executive decision-makers are held to public account for the discharge of the functions for which they are responsible.
- 9.3 The scrutiny process is a key mechanism for enabling councillors to represent the views of their constituents and other organisations to the cabinet and to the Council and, by examining the operation and impact of the Council's policies, is a useful means of improving the development and delivery of services. Lack of an effective scrutiny function could lead to a lack of democratic accountability for the Council.

10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

10.1



11. One Council

- 11.1 Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council ☒

We will make investment to diversify our income and think entrepreneurially.

One Digital Council ☒

We will develop and implement a digital approach which makes it easy for all residents and businesses to engage with the Council, with our customers at the heart of every interaction.

One Green Council ☒

We will deliver on our commitments to a net zero future and make all decisions with sustainability as a driving principle.

- 11.2 Councillor membership of scrutiny, regulatory and decision-making committees ensures accountability and transparency in decision-making for commercial, digital and green policies and priorities.

12. Key Decision Information

12.1 This is not a Key Decision.

13. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

13.1 Not Applicable.

14. **List of Appendices**

14.1 Appendix 1 - Nominations from political groups

15. **Background Papers**

15.1 Not Applicable.

Notification of Political Groups of the Borough Council

Members are advised that the Proper Officer has received notification, under the provisions of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, of the operation of two political groups on the Council namely:-

NAME & NUMBER OF MEMBERS	DESIGNATED LEADER	DESIGNATED DEPUTY LEADER
CONSERVATIVE 25	SIMON TAGG	MARK HOLLAND
LABOUR 18	DAVE JONES	ANDREW FOX-HEWITT
INDEPENDENT 1	SUSAN BEESTON	
REFORM UK 1	LYNN DEAN	

Representation of Political Groups in Committees and Appointment of Members to Committees

		CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR
Audit & Standards	7	4	3
		Paul Waring	Mike Stubbs
		Gill Burnett-Faulkner	Rebekah Lewis
		Mark Holland	Phil Reece
		Joan Whieldon	
Substitutes	7	4	3
		Andrew Turnock	Annabel Lawley
		Paul Northcott	Joel Edgington-Plunkett
		Simon Jones	Richard Gorton
		Andrew Parker	
Independent Member			
Employment Committee	7	4	3
		Simon Tagg	Andrew Fox-Hewitt
		Mark Holland	Dave Jones
		Gill Heesom	Dave Grocott
		Stephen Sweeney	
Substitutes	7	4	3
		Andrew Turnock	John Williams
		Paul Northcott	Gill Williams
		Andy Fear	Dave Allport
		Joan Whieldon	
Licensing & Public Protection	15	9	6
		Trevor Johnson	Sylvia Dymond
		Joan Whieldon	Ruth Wright
		Jill Whitmore	Dave Allport
		Lilian Barker	John Williams
		Gill Heesom	Gill Williams
		Stephen Sweeney	Joel Edgington-Plunkett
		Ian Wilkes	

		Craig Skelding	
		Rupert Adcock	
Substitutes	15	9	6
		David Hutchison	Rebekah Lewis
		Andrew Turnock	Andrew Fox-Hewitt
		Andrew Parker	Dave Jones
		John Tagg	Mike Stubbs
		Jill Waring	Lesley Richards
		Gill Burnett-Faulkner	
Conservation Advisory	5	3	2
		Andrew Turnock	Annabel Lawley
		Trevor Johnson	Phil Reece
		Lilian Barker	
Substitutes	5	3	2
		Gill Burnett-Faulkner	Lesley Richards
		Ian Wilkes	Ruth Wright
		Rupert Adcock	
Planning	12	7	4
		Paul Northcott	John Williams
NOTE: INDEPENDENT MEMBER		Nicholas Crisp	Gill Williams
HAS THE FINAL SEAT		Andy Fear	Richard Gorton
(Susan Beeston)		Mark Holland	Jacqueline Brown
		Amy Bryan	
		David Hutchison	
		Gill Burnett-Faulkner	
Substitutes	12	7	4
		Stephen Sweeney	Dave Jones
		Amanda Berrisford	Joel Edgington-Plunkett
		Simon Tagg	Dave Grocott
		Gill Heesom	Sylvia Dymond
		Trevor Johnson	
		John Tagg	
		Simon Jones	
Health, Wellbeing & Environment SC	11	6	4
		Ian Wilkes	Sylvia Dymond
NOTE: INDEPENDENT MEMBER		Rupert Adcock	Ruth Wright
HAS THE FINAL SEAT		Lilian Barker	Phil Reece
(Susan Beeston)		Paul Northcott	Lesley Richards
		Nicholas Crisp	
		Joan Whieldon	
Substitutes	11	6	4
		Andrew Parker	Sheelagh Casey-Hulme
		Mark Holland	Dave Jones
		John Tagg	Joel Edgington-Plunkett
		Trevor Johnson	Mike Stubbs
		Amy Bryan	
		Gill Burnett-Faulkner	

Economy & Place SC	11	6	4
		Amanda Berrisford	Sheelagh Casey Hulme
NOTE: REFORM UK MEMBER		Andrew Parker	Dave Grocott
HAS THE FINAL SEAT		Gill Burnett-Faulkner	Joel Edgington-Plunkett
(Cllr. Dean)		Robert Bettley-Smith	Richard Gorton
		Jill Waring	
		John Tagg	
Substitutes	11	6	4
		Mark Holland	Phil Reece
		Nicholas Crisp	Mike Stubbs
		Jill Whitmore	Sylvia Dymond
		Simon Jones	Dave Jones
		Joan Whieldon	
		Rupert Adcock	
Finance, Assets & Performance SC	11	6	4
		Mark Holland	Mike Stubbs
NOTE: REFORM UK MEMBER		Amy Bryan	Dave Allport
HAS THE FINAL SEAT		Andrew Parker	Annabel Lawley
(Cllr. Dean)		Andrew Turnock	Dave Grocott
		Paul Waring	
		Robert Bettley-Smith	
Substitutes	11	6	4
		Joan Whieldon	Dave Jones
		John Tagg	Richard Gorton
		Jill Waring	Ruth Wright
		Ian Wilkes	Rebekah Lewis
		Nicholas Crisp	
		Rupert Adcock	

Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees (in accordance with Standing Order 46(1))

Members are advised of the following nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair for the various Committees of the Council. Where there are two nominations (**highlighted in bold**), the Council must vote on which Member to appoint:-

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	VICE-CHAIR
Audit & Standards	Paul Waring Mike Stubbs	Gill Burnett-Faulkner Rebekah Lewis
Conservation Advisory	Trevor Johnson Phil Reece	Lilian Barker Annabelle Lawley
Employment Committee	PORTFOLIO HOLDER	NO NOMINATION REQUIRED
Licensing & Public Protection	Joan Whieldon Ruth Wright	Trevor Johnson David Allport
Planning	Paul Northcott John Williams	Nick Crisp Gill Williams

Health, Wellbeing & Environment SC	Rupert Adcock Sylvia Dymond	Ian Wilkes Jacqueline Brown
Economy & Place SC	Andrew Parker Joel Edgington-Plunkett	Amanda Berrisford Richard Gorton
Finance, Assets & Performance SC	Mark Holland Mike Stubbs	Amy Bryan David Grocott
NOMINATION FOR COMMUNITY ARMED FORCES CHAMPION (until the end of the Council term)	Ian Wilkes Mike Stubbs	
MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR NOMINATIONS		
NOMINATION FOR MAYOR	Robert Bettley-Smith (Nominated by Conservative and Labour Groups)	
NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY MAYOR	Joan Whieldon Andrew Fox-Hewitt	



NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO

Council
14 May 2025

Report Title: Appointment to Outside Bodies (Nominees and Changes)

Submitted by: Service Director, Legal and Governance

Portfolios: One Council, People and Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To appoint Members to positions within Outside Bodies to represent the Council where these have become vacant or any changes of nominee.

Recommendation

That:

(a) Council agrees any required changes to the Council's representatives on Outside Bodies, notes the appointments for 2025/2026 and asks officers that the relevant organisation(s) be advised.

Reasons

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, and to enable council business to be conducted through committees (Sections 101 & 102 of the Local Government Act 1972; Section 6 of the Licensing Act 2003) and to comply with the requirements in respect of Scrutiny (Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000).

1. Background

Committee Appointments

- 1.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the 1989 Act") imposes political proportionality requirements in respect of the appointment of committees (other than the Executive). Specific provision is made in Section 15 of the Act as to how proportionality requirements should be prioritised as between the number of seats available on each committee and the number of available committee seats overall.
- 1.2 To meet these requirements, minor adjustments often need to be made where, for instance, where a member leaves the Council or is no longer able to fulfil the role.
- 1.3 It now falls to Council to appoint members to the seats allocated to those groups. Nominations made by the groups will be set out in an appendix to be tabled at the meeting.

1.4

2. Issues

2.1 Set out above.

3. **Proposal**

3.1 That Council makes the Outside Bodies appointments set out in the Appendix to this report and notes the appointed positions.

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 To comply with the legislative requirements and Council's Constitution.

5. **Options Considered**

5.1 Not applicable.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 Dealt with in the body of the report

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 Not applicable.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 There are no significant direct financial or resource implications arising from the proposals. There is no change to the number of chairmanships or vice-chairmanships so no impact on members' allowances.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 It is essential that the council's decision-making structures and processes are robust and established in line with the relevant legislation and principles of good governance, to minimise the risk of legal challenge. The proposed approach seeks to ensure those aims are met.

9.2 The appointment of scrutiny committees enables the Council to achieve enhanced accountability and transparency of decision-making process. Scrutiny is a key element of the Council's executive arrangements and is the main way by which executive decision-makers are held to public account for the discharge of the functions for which they are responsible.

9.3 The scrutiny process is a key mechanism for enabling councillors to represent the views of their constituents and other organisations to the cabinet and to the Council and, by examining the operation and impact of the Council's policies, is a useful means of improving the development and delivery of services. Lack of an effective scrutiny function could lead to a lack of democratic accountability for the Council.

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

10.1



11. **One Council**

11.1 Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council ☒

We will make investment to diversify our income and think entrepreneurially.

One Digital Council ☒

We will develop and implement a digital approach which makes it easy for all residents and businesses to engage with the Council, with our customers at the heart of every interaction.

One Green Council ☒

We will deliver on our commitments to a net zero future and make all decisions with sustainability as a driving principle.

11.2 Councillor membership of Outside Bodies enables the Council to bring governance, influence and scrutiny to decision-making within the Borough and across Staffordshire.

12. **Key Decision Information**

12.1 This is not a Key Decision.

13. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

13.1 Not Applicable.

14. **List of Appendices**

14.1 Appendix 1 Appointments to Outside Bodies

15. **Background Papers**

15.1 Not Applicable.

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APPOINTMENTS TO 20 MAY, 2026 .

External Roles of Members – Community Groups

Name of Organisation/ Role	Description of Organisation / Role	Appointed by	Nomination convention	Term of Appointment	Nominations for re-appointment
<p>Community Centres Management Committees:</p> <p>Audley Bradwell Lodge Community Centre * Butt Lane Chesterton Clayton Crackley Harriet Higgins Knutton Marsh Hall Ramsay Road Red Street Silverdale, Park Road Silverdale, Social Centre Whitfield Wye Road</p> <p>Case – Community Interest Group (appoints own Directors)</p>	<p>The Management Committees hold regular meetings, usually monthly, to decide on how the organisation should operate the community centre on a day to day basis.</p>	<p>Council (up to 3 members on each)</p>	<p>Ward members automatically become the Council's nominated representatives for community centres situated within their wards for the period of their office, negating the need to make specific nominations each year</p> <p>Ward Members do not have voting rights unless co-opted or elected to the Management Committee</p>	<p>Every 4 years</p>	<p>Ward Councillors automatically appointed</p>

Residents' Associations are made up of local residents (tenants and/or homeowners) who represent the interests of everyone living in a particular area or building. They come together to represent the views of all residents in their area to help make their neighbourhood a better place to live.

Council

Ward Members automatically become the Council's nominated for any Residents Association within their ward for the period of their office, negating the need to make specific nominations each year.

Ward Members do not have voting rights unless co-opted or elected to the Residents Association.

Every 4 years

Ward Councillors automatically appointed

External Roles of Members

Name of Organisation/ Role	Description of Organisation / Role	Appointed by	Nomination convention	Term of Appointment	Nominations for re-appointment
Aspire Housing Board	Provider of homes for rent and homes for shared ownership.	1 member/ Council (£5,000 p/a paid by Aspire)	One Member (Cllr Northcott)	4 years	
Business Improvement District	Works with partner organisations to lobby, support and deliver a range of projects and events in the BID area	1 member/ Council	Relevant Portfolio Holder (Cllr Simon Tagg)	4 years	
Campaign to Protect Rural England - County Branch	Works to make the countryside of Staffordshire a better place for everyone to live, work and enjoy.	up to 2 members/ Council	One Member (Cllr Panter)	4 years	Cllr Simon Tagg

Corporate Parenting Panel

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The Corporate Parenting Panel supports the Council to ensure that it is fulfilling its duties towards those children looked after corporately. It also oversees the services provided to children and young people in care.

1 member/
Cabinet

Portfolio Holder
(Cllr Heesom)

4 years

District Councils Network

The District Councils' Network is a cross-party member led network of 180 district councils. It is a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association and provides a single voice for all district councils within the Local Government Association.

1 member/
Council

Leader
(Cllr Simon Tagg)

4 years

"Enjoy Staffordshire" Destination Management Partnership	A partnership between the public sector and private sector – to bring more visitors into Staffordshire. The partnership has a board of members representing all parts of the county and all elements of the industry.	1 member/ Council	Relevant Portfolio Holder (Cllr Sweeney)	4 years	
Go Kids Grove	Community Interest Company promoting local businesses and events.	1 member/ Council	Relevant Portfolio Holder (Cllr Sweeney)	4 years	Cllr Craig Skelding
LGiU Assembly	A local authority membership organisation. Members are councils and other organisations with an interest in local government from across the UK. Support is provided to officers and councillors.	1 member/ Council	One nominee (Cllr Hutchison)	4 years	
Local Government Association	The 'parliament of Local Government'	1 member/ Council	Leader (Cllr Simon Tagg)	4 years	

<p>Locality Action Partnerships:</p> <p>Page 34</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audley • Betley, Keele and Madeley • Butt Lane and Talke • East Newcastle • Greater Chesterton • Kidsgrove • Partnership of Western Communities • Newcastle Rural • Newcastle South 	<p>These represent the Newcastle Partnership's established infrastructure for the delivery of locality working and offer communities access to a range of partners.</p>	<p>Council</p>	<p>The LAP constitutions state that membership is open to "Any County or District Councillor representing any part of the area" - this negates the need to make specific nominations annually.</p>		<p>Ward Councillors automatically appointed</p>
<p>Newcastle Partnership (Local Strategic Partnership)</p>	<p>Representing different sectors in the Borough and playing a vital role in bringing together a range of organisations through co-operative and co-ordinated joint working to improve social, economic and environmental wellbeing for residents.</p> <p>It is committed to continuously improving the quality of life and experiences of people, who live, work, invest, study and visit Newcastle</p>	<p>1 + sub member/ Council</p>	<p>Leader (Cllr Simon Tagg) Deputy Leader as substitute</p>	<p>4 years</p>	

North Staffs Victim Support			Portfolio Holder (Cllr Heesom)	4 years	
Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London (PATROL)	There is a statutory requirement for authorities to make provision for independent adjudication of motorists' appeals against the traffic penalties they issue.	1 Member Council	Relevant Portfolio Holder (Cllr Heesom)	4 years	
Sir John Offley Almshouse Trust	Charity run Housing situated in Madeley	N/A	One Madeley Ward Cllr (Cllr Whitmore appointed 2024)	4 years	
Staffordshire County Council Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Responsible for scrutinising the commissioning and delivery of health services in Staffordshire County Council's area, with the aim of helping to reduce health inequalities.	1 member/ Council	Chair of relevant Scrutiny Committee or substitute (Cllr Adcock)	4 years	
Staffordshire Sustainability Board			Relevant Portfolio Holder (Cllr Hutchison)	4 years	

Staffordshire Leaders Board

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A Joint Committee of the local authorities in Staffordshire to explore opportunities for improved joint working

1 member/Council

Leader
(Cllr Simon Tagg)
Deputy Leader is substitute

4 years

Staffordshire Playing Fields Association

1

Relevant Portfolio Holder
(Cllr Skelding)

4 years

Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel and associated panels

The role of the Panel is to scrutinise the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, to promote openness in the transaction of Police and Fire and Rescue business and also to support the Commissioner in the effective exercise of their functions.

1+ sub member/
Council
(£920.04 p.a. paid by the PFCP)

Relevant Portfolio Holder
(Cllr Heesom)

4 years

Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire Theatre Trust Limited (New Victoria Theatre)

A charity for people of all ages/backgrounds – using the power of theatre to change lives.

1 member/
Council

One Member
(Cllr Holland)

4 years

Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership	The Partnership works to bring together businesses and local authorities to drive economic growth, create jobs and raise skills levels.	1 member/ Council	Leader (Cllr Simon Tagg)	4 years	
Newcastle-under-Lyme Almshouse Association	Charity run housing – comprising 5 bungalows providing accommodation for single ladies, over the age of 60 and in need of affordable housing.	2 members/ N/A	Cross Heath Ward members automatically become the Council's nominated representatives for the period of their office, negating the need to make specific nominations each year	4 years	Ward Councillors automatically appointed
West Midlands Employers	The Regional Employers Organisation for the West Midlands, representing public sector employers, operating with integrity and accountability in line with the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act (1992)	1 member	Leader (Cllr Simon Tagg)	4 years	

<p>Waste and Mineral Site Liaison Committee – Acton Composting Site (Committee is Active)</p> <p>ONE elected member (whose ward is not specified in any related S106 agreement) - the site lies within the Loggerheads and Whitmore ward</p>	<p>Overseeing the operation of mineral or waste developments. The Committee ensures continued communication and cooperation with the community, operator, the Council and interested parties</p>	<p>1 member/ Council</p>	<p>One nominee (Cllr Bryan)</p>	<p>4 years</p>	
<p>Waste and Mineral Site Liaison Committee –Holditch House Waste Site (Committee not yet Active <i>(however as permission implemented August 2016, the County Council will be pushing the operator to arrange a meeting soon)</i>)</p> <p>ONE elected member (whose ward is not specified in any related S106 agreement) - the site lies within the Holditch ward</p>	<p>Overseeing the operation of mineral or waste developments. The Committee ensures continued communication and cooperation with the community, operator, the Council and interested parties</p>	<p>1 member</p>	<p>One nominee (Cllr Beeston)</p>	<p>4 years</p>	
<p>Waste and Mineral Site Liaison Committee – Keele (Madeley Heath) Quarry (Committee not yet Active)</p> <p>TWO elected members (whose wards are not specified in any related S106 agreement) - the quarry lies within the Madeley ward</p>	<p>Overseeing the operation of mineral or waste developments. The Committee ensures continued communication and cooperation with the community, operator, the Council and interested parties</p>	<p>2 members/ Council</p>	<p>Two nominees (Cllrs Berrisford & Whitmore appointed 2024)</p>	<p>4 years</p>	

<p>Waste and Mineral Site Liaison Committee – Knutton Quarry (Committee is Active)</p> <p>TWO elected members (the quarry lies predominately within the Knutton and Silverdale ward, with a small part located within the Silverdale and Parkside ward. There is a section 106 agreement that requires the liaison committee and for invitations for membership of up to two elected councillors. Whilst there are no conditions dictating which wards the councillors should be drawn from, it should be noted that this committee also determines community projects and the level of financial support from the S106 funds. These projects must be located within the Silverdale and Knutton ward.</p>	<p>Overseeing the operation of mineral or waste developments. The Committee ensures continued communication and cooperation with the community, operator, the Council and interested parties</p>	<p>2 members/ Council</p>	<p>Two nominees (Cllrs Adcock & Moss)</p>	<p>4 years</p>	<p>Cllr Dean</p>
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<p>Waste and Mineral Site Liaison Committee –Walleys Landfill Site (Committee is Active)</p> <p>FOUR elected members (*previously six) Red Industries have taken over as owners and operators of the site and a unilateral undertaking has formalised the previously voluntary liaison committee (reference N.12/09/216 MW approved 26/5/2016), reducing the number of invited Borough Council elected members from 6 to 4.</p> <p>The unilateral undertaking specifies that Red Industries must invite four elected councillors on behalf of the Borough Council, plus two elected councillors from Staffordshire County Council, one elected councillor on behalf of Silverdale Parish Council and one on behalf of Knutton Parish Council (albeit that Knutton Parish Council does not exist). The undertaking does not specify from which wards the Borough Council elected members should be drawn from. Walley's Landfill site lies within the Thistleberry ward but also adjoins the Knutton and Silverdale and Silverdale and Parkside wards.</p>	<p>Overseeing the operation of mineral or waste developments. The Committee ensures continued communication and cooperation with the community, operator, the Council and interested parties</p>	<p>4 members Council</p>	<p>Four nominees, one each from Thistleberry, Silverdale, Knutton and Keele Wards</p> <p>(<u>Thistleberry:</u> Cllr Bettley-Smith</p> <p><u>Silverdale:</u> Cllr Adcock</p> <p><u>Knutton:</u> Cllr Moss</p> <p><u>Keele:</u> Cllr D Jones)</p>	<p>4 years</p>	<p><u>Knutton:</u> Cllr Dean</p>
<p>West Midland Reserve Forces and Cadets Association</p>	<p>Made up of volunteers from across the region. Supporting the Reserve Forces and Cadets from the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army and Royal Air Force within Staffordshire and other Counties.</p>	<p>1 member/ Council</p>	<p>One Member (Cllr Sweeney)</p>	<p>4 years</p>	

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