

# Public Document Pack

**Date of meeting** Tuesday, 19th July, 2022  
**Time** 2.00 pm  
**Venue** Astley Room - Castle  
**Contact** Denise French 742211



**NEWCASTLE  
UNDER LYME**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Castle House  
Barracks Road  
Newcastle-under-Lyme  
Staffordshire  
ST5 1BL

## Cabinet

### AGENDA

#### PART 1 – OPEN AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
To receive declarations of interest from Members on items included in the agenda.
- 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** (Pages 3 - 6)  
To consider the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 June 2022.
- 4 WALLEY'S QUARRY ODOUR ISSUES** (Pages 7 - 24)
- 5 PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2021/22** (Pages 25 - 31)
- 6 LOCAL PLAN ISSUES AND STRATEGIC OPTIONS - CONSULTATION FEEDBACK** (Pages 35 - 114)
- 7 UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND** (Pages 113 - 117)
- 8 COMMERCIAL STRATEGY** (Pages 119 - 123)
- 9 AWARD OF CONTRACT - PROVISION OF A CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICE FOR THE PERIOD 2022 - 25** (Pages 125 - 127)
- 10 FORWARD PLAN** (Pages 129 - 131)
- 11 URGENT BUSINESS**  
To consider any business which is urgent within the meaning of Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 12 DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION**  
To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following reports, because it is likely that there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972

## **ATTENDANCE AT CABINET MEETINGS**

### **Councillor attendance at Cabinet meetings:**

- (1) The Chair or spokesperson of the Council's scrutiny committees and the mover of any motion referred to Cabinet shall be entitled to attend any formal public meeting of Cabinet to speak.
- (2) Other persons including non-executive members of the Council may speak at such meetings with the permission of the Chair of the Cabinet.

### **Public attendance at Cabinet meetings:**

- (1) If a member of the public wishes to ask a question(s) at a meeting of Cabinet, they should serve two clear days' notice in writing of any such question(s) to the appropriate committee officer.
- (2) The Council Leader as Chair of Cabinet is given the discretion to waive the above deadline and assess the permissibility of the question(s). The Chair's decision will be final.
- (3) The maximum limit is three public questions at any one Cabinet meeting.
- (4) A maximum limit of three minutes is provided for each person to ask an initial question or make an initial statement to the Cabinet.
- (5) Any questions deemed to be repetitious or vexatious will be disallowed at the discretion of the Chair.

**Members:** Councillors S Tagg (Chair), Sweeney (Vice-Chair), Heesom, Johnson, J Waring and Fear

**Members of the Council: If you identify any personal training/development requirements from any of the items included in this agenda or through issues raised during the meeting, please bring them to the attention of the Democratic Services Officer at the close of the meeting.**

**Meeting Quorums :- 16+= 5 Members; 10-15=4 Members; 5-9=3 Members; 5 or less = 2 Members.**

**NOTE:** THERE ARE NO FIRE DRILLS PLANNED FOR THIS AFTERNOON SO IF THE FIRE ALARM DOES SOUND, PLEASE LEAVE THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY THROUGH THE FIRE EXIT DOORS.

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## CABINET

Tuesday, 7th June, 2022  
Time of Commencement: 2.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

**Present:** Councillor Simon Tagg (Chair)

**Councillors:** Stephen Sweeney      Trevor Johnson      Andrew Fear  
Gill Heesom                      Jill Waring

**Officers:** David Adams                      Executive Director of  
Sustainable Development and  
Operations  
Simon McEneny                      Executive Director of Growth  
and Development  
Daniel Dickinson                      Head of Legal & Governance  
/Monitoring Officer  
Denise French                      Democratic Services Team  
Leader

### 22. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

### 23. **MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 April be approved as a correct record.

### 24. **WALLEY'S QUARRY UPDATE**

Cabinet considered a report updating on the current position with odour issues at Walley's Quarry. The court hearing regarding the Abatement Notice served by the Council was scheduled for 24 October. A hearing was also scheduled for 14 June to deal with some outstanding disclosure issues.

Current complaint data to both the Council and the Environment Agency (EA) was presented. The report also contained data from the four Air Quality Monitoring Stations and how often the concentrations of hydrogen sulphide exceeded the World Health Organisations odour annoyance guideline levels. The EA had produced a report, as submitted, evaluating measurements of Air Quality at monitoring station MMF9 Gallingle View, between 6 March to 30 April 2021 and the same period this year which showed some improvement. It was noted by the EA that it was not possible to quantify whether this improvement was due to operations on site or variables such as meteorological conditions. It was important that the Council continued to focus on securing sustainable improvement.

## **Cabinet - 07/06/22**

Cabinet had previously requested that an additional body be created as part of the multi-agency Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) to provide political oversight and constructive challenge to the SCG. This had been agreed and terms of reference were being finalised.

Cabinet had also tasked Council officers to look at further legal avenues to address the issues experienced by the community around the Quarry and this would be part of a report to Cabinet in July.

Members noted that there had been complaints regarding vehicles queuing up on Cemetery Road and this was a matter for the police to address in terms of any obstruction and the County Council as Highways Authority. One solution could involve the operator seeking planning permission to allow vehicles to wait on site. These issues could be considered as part of the remit of the SCG sub group.

**Resolved:** that the report be noted.

[Click here to watch the debate](#)

### **25. CLIMATE CHANGE - SUSTAINABILITY BASE PLEDGE**

Cabinet considered a report on the Staffordshire Sustainability Board. The Board comprised the Borough and District Councils in Staffordshire together with the County Council with the aim of working together in a collaborative and consistent manner to achieve net carbon zero. The Board had proposed ten base pledges for Councils to consider as an initial commitment.

The Council had also recently appointed a Sustainability Officer.

**Resolved:** that:

1. The ten base pledges set out in this report be adopted.
2. The Council will help to facilitate action on the base pledges through its membership of the Staffordshire Sustainability Board (SSB).

[Click here to watch the debate](#)

### **26. ONE COUNCIL PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Cabinet considered an update report on the One Council Programme. The One Council programme was a 3 year programme that had been launched in February 2021. It aimed to provide flexible, efficient and customer driven services. A number of operational achievements had now been implemented including:

- a new website, enabling residents to self-serve and providing a cleaner and more modern design;
- One Front Door (now known as the Customer Hub) offering end to end service;
- A Mobile Multi-Functional Team which was an agile service dispatched wherever there was a need.

There were also initiatives around leadership and management looking at the culture of the Council and attitudes and behaviours; an internal review looking at efficiencies of scale and greater use of digital solutions and a new Strategy and Performance Team to support services achieve strategic aims and strengthen relationships with the Council's partners.

**Resolved:** that Cabinet notes the progress to date of the One Council Programme against the specific programme areas set out below:

1. One Front Door / Customer Hub progress
2. Leadership and Management
3. Information Advice and Guidance / Website
4. Support Services
5. Mobile Multi-Function Team
6. Wider Management Team Portfolios

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**27. DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY**

Cabinet considered an updated Discretionary Rate Relief Policy relating to National Non-Domestic Rates ie business rates. The updated policy aimed to provide clearer guidance and contained a scoring matrix which would determine the amount of discretionary relief and ensured all applications were treated equally and awards were consistent.

**Resolved:** that the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy, as submitted, be approved.

[Click here to watch the debate](#)

**28. NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME 850TH YEAR CELEBRATIONS IN 2023**

Cabinet considered a report on work being undertaken by the Council to plan for the Newcastle under Lyme Borough 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 2023. A number of proposals had been developed by the Heritage Cabinet Working Group including a Medieval Heritage Week in June, creation of a logo, medieval dance classes and celebrations of past and present residents of the Borough.

It was proposed that a Member Champion be appointed to oversee the development of the plans and programme for the 850<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

**Resolved:** that

1. The progress to date on the preparations for the 850<sup>th</sup> Celebrations be noted.
2. Cllr Simon White (Deputy Mayor) be appointed as the Council's Heritage Champion to oversee the development of the plans going forward on behalf of Cabinet.
3. A further report be submitted to a future meeting for consideration setting out a costed programme for the 850<sup>th</sup> Celebrations.

[Click here to watch the debate](#)

**29. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW REPORT - FOURTH QUARTER (JANUARY - MARCH) 2021 - 22**

Cabinet considered the regular performance review report for Quarter 4, January – March 2022.

**Resolved:** that the contents of the report and Appendices A and B be noted and Cabinet will continue to monitor and challenge the Council's performance alongside its financial performance for the same period.

**Cabinet - 07/06/22**

30. **FORWARD PLAN**

Consideration was given to the Forward Plan listing upcoming key decisions to be made by Cabinet.

**Resolved:** That the Forward Plan be received.

31. **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no Urgent Business.

**Councillor Simon Tagg  
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 2.52 pm

## NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO CABINET

19<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**Report Title:** Walleys Quarry – Odour Issues

**Submitted by:** Chief Executive

**Portfolios:** Environment & Recycling; One Council, People & Partnerships

**Ward(s) affected:** All

#### **Purpose of the Report**

To update Cabinet on the latest position regarding the problematic odours in the Borough associated with Walleys Quarry.

To consider any further action that the Council could take to accelerate progress with addressing the problems experienced by the Community.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Cabinet is recommended to:**

- 1. Note the contents of this update report**
- 2. To reaffirm its commitment to progress the legal process as set out in this report**

#### **Reasons**

To ensure Cabinet is kept updated on the ongoing work regarding the problem odours associated with Walleys Quarry and keep under review opportunities to take further action.

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 For a number of years, parts of the borough have suffered from problematic foul odours from the Walleys Quarry Landfill Site in Silverdale operated by Walleys Quarry Ltd, part of the RED Industries group of companies. The Environment Agency is the lead regulator for such sites, testing and enforcing compliance with the permit under which the site operates. The Council also has a role in influencing the operation and performance of such sites, where an operator fails to comply with actions required under an abatement notice issued by the Council in relation to any statutory nuisance caused by the site.
- 1.2 In March 2021, Council held an extraordinary meeting to receive the report of the Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee review into the Walleys Quarry issues, and to debate a motion demanding the immediate suspension of operations and acceptance of waste at the Walleys Quarry Landfill site.
- 1.3 Cabinet has received monthly updates on the issues relating to the odours, and Council has also been regularly updated.

## 2. Statutory Nuisance

- 2.1 Following extensive work, officers determined that the odours from the Walleys Quarry site amount to a Statutory Nuisance and, on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2021, served an Abatement Notice on Walleys Quarry Ltd.
- 2.2 The Abatement Notice afforded Walleys Quarry Ltd a period of 5 months to abate the nuisance, with this timeframe being informed by discussion on the nature and extent of potential works required at the site with colleagues from the Environment Agency and with our own landfill expert.
- 2.3 On 2 September 2021, Walleys Quarry Ltd lodged an appeal against the Abatement Notice with the Magistrates Court. This has the effect of “stopping the clock” on the 5 month timeframe to abate the nuisance. The timeframe for abating the nuisance will now be set by the Court, assuming that the appeal is not upheld.
- 2.4 On 3<sup>rd</sup> November, representatives for the Council and Walleys Quarry Ltd attended a case management hearing at Newcastle Magistrates Court. This hearing dealt with the administration of the appeal, setting out a timetable leading up to a trial of the issues in June 2022.
- 2.5 A key element of the legal process is the disclosure process, through which each party provides the other with documents upon which they intend to rely during the legal proceedings. In early February the first part of this process was completed but each party required further documents and, at a hearing on 25 March, the court dealt with this issue and set out a revised estimated timeline.
- 2.7 The next stage of the process is to finalise the expert evidence which both parties are due to exchange in September. A pre-trial review will take place on 20 September with the final hearing currently scheduled for 24 October - this is expected to take up to four weeks.
- 2.8

## 3. Complaint Data

- 3.1 In 2021, the Council received a total of **22,239** complaints. This figure represents two thirds of the overall complaints for all the various environmental services contacts for that year. i.e in 2021, there were 33,245 contacts in total, of which Walleys Quarry complaints were 22,239 and all other environmental contacts put together were 10,803. In the same period, the Environment Agency received **43,262** complaints about Walleys Quarry
- 3.2 Complaints continue at a level which indicates that the issue with odours escaping the site have not abated and continue to have a negative impact on residents. This incident remains, by some margin, the largest source of complaints received on any matter by the Council. Complaints rise and fall broadly in line with the H2S levels recorded at the four monitoring stations around the site, with higher levels of H2S generally causing more annoyance in the community. Complaints for the year to date are set out below:

	Complaints to NuLBC	Complaints to Environment Agency
<b>January 2022</b> 3/1/22- 9/1/22	73	352
10/1/22 -16/1/22	258	1045
17/1/22 -23/1/22	134	651



24/1/22 – 30/1/22	25	139
<b>February 2022</b> 31/1/22 – 6/2/22	16	64
7/2/22 – 13/2/22	31	120
14/2/22 – 20/2/22	49	166
21/2/22 – 27/2/22	40	264
<b>March 2022</b> 28/2/22 – 6/3/22	118	571
7/3/22 – 13/3/22	72	285
14/3/22 – 20/3/22	224	1126
21/3/22 – 27/3/22	412	1848
28/3/22 – 3/4/22	243	1072
<b>April 2022</b> 4/4/22 -10/4/22	132	895
11/4/22 – 17/4/22	156	752
18/4/22 – 24/4/22	65	310
25/4/22 – 1/5/22	49	213
<b>May 2022</b> 2/5/22 – 8/5/22	39	193
9/5/22 – 15/5/22	35	160
15/5/22 – 21/5/22	43	134
22/5/22 – 29/5/22	20	81
<b>June 2022</b> 30/5/22 – 5/6/22	27	169
6/6/22 – 12/6/22	42	234
13/6/22 – 19/6/22	25	263
20/6/22 – 26/6/22	28	208
26/6/22 – 2/7/22	9	54
<b>July 2022</b> 3/7/22 – 9/7/22	4	34

#### 4. Air Quality Monitoring Stations

- 4.1 The Council, Staffordshire County Council, and the Environment Agency are jointly funding a campaign of air quality monitoring which has been extended to run through 2022 utilising four static air monitoring stations. Data from these stations is reviewed to provide information in relation to two standards relating to Hydrogen Sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) – the WHO Health threshold and the WHO annoyance threshold, with this analysis published by stakeholders.

- 4.2 Hydrogen sulphide concentrations were above the World Health Organization's odour annoyance guideline level (7 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, 30-minute average) for the following percentages of each week:

Location	MMF1 - Silverdale Cemetery (%)	MMF2 - Silverdale Road (%)	MMF6 - NuL Fire Station (%)	MMF9 - Galingale View (%)
19/4/21 – 25/4	18	8	4	21
26/4 – 2/5	4	10	13	35
3/5 – 9/5	6	21	6	48
10/5 – 16/5	15	20	1	10
17/5 – 23/5	1	9	10	53
24/5 – 30/5	7	15	16	47
31/5 – 6/6	30	1	6	18
7/6 – 13/6	1	10	10	19
14/6 – 20/6	11	7	9	13
21/6 – 27/6	2	1	4	12
28/6 – 4/7	1	8	8	10
5/7 – 11/7	5	18	3	17
12/7 – 18/7	0.4	2.4	2.1	23
19/7 – 26/7	3.6	0	3.6	16
27/7 – 1/8	1.8	1.5	11	26
2/8 – 8/8	1	4	5	10
9/8 – 15/8	0.3	7	3	6
16/8 – 22/8	1	1	4	6
23/8 – 29/8	0	0	1.5	17
30/8-5/9	0	0	0.3	2.1
6/9 -12/9	0	1	13	18
13/9 – 19/9	0	0.6	7.3	11.7
20/9- 26/9	3	2	6	11
27/9-3/10	0	0	0	0.3
4/10 – 10/10	0	0	0.3	5
11/10 – 17/10	0	0.5	1.5	9
18/10-24/10	0	0	0	1.5
25/10-31/10	0	0	0	0
1/11 – 7/11	2.9	0	3.3	13.5
8/11 – 14/11	0	0	1	10
15/11 – 21/11	0	0	0	1.2
22/11-28/11	0	0	0	11
29/11-5/12	0.6	0.9	0	9
6/12 – 12/12	0.6	0	0.9	2.4
13/12-19/12	0.9	0	3	18.5
20/12-26/12	0	0	0	3
27/12-2/1/22	0	0	0	2.4
3/1-9/1	1.2	0	2.1	16.2
10/1-16/1	14.9	11.9	21.4	53.3

17/1-23/1	6	7	10	41
24/1 – 30/1	0	0	0	5.1
31/1-6/2	0	0	0	0
7/2 – 13/2	0	0	0.9	2.4
14/2 – 20/2	0	3.6	0.3	2.4
21/2 – 27/2	0	4.8	0.6	8.0
28/2 – 6/3	2.4	0	0.3	15
7/3 – 13/3	0.3	3.3	4.2	6.0
14/3-20/3	3.3	8.1	10.8	21.2
21/3-27/3	6.8	10.1	21.1	43.2
28/3 – 3/4	1.9	9.3	18.8	25.2
4/4-10/4	1.8	2.5	6.1	26.0
11/4 – 17/4	11.9	6.6	9.6	19.7
18/4 - 24/4	7.1	1.8	2.7	10.4
25/4 -1/5	5.1	0	1.5	9.0
2/5 – 8/5	2.7	4.8	n/a	n/a
9/5 – 15/5	0.9	1.2	0	1.8
15/5 – 21/5	0.6	2.1	0	2.7
22/5 – 29/5	0.3	0	0	0.9
30/5 – 5/6	0.3	0	1.2	7.4
6/6 – 12/6	0.3	0.6	2.1	3.6
13/6 – 19/6	0	0.6	0.6	11
20/6 – 26/6	0	0.9	0.3	15.5
26/6 – 2/7	0	0	0	0
3/7 – 9/7	0	0	0	0

- 4.3 The data shows that whilst the frequency of incidences when the WHO annoyance threshold was rose during March – April 2022, the figures for May, June and early July show a more positive picture, with data for the latest two weeks showing zero exceedances of the annoyance threshold.
- 4.4 A critical issue now is to ascertain the extent to which the recent reductions reflect the impact of works undertaken on site to increase capping and improve gas management, or reflect the warmer weather, or some combination of the two. It is therefore necessary to maintain a clear focus on ongoing monitoring, surveillance and securing demonstrable and sustained improvement.

### Jerome Monitoring

- 4.5 Members will be aware that the Council has procured two hand held air quality monitoring devices (Jeromes) which have been deployed for periods of time inside properties in the area affected by the odours. The data report for the second Quarter of 2022 is attached at Appendix 1
- 4.6 There were a total of 16 deployments during the second quarter of 2022. Fifteen of the measurement series reported concentrations above 0ppb and exceedance of the World Health Organisation air quality guideline for the avoidance of annoyance at 7 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (5ppb) averaged over 30mins was indicated within six of these. One, of the sixteen sets of measurements, reported no measurements above 0ppb (although it should be noted that any measurement below 3ppb would be reported as 0).

No measurements exceeded the World Health Organisation air quality guideline for the protection of health - 150 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (100ppb) averaged over 24 hours.

### **Environment Agency Enforcement Action**

- 4.4 Since the last report to Cabinet in June 2022, the Environment Agency has continued to provide weekly updates on their regulatory activity on the Walleys Quarry Landfill Citizens Space website. These updates reflect regular EA officer presence at the site to review progress with the Contain Capture Destroy strategy.
- 4.5 The average gas collection value for the last eleven weeks is approximately 3000 m<sup>3</sup> /hr. The additional capture of gas should lead to lower emissions of landfill gas to ambient air and reduce the negative experience of odour in the community

### **Consideration of further Council Action**

- 4.4 Cabinet has requested the creation of an additional body to provide political oversight of, and constructive challenge to, the work of the multi-agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) which has been meeting for over a year, bringing together officers from a range of organisations with roles to play in advising on, or directly acting on, issues relating to the problems at Walleys Quarry. The Terms of Reference have been agreed for this body and the first meeting is being arranged.
- 4.5 At its meeting in April 2022 Cabinet also expressed its frustration that the ongoing issues arising from Walleys Quarry had not yet been successfully addressed. Cabinet specifically tasked officers with a further review of alternative legal avenues that might be available to the Council in order to accelerate progress with addressing the problems experienced by the Community.
- 4.6 Officers have completed the review including seeking specialist legal advice on the matter, concluding that at this time, there is no further legal action that the Council can take directly. The review also concluded that the council is unable to support legal action being taken by others without adversely impacting on the Council's own Statutory Nuisance case which it is pursuing in its statutory, regulatory role.

## **5. Proposal**

### **Cabinet is recommended to:**

- **Note the contents of this update report**
- **To reaffirm its commitment to progress the legal process as set out in this report**

## **6. Reasons for Proposed Solution**

- 6.1 To ensure Cabinet is kept updated of the ongoing work to address the issues associated with the odours from Walleys Quarry and to keep under review opportunities to further action.

## **7. Options Considered**

- 7.1 To provide regular updates to Council

## **8. Legal and Statutory Implications**

8.1 Part III of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 is the legislation concerned with statutory nuisances in law. This is the principal piece of legislation covering the Council's duties and responsibilities in respect of issues relating to odour nuisance:-

- The Environmental Protection Act 1990, section 79 sets out the law in relation to statutory nuisance. This is the principal piece of legislation covering the Council's duties and responsibilities in respect of issues relating to odour nuisance.
- The relevant part of Section 79 defines a statutory nuisance as any smell or other effluvia arising on industrial, trade or business premises which is prejudicial to health of a nuisance. The Council is responsible for undertaking inspections and responding to complaints to determine whether or not a statutory nuisance exists.
- Where a statutory nuisance is identified or considered likely to arise or recur, section 80 of the Act requires that an abatement notice is served on those responsible for the nuisance. The abatement notice can either prohibit or restrict the nuisance and may require works to be undertaken by a specified date(s).
- There is a right of appeal against any abatement notice issued on a number of grounds, one of which is that the site operator is using "best available techniques" to prevent the odours complained of. Compliance with the Environmental Permit issues by the Environment Agency, and any actions required by the Environment Agency will often be sufficient to demonstrate that an operator is using "best available techniques" and that can result in an abatement notice being quashed on appeal.
- The appeal process represents a significant resource commitment for the council in both time and expense, so it is important for the Council to be content that it stands a reasonable prospect of defending an appeal against any abatement notice that it issues.
- If the council succeeds in securing an abatement notice following any appeal process, it is then a criminal offence to breach the terms of the abatement notice. Because the site is regulated by the Environment Agency under an Environmental Permit, the council would need to obtain the consent of the Secretary of State before it is able to prosecute any offence of breaching an abatement notice.

## 9. **Equality Impact Assessment**

9.1 The work of the Council in this regard recognises that the problematic odours in the area may impact on some groups more than others. The work is focussed on removing this impact as soon as possible.

## 10. **Financial and Resource Implications**

10.1 There are none directly arising from this report.

## 11. **Major Risks**

11.1 There are no new risks beyond those explored in previous reports.

## 12. **Unsustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)**



### 13. **Key Decision Information**

13.1 As an update report, this is not a Key Decision.

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

14.1 This matter has been variously considered previously by Economy, Environment & Place Scrutiny Committee, Council and Cabinet on 21 April 2021, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021, 17<sup>th</sup> November, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

### 15. **List of Appendices**

15.1 Report of Jerome Data for Q2 2022

## **Graphical Summary of Jerome Measurements For the Second Quarter 2022.**

### **Introduction.**

This report provides a graphical summary of the findings of deployments of the Council's Jerome hydrogen sulphide monitoring instruments for the first quarter of 2022. Each graph shows concentration (ppb) plotted against time.

The Jeromes were deployed at selected properties, where they were left to continuously monitor ambient concentrations of hydrogen sulphide, taking a measurement every 10 minutes. The aim was to deploy the instruments at properties which would be downwind of Walleys Quarry, or at least in close proximity of the site, during the deployment period.

The findings of previous deployments are given within a previous reports `Graphical Summary of Jerome Measurements From August 2021 Onwards` and `Graphical Summary of Jerome Measurements for the First Quarter 2022`.

The assessment criteria provided by the World Health Organisation, relating to annoyance and health impacts, and the relationship between hydrogen sulphide concentration and odour intensity are described below.

### **Assessment Criteria**

With regards to health impacts, there is no statutory limit which relates to environmental exposure to hydrogen sulphide. However, the World Health Organisation has produced an air quality guideline for the avoidance of annoyance at  $7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  averaged over 30mins, which approximates to 5 parts per billion (ppb) averaged over 30 minutes. This is equates to a distinct odour (perceived intensity score of 3) and is the threshold of recognition of hydrogen sulphide (i.e. the concentration at which 50% of the population would recognise the odour as H<sub>2</sub>S).

The World Health Organisation has also produced an air quality guideline for the protection of health -  $150 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  averaged over 24 hours, which equates to 100ppb averaged over 24 hours. This is 100<sup>th</sup> of the concentration identified as resulting in the onset of health impacts, namely eye irritation, which begin to occur at 10 parts per million (i.e. 10 000 ppb).

As described within the DEFRA publication `Odour Guidance for Local Authorities March 2010`, the characteristics of an odour affects the impact. Fairly regular exposure to some strong odours, even for short periods, can be both objectionable and offensive, such as in the case of hydrogen sulphide. Also, the concentration at which these odours become a statutory nuisance could be relatively low if they are persistent and frequent.

With regards to odour, by applying the Weber-Fechner Law, the perceived odour intensity (scored from 0 to 6) for hydrogen sulphide can be estimated from the measured concentration as described within the table below:

Odour Strength	Perceived Intensity	Approximate Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Approximate Concentration (ppb)
Extremely strong	6	148	99
Very strong	5	57	38

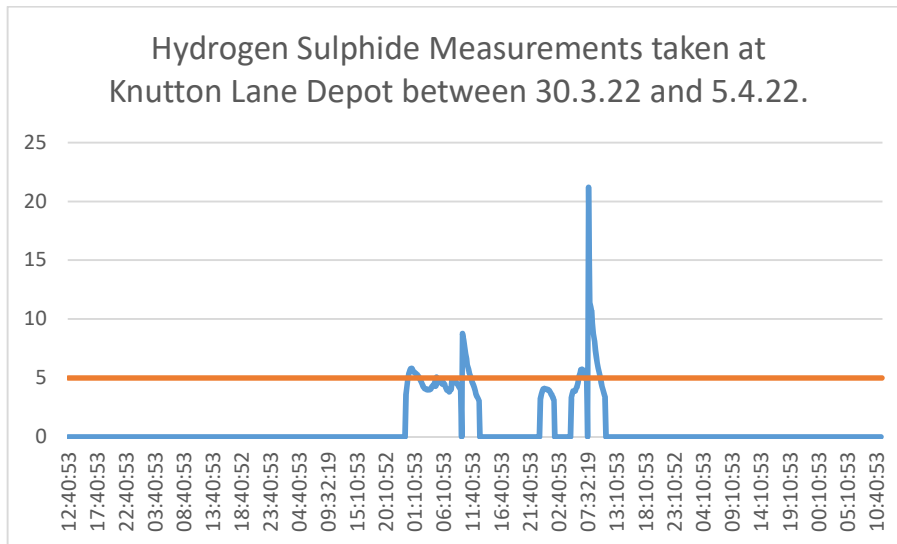
Strong	4	22	14
Distinct	3	7	5
Weak/faint	2	3	2
Very weak/very faint	1	0.7	0.5
Not perceptible/no odour	0	0	0

**Note:** The exact conversion between ppm and  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  is proportional to temperature and atmospheric pressure.

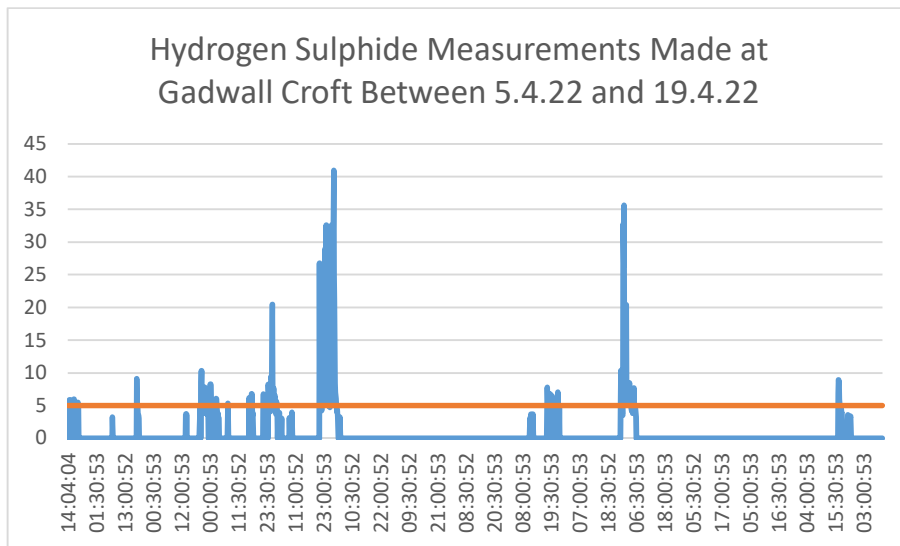
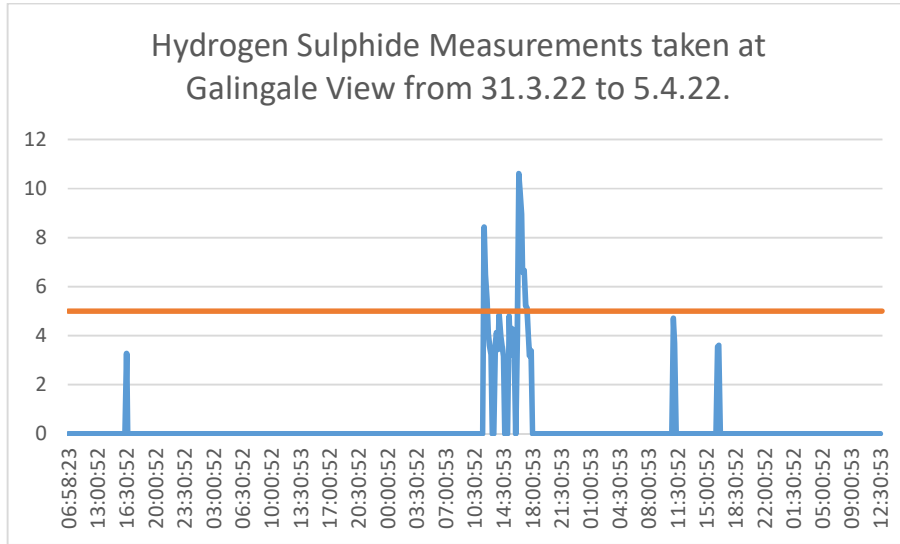
The limit of detection of the Jerome J605 is 3ppb. Any measurement below this value would be reported as 0. This does not necessarily mean that odour or gases associated with the landfill were absent, it can only be said that hydrogen sulphide concentration was below 3ppb at the time of measurement.

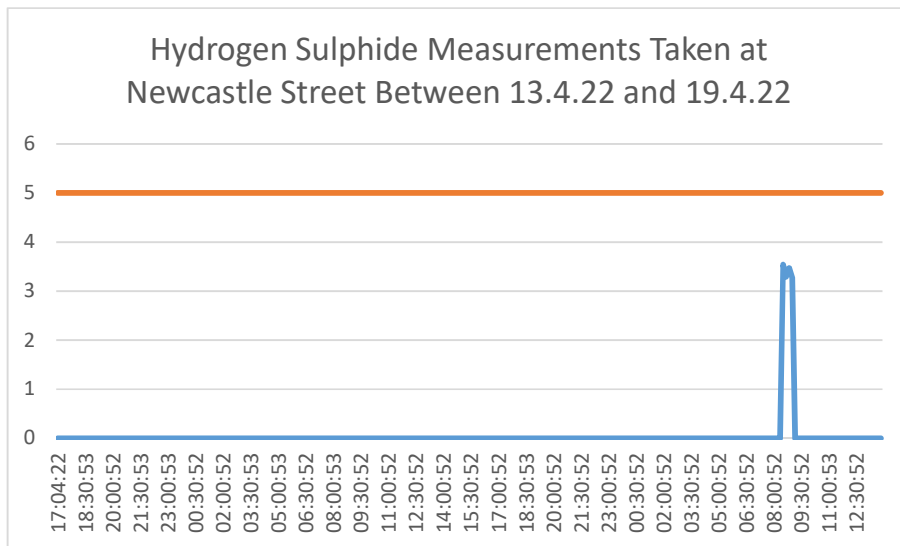
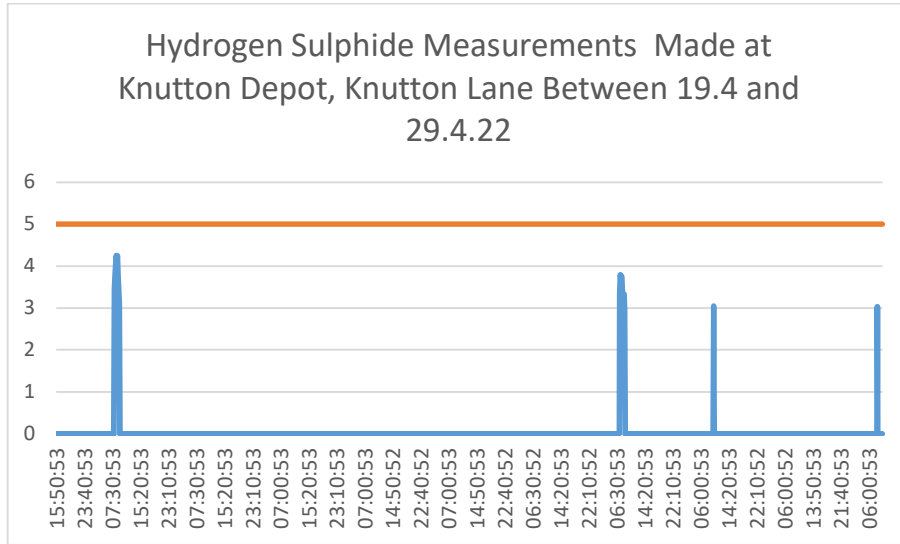
**Deployments to Properties.**

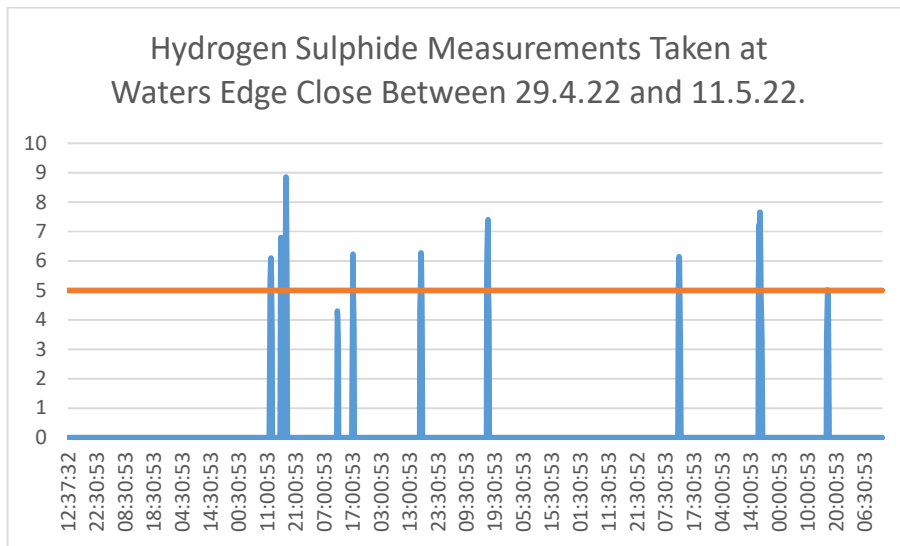
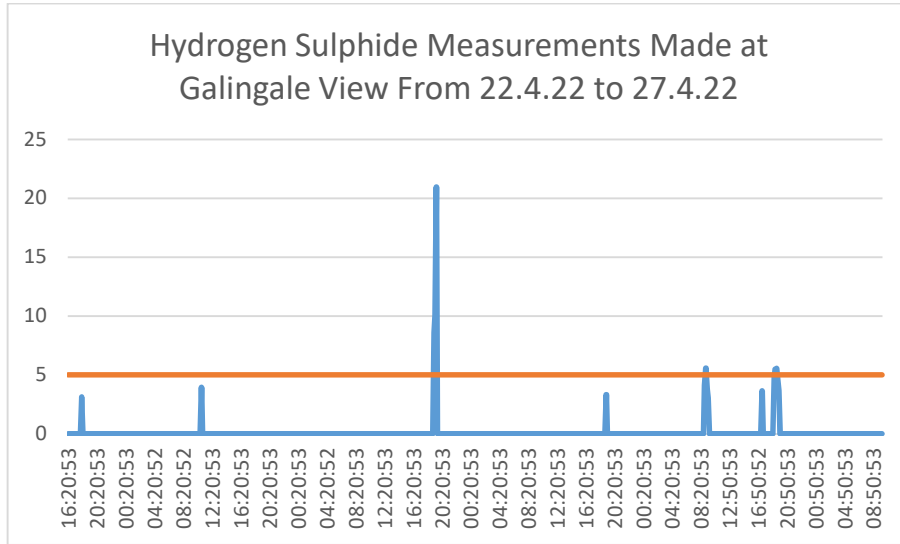
A graphical representation of each deployment of the instruments is given below.

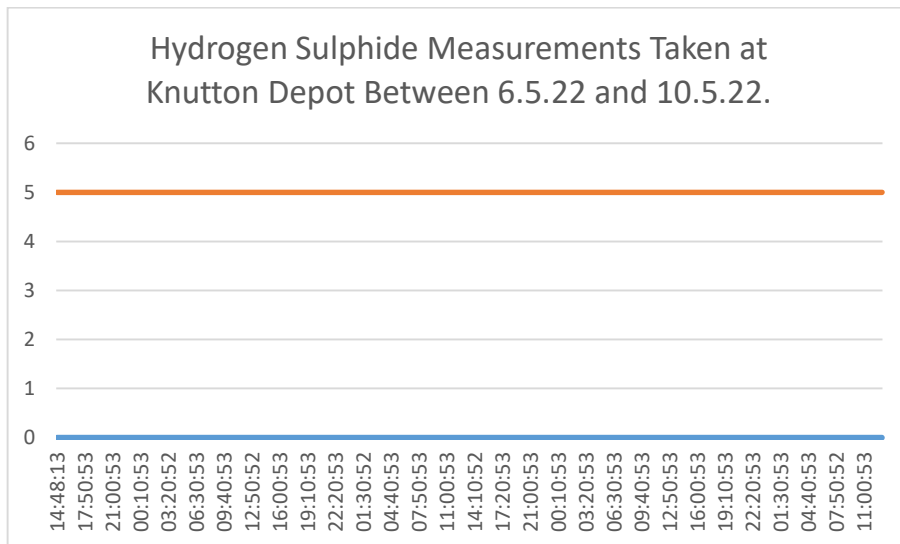
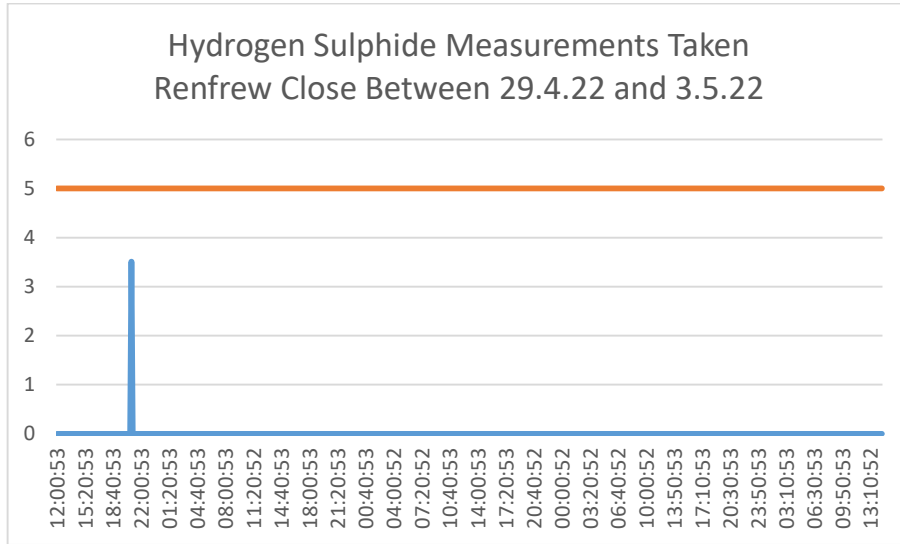


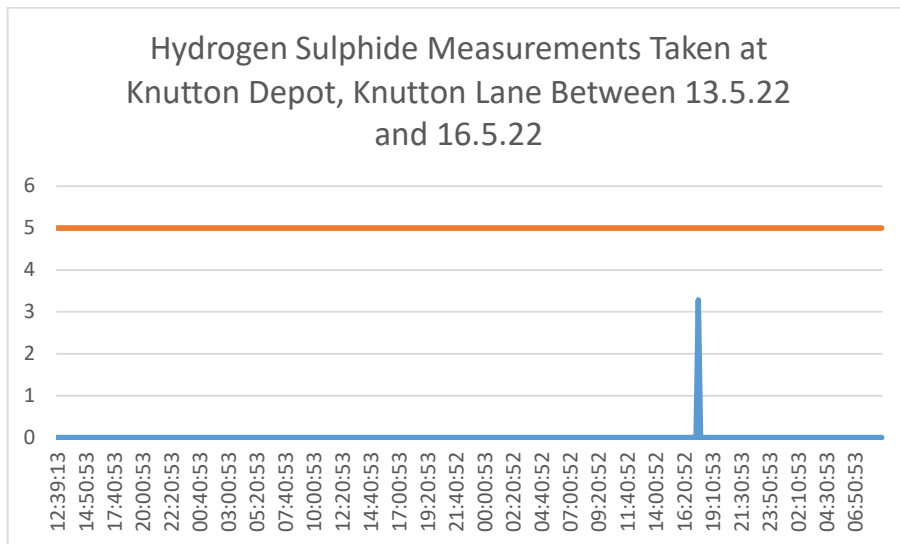
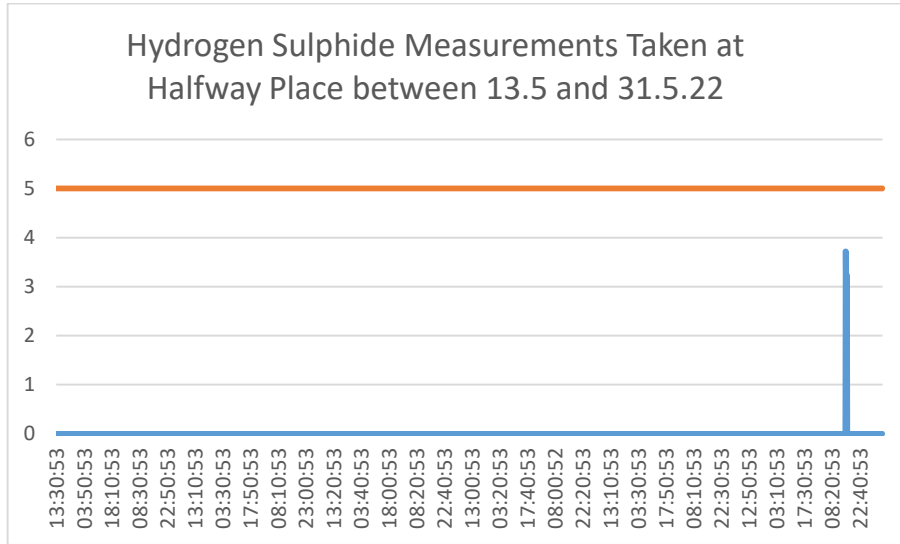


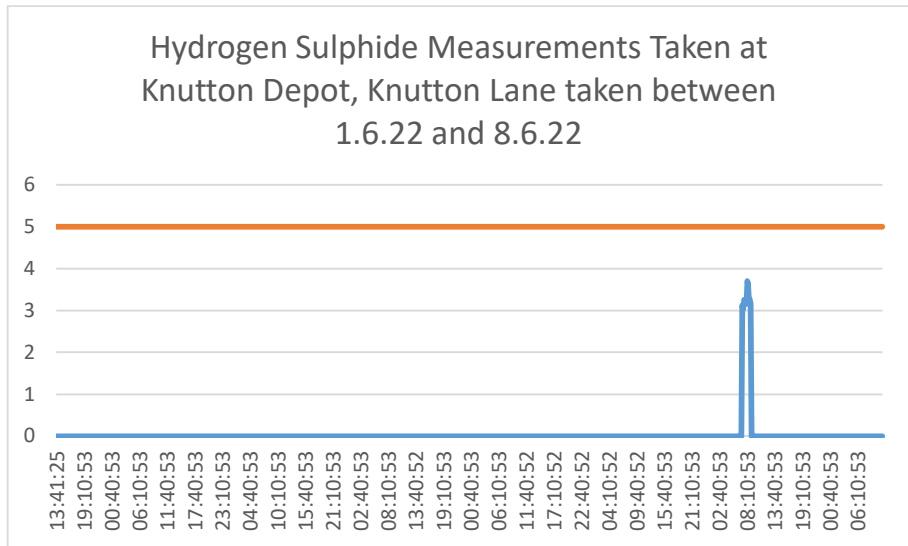
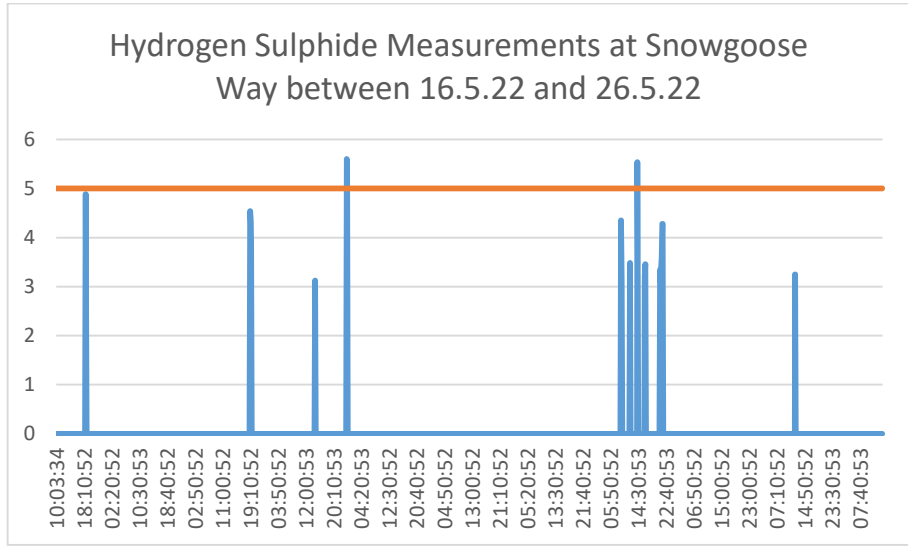


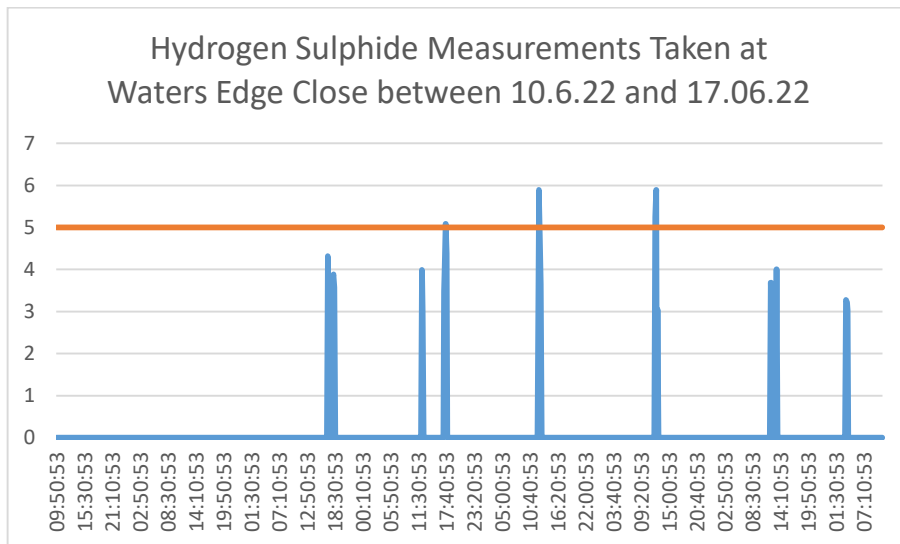
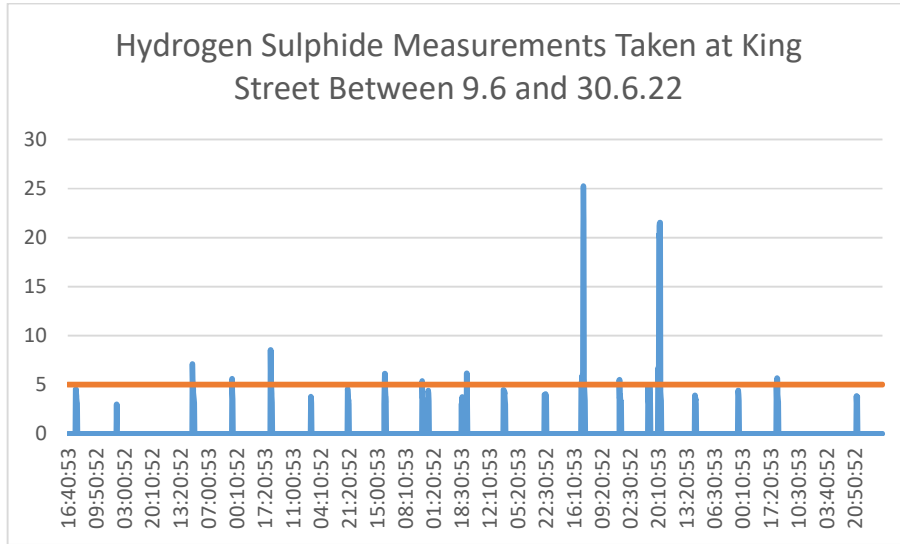


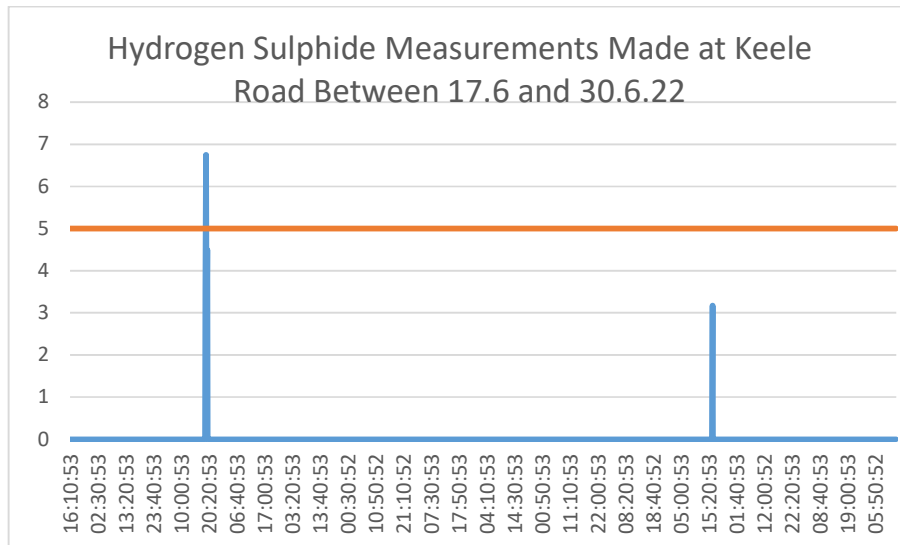












**Summary of Deployments.**

There were a total of 16 deployments during the second quarter of 2022.

Fifteen of the measurement series reported concentrations above 0ppb and exceedance of the World Health Organisation air quality guideline for the avoidance of annoyance at 7 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (5ppb) averaged over 30mins was indicated within six of these. One, of the sixteen sets of measurements, reported no measurements above 0ppb (although it should be noted that any measurement below 3ppb would be reported as 0).

No measurements exceeded the World Health Organisation air quality guideline for the protection of health - 150 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (100ppb) averaged over 24 hours.



## NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO

Cabinet  
19 July 2022

**Report Title:** Provisional Financial Outturn 2021/22

**Submitted by:** Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

**Portfolios:** Finance, Town Centres and Growth

**Ward(s) affected:** All

#### **Purpose of the Report**

To report upon the financial outturn for 2021/22. The report highlights key issues, including a commentary on the General Fund outturn, the Balance Sheet the Collection Fund, the Capital Programme and the Council's reserves.

#### **Recommendations**

- 1. The General Fund outturn and key issues in respect of the Council's financial position as at 31 March 2022 be noted.**

#### **Reasons**

Regular reporting of the Council's financial position is a key discipline supporting sound financial management and corporate governance.

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Regulations, extending the audit publication deadline for the Statement of Accounts to 30 November for 2 years, came into force on 31 March 2021. At the close of this period a review will be undertaken to determine whether there is a continued need to have an extended deadline.
- 1.2 The regulations require the draft Statement of Accounts to be published on or before 1 August. It is intended that they will be made available for public inspection between 4 July 2022 and 15 July 2022.
- 1.3 The external audit will commence during the week commencing 11 July 2022, primarily for the selection of samples and will be completed prior to the close of October 2022.
- 1.4 The final Statement of Accounts will be presented to the Audit and Standards Committee for approval on 14 November 2022.
- 1.5 This report focuses on reporting the provisional outturn position and the key elements of the Council's provisional financial position as at 31 March 2022.

## 2. Issues

### **The General Fund Outturn**

- 2.1 The General Fund is the main revenue account of the Council and relates to all of those services which are funded by the Council Tax, Retained Business Rates and Government Grant.
- 2.2 The Coronavirus pandemic continues to have an impact on the Council's financial position, primarily through lost income, although this is showing a marked improvement compared to the losses incurred during 2020/21. To date un-ringfenced Government funding of £1.045m has been secured (including £0.370m of new burdens funding to offset the costs of administering Coronavirus business support grants and test and trace payments) in relation to 2021/22, which has reduced the immediate pressure on additional spending on the Council finances.
- 2.3 Further Government funding to assist with the Council's response to the Coronavirus was also secured during 2021/22 in relation to elections (£0.035m), outbreak control (£0.174m), protect and vaccinate (homelessness) £0.127m and the Welcome Back fund (£0.175m).
- 2.4 The Council's revenue budget relies on service income from fees and charges of around £850k per month across a wide range of services, with a significant proportion coming from J2 and car parking. Income losses from fees and charges for the financial year have amounted to £1.131m.
- 2.5 The Government provided compensation for income losses, relating to irrecoverable fees and charges, above the first 5% at the rate of 75p in the pound for the first quarter of 2021/222, which helped to insulate the Council from income related financial risks for this period. The Government's income compensation scheme offset income losses during the first quarter to the sum of £0.360m.
- 2.6 The Council approved a General Fund Revenue Budget of £14.960m on 24 February 2021. The outturn for 2021/22 shows a favourable variance of £0.004m against this budget.
- 2.7 The adverse variances that occurred during 2021/22 include:
  - a. Income shortfalls from sales, fees and charges which are eligible for partial reclaim via the Income Losses Scheme, these amount to £1.131m for the financial year,
  - b. Income shortfalls from commercial property rents, these amounted to £0.142m for the financial year, these losses are not eligible for any partial reclaim,
  - c. Income shortfalls from the recovery of housing benefits overpayments, these losses amounted to £0.099m for the financial year, again, these losses are not eligible for any partial reclaim.
- 2.8 These adverse variances have been offset in full by the following favourable variances:
  - a. Un-ringfenced Government funding to offset pressures that the Council faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, £1.045m has been received for the financial year (£370k relates to the administration of Coronavirus related grants).
  - b. The Council has been reimbursed £0.360m in relation to the Income Losses scheme for eligible sales, fees and charges income shortfalls for first quarter of the financial year.

- c. Expenditure has continued to be reduced wherever possible throughout the Council to ensure that only absolutely necessary spending is being incurred, this has helped to reduce the adverse variance on a service by service basis.

### Flexible Use of Capital Receipts

- 2.9 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) informed the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) by letter of the Council's intention to make flexible use of capital receipts in the financial year 2021/22. The flexible use of capital receipts has been utilised in 2021/22 for expenditure to a value of £0.200m that meets the eligibility criteria, in that it relates to initiatives (Digital Delivery), that are forecast to generate, or have generated, on-going revenue savings through reducing the costs of service delivery. This is in addition to the agreed flexible use of capital receipts to part fund expenditure in relation to the One Council programme (£0.675m) has been utilised during 2021/22.

### The Collection Fund

- 2.10 Local tax income is collected by billing authorities and paid into local 'collection funds' (the Council is a billing authority). Where there is a shortfall in tax receipts (compared to expected levels), this leads to a deficit on the collection fund. Billing and major precepting authorities are usually required to meet their share of any deficit during the following financial year.
- 2.11 In response to forecast shortfalls in tax receipts relating to the Government's COVID-19 pandemic related business rates reliefs, the government announced that Section 31 grant would be awarded to cover the costs of these reliefs.
- 2.12 The cumulative variances in tax receipts for as at 31 March 2022, and the Section 31 grant payable in excess of the amount budget for are shown below:

Tax	Total (Surplus)/Deficit	Council's Share
Council Tax	(£0.053m)	Nil
Business Rates	£9.595m	£3.838m (40%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£9.542m</b>	<b>£3.838m</b>
Business Rates Section 31 Measures (above budgeted)	(£5.815m)	(£2.326m) 40%
<b>Total Net of</b>	<b>£3.727m</b>	<b>£1.512m</b>

- 2.13 The deficit shown is repayable in future years, this deficit can be funded from Section 31 grant paid to the Council and subsequently transferred to the Business Rates reserve in both 2020/21 and 2021/22.

### Reserves

- 2.14 The Council has usable revenue reserves totalling £10.899m. The main items, with their balances at 31 March 2022, and a comparison to the balances forecast per the 2022/23 budget setting, are:

Reserve/Fund	Balance 31.03.22 (£'000's)	Balance Forecast Budget Setting (£'000's)	Variance (£'000's)	Comments
General Fund	2,160	2,160	-	Unforeseen adverse events. Approved balance of £2.160m
Income Contingency	100	100	-	To manage year to year income variations. Approved balance of £0.100m
Walley's Quarry Reserve	824	840	(16)	To assist with the Council's actions regarding air quality issues at Walley's Quarry
Equipment Replacement	33	33	-	Replacement of Environmental Heath equipment
Budget Support – General	789	461	328	Additional funding committed to during 2021/22 to be utilised in 2022/23
Budget Support – Planning Policy	301	250	51	To provide funding for the Borough Local Plan
Budget Support – Housing	329	-	329	Homelessness funding to be utilised in future periods
Borough Growth	50	-	50	To fund investment in corporate priorities
Conservation & Heritage	35	35	-	To provide repair grants to owners of historic buildings
Mayor's Charity	7	-	7	To hold funds on behalf of the Mayor's charity
Museum Purchases	61	75	(14)	Balance held to be utilised on Museum capital project
Business Rates	6,046	3,621	2,425	Section 31 grant transferred into reserve to offset 2021/22 deficits repayable in future years (£3.838m). £0.220m held as business rates contingency. Remainder held as contingency re. fair funding review
Elections	150	150	-	To provide budget on a 4 year cycle for Borough Elections
Clayton Community Centre	14	14	-	Sinking fund held on behalf of Committee (contributions made by Committee)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10,899</b>	<b>7,739</b>	<b>3,160</b>	

2.15 The General Fund Balance is £2.160m as at 31 March 2022. The amount required to be held in this reserve is assessed each year when the revenue budget is compiled, by identifying and quantifying the risks applicable to the revenue budget and using this information as the basis to calculate a prudent sum to keep in reserve to meet those risks should they arise. Covid-19 related and other financial risks are being kept under continuous review and Cabinet will be advised should the need to increase these in-year arise.

2.16 The levels of reserves will be considered as part of the budget preparation process for 2023/24. Some may require contributing to, either from the revenue budget or a transfer from another reserve.

### Capital Expenditure

2.17 A Capital Programme totalling £12.923m was approved for 2021/22. Of this total £10.923m related to the total cost of new schemes for 2021/22 together with £1.000m for schemes funded by external sources (Disabled Facilities Grants) and a £1.000m contingency. In addition £2.256m was brought forward from the 2020/21 Capital Programme, resulting in a total Capital Programme of £15.179m for 2021/22.

2.18 A mid-year review of the capital programme was undertaken and approved by Cabinet as part of the Efficiency Board and budget setting process for 2022/23 in order to identify any projects that may need to be re-profiled from 2021/22 into future years. The revised capital programme also included projects for which funding has been obtained relating to 2021/22 via the Town Deals Fund (£3.246m) and the Future High Streets Fund (£5.341m). The revised capital programme for 2021/22 totalled £19.552m.

2.19 In addition to the revised 2021/22 Capital Programme additional income was allowed for regarding disabled facilities grants (£0.238m), a revenue contribution to a cremator reline (£0.032m) and grants in respect of the Museum refurbishment (£0.254m). Additional capital expenditure of £0.200m regarding the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts, £0.675m of One Council expenditure, £0.003m Section 106 payments and £0.415m regarding funding transferred to Aspire Housing was also incurred.

2.20 Planned expenditure financed via capital for 2021/22 therefore totalled £21.369m. Actual expenditure has totalled £14.743m, £6.626m below that planned. This relates to expenditure that has been rolled forward into 2022/23 (£1.531m), projects planned under the Town Deals and Future High Streets funds that will be progressed during 2022/23 (£4.057m), unused contingency funding (£0.697m) and a small number of projects for which funding is no longer required (£0.341m).

2.21 The expenditure of £14.743m was financed as shown below:

<b>Financed by:</b>	<b>£ (000)</b>
Capital Receipts	2.155
Government Grants and Other Contributions	7.257
Internal Borrowing	5.331
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.743</b>

### 3. Proposal

3.1 The General Fund outturn and key issues in respect of the Council's financial position as at 31 March 2022 be noted.

### 4. Reasons for Proposed Solution

4.1 Regular reporting of the Council's financial position is a key discipline supporting sound financial management and corporate governance.

5. **Options Considered**

5.1 The report on the provisional General Fund outturn is for informational purposes and is considered best practice, as opposed to not providing an update.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 The report on the provisional General Fund outturn is for informational purposes and is considered best practice. Further reports on the draft and audited Statement of Accounts will be considered by the Audit and Standards Committee in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 The report on the provisional General Fund outturn is for informational purposes and is considered best practice, there are no differential equality issues arising.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 The General Fund outturn for the financial year 2021/22 shows a favourable variance against the budget of £0.004m. This amount has been paid into the Budget Support Fund.

8.2 £1.531m of the 2021/22 capital programme will be carried forward to the financial year 2022/23. Projects planned under the Town Deals and Future High Streets funds that will continue to be progressed during 2022/23.

8.3 The General Fund Reserve of £2.160m is in accordance with the risk assessed minimum value as approved as part of the 2022/23 budget setting process.

8.4 The Council's share of the Collection Fund deficit amounts to £3.838m which is repayable in future years, this will be met from amounts contributed to the Business Rates Reserve.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 The ongoing COVID pandemic and changing market conditions represents the greatest risk to the revenue budget, particularly with regard to the impact it may have upon income receivable in relation to services where customers may choose whether or not to use Council facilities or in the case of the waste/recycling service where the volume of recycled materials is liable to fluctuate. The impact of Covid 19 is apparent in the reporting of this provisional outturn, impacting on many areas and the situation will continue to be monitored through the normal budget monitoring procedures during the financial year 2022/23.

9.2 The capital programme requires regular monitoring to identify any projects which are falling behind their planned completion dates. This will be carried out by the Capital, Assets and Commercial Investments Review Group, which meets on a bi-monthly basis together with quarterly and annual reports to Cabinet.

9.3 The above represents a high level view of risk. There are detailed risk registers available if members wish to see them.

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



11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 This is not a key decision.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 Finance and Performance Review Report to Cabinet (7 June 2022).

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 No appendices are provided with this report.

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 Finance and Performance Review Report to Cabinet (7 June 2022).

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## NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO CABINET

19 July 2022

**Report Title:** Local Plan Issues & Strategic Options – Consultation Feedback

**Submitted by:** Executive Director Commercial Development & Economic Growth

**Portfolios:** Strategic Planning

**Ward(s) affected:** All

#### **Purpose of the Report**

To provide feedback on the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan Issues & Strategic Options consultation.

#### **Recommendation**

That Cabinet:-

1. notes the feedback on the Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan Issues & Strategic Options consultation
2. notes the feedback received from the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee

#### **Reasons**

To comply with the legal and procedural requirements necessary to complete the preparation and adoption of a Local Plan for Newcastle-under-Lyme, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

#### 1. **Background**

- 1.1. Local Plans are a statutory requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, requiring Local Authorities to set out a local development plan for their area.
- 1.2. The Council currently has a Local Plan in place that was adopted in 2003. This is supported by the Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Spatial Strategy, which was adopted in 2009. Both of these documents were in place prior to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) being issued in 2012. Depending on their conformity with the NPPF, the local policies in our plans now have varying degrees of weight that can be applied in planning decision making.
- 1.3. Work was previously undertaken to deliver a new Joint Local Plan (JLP) with Stoke. Due to an increasing desire to provide a plan more focused on the needs of the Borough, and in particular, the role of Neighbourhood Planning, the Council agreed to separate from the Joint Local Plan arrangements in January 2021 and commence work on a Borough Local Plan.
- 1.4. The new Local Plan sets the vision and framework for how Newcastle-under-Lyme will grow up to 2040. It sets out targets for the number of homes and jobs to be delivered in the Borough and a spatial strategy to guide development and infrastructure to the most sustainable locations.

- 1.5. Once adopted it will provide a strategic approach to the delivery of a range of development types including market and affordable housing, employment, and supporting hard and soft infrastructure. Such development requirements will be balanced against the need to protect the built and natural environment, whilst also furthering the Council's response to the climate emergency declaration.
- 1.6. Having an up to date local planning policy framework that reflects national policy will be more robust in determining planning applications and defending planning appeals. An up to date plan also gives more certainty to the development industry and local community on where development is likely to be supported.
- 1.7. A key element to the preparation of the Local Plan is the Council's approach to consulting and engaging the community. The Local Plan goes through a number of stages of preparation and it is important to clearly set out how and when people can be involved in the process. Significant consultation will be undertaken throughout all stages of preparing and producing the Local Plan. In undertaking consultation, the Council must comply with its adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
- 1.8. The Council's communications team was involved from the outset of the consultation process, as were officers with experience of consultation undertaken in other authorities, and previously when the Joint Local Plan with Stoke on Trent was being prepared.
- 1.9. The current Issues and Strategic Options version of the local plan forms part of the Regulation 18, issues consultation. This stage does not commit the Council to allocate land for development or include detailed land use policy wording. Rather its purpose is to highlight, and consult on, the planning issues across Newcastle under Lyme that need addressing and offer options to address the issues identified.
- 1.10. The Council has considered all responses received as part of the Issues and Strategic Options consultation process and will take them into account when preparing the Publication Draft Local Plan. The Publication Draft Local Plan will set out the details of aspects including how the Council proposes to meet the Borough's development needs and site allocations.
- 1.11. The consultation on the Issues & Strategic Options was also accompanied by a 'Call for Sites', inviting landowners and the development industry to submit potential development sites for assessment. A continued, proactive approach by the Council will further seek to identify opportunities for development, prioritising Brownfield sites.
- 1.12. Further evidence will be completed to support the preparation of the next stage of the Local Plan and discussions continue with our duty to cooperate partners to meet our legal obligations.
- 1.13. Following on from the now completed Issues & Strategic Options stage, there are also two further proposed rounds of consultation included within the project plan for the Local Plan, so by the end of the process the public will have had 3 distinct formal opportunities to engage with the plan and provide comments to the Council to express their views and ideas.
- 1.14. Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee considered this report and the Issues & Strategic Options consultation feedback at its meeting of 15 June 2022. No recommendations were made.

## 2. **Issues**

### Consultation Process

- 2.1 Consultation on the Issues & Strategic Options took place between Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 and Monday 24 January 2022. This exceeded the statutory minimum both in duration, but also the mechanisms employed to engage. Given the public health situation at the time,

many Councils chose not to hold face to face events due to the additional burden of ensuring venues and interactions were Covid secure. However in NuLBC significant efforts were made by Officers to ensure that there was the opportunity for face to face dialogue which was considered to be integral to the overall consultation process.

2.2 The following paragraphs outline the organisations and other bodies that the Council is required to consult and involve in preparing our planning documents, in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Specific & Duty to Cooperate:

- Stoke-on-Trent City Council
- Cheshire East Council
- Shropshire Council
- Stafford District Council
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
- Staffordshire County Council
- Historic England
- National Highways
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Coal Authority
- United Utilities
- Staffordshire Police

General:

2.3 Voluntary bodies whose activities benefit any part of the borough; bodies that represent the interests of different racial, ethnic, national or LGBTQ+ groups in the borough; bodies that represent the interests of different religious groups in the borough; bodies that represent the interests of disabled persons in the borough; bodies that represent the interests of businesses in the borough.

Additional Groups & Bodies:

2.4 In addition to the above groups, a wide range of other interest groups and organisations, developers and consultants, as well as local residents and businesses were involved and consult.

2.5 In addition, the following methods of publicity and engagement were used:-

2.6 Press release:

Published 26 October 2021 in the Sentinel. A copy of this can be found on the Council's website:-

<https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/news/article/14/council-launches-consultation-on-new-borough-local-plan>

Consultation events:

2.7 Having notified local residents, agents, stakeholders and the consultation bodies about the consultation period, the Council provided a number of drop-in sessions and appointments where interested parties could find out more about the Local Plan Issues and Strategic Options document and how to make comments on it.

2.8 A total 13 events (10 in-person & 3 virtual) were held across the borough:

- Newcastle Town Centre Guildhall, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021
- Kidsgrove Town Hall, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021
- Silverdale Library, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021
- Chesterton Holy Trinity Church Hall, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021
- Loggerheads Oddfellow's Hall, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021
- The Madeley Centre, Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021
- Audley Methodist Church, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021
- Virtual Consultation (Zoom or telephone), Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021
- Virtual Consultation (Zoom or telephone), Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021
- Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council Offices, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021
- Audley Methodist Church, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- Virtual Consultation (Zoom or telephone), Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- Keele Village Hall, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022

2.9 Officers from the Planning Policy team were available at these locations to assist members of the public to find out more about the Local Plan Issues and Strategic Options document, to answer questions and to provide advice on how to use the Consultation Portal to submit their comments.

2.10 In addition, presentations (via Zoom) were provided to two Parish Councils following direct requests. These took place on 11 November 2021 for Audley Parish Council & 1 December 2021 for Madeley Parish Council.

Social Media:

2.11 The Council used social media to advertise information about the Issues and Strategic Options document and to present information on the consultation events listed above. Social media posts were made on Facebook and Twitter.

Availability of the document:

2.12 The Issues and Options document was available online at:

<https://consult.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/kse>

2.13 The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and the Equality Impact Assessment were also available to view by using the above link.

2.14 The evidence base for the Local Plan was available to view at:

<https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-plan-evidence-base>

Hard Copies:

2.15 Hard copies of the Issues and Strategic Options document were made available, along with information posters, at all libraries across the borough. These were:

- Clayton Library
- Newcastle Library
- Silverdale Library
- Talke Library
- Kidsgrove Library
- Knutton Library
- Audley Library
- Loggerheads Library

2.16 The document could also be downloaded and printed from the consultation portal.

### **Response to Consultation**

- 2.17 A total of 289 people made comments on the Issues and Strategic Options document by using the consultation portal. All comments which were sent to the Borough Council by post, which did not form part of the petitions referenced below, were scanned and uploaded to the consultation portal. In aggregate, recognising that many individuals provided multiple comments, a total of 3649 representations were incorporated within the consultation portal. Each of these comments were given individual, tailored responses by Planning Policy Officers for the consultees to be able to view once published.
- 2.18 Two petitions were submitted to the Borough Council; one containing 294 signatures, with the other containing 1376 signatures. Both of these petitions were in response to Question 18 of the Issues and Strategic Options document; *“should site AB2 – Land south east of Junction 16 be considered for Green Belt release?”* These petitions were scanned and uploaded to the consultation portal.
- 2.19 A further 757 identical letters with regard to the same issue were submitted to the Borough Council in response to the consultation. This has also been treated as a petition and all details of the consultees who submitted this letter have been collated into a spreadsheet and uploaded to the consultation portal.
- 2.20 All consultees have been added to our consultation database and will receive updates as we move towards the next and future stages of the plan making process.
- 2.21 The petitions & letters combined with the representations made via the consultation portal give a total of 6076 comments made on the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan Issues and Strategic Options Consultation.
- 2.22 It is important to recognise that to allow for the expedient use of resources and the efficient progression of the Local Plan, the intention for subsequent rounds of consultation is to produce a summary of issues raised & the Council’s stance on a topic by topic basis, as opposed to responding directly to every representation.

### **Summary of Issues Raised in Response to the Consultation**

2.23 The Summary table below presents summary of the key issues raised in response to each Section of the Issues & Strategic Options consultation document. A more detailed overview, including a quantitative breakdown of responses, where appropriate, is included as Appendix A attached to this report.

Key issues:

2.24 The following recurring themes were present in responses received to the consultation:

- Utilise brownfield opportunities
- Loss of green belt
- Impact on existing communities/settlements
- Infrastructure capacity
- Engagement with adjacent Local Authorities
- Climate Change
- Value of recreational & open spaces
- Alignment with Neighbourhood Plans

Section	Key Issues
Vision & Strategic Objectives (Q's 1-2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Vision &amp; Strategic Objectives do not align</li> <li>○ Need to be more ambitious - considered in some cases to be too insular, too limited, parochial, lacking imagination &amp; generic</li> <li>○ Include a Vision Statement for individual settlements</li> <li>○ Emphasis should be on environmental protection &amp; climate change adaptation</li> <li>○ Strategic Objectives contradict each other - climate change, environment &amp; development ambitions</li> <li>○ Lack of clarity in terminology e.g. aspirational housing, re-imagination of town centres, enabling balanced growth</li> <li>○ Include a Strategic Objective on Historic Environment</li> </ul>
Housing & Employment Need (Q3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The impact of Covid needs to be factored in</li> <li>○ Take full account of 2021 Census</li> <li>○ Justification for satisfying regional employment need</li> <li>○ Past shortfalls in housing delivery should be addressed</li> </ul>
Options for Growth (Q4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Majority support for option 1 – national minimum, standard methodology target</li> <li>○ Representatives of landowners or the development industry agreed with the justification in the housing and economic needs assessment for targets above the standard methodology and put forward detailed reasons for support, for example to address past under delivery, to support economic growth, in line with modelling</li> <li>○ Should focus more on town centre regeneration, housing mix not number, and the type of employment development needed</li> <li>○ Bring empty homes back into use</li> </ul>
Hierarchy of centres (Q5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Many respondents supported the hierarchy in principle</li> <li>○ Concern over the link between position in the hierarchy and link to the level of development that could come forward</li> <li>○ The hierarchy does not reflect proposals in the plan which focus on large scale rural development</li> </ul>
Spatial Strategy (Q's 6 – 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Examine all derelict land, vacant and commercial premises, brownfield land and surplus employment which could be converted to residential, empty homes</li> <li>○ Protection of green belt, greenspace, agricultural land</li> <li>○ Evidence and unique factors to each settlement including local need, history, infrastructure capacity, and character should be considered rather than an even distribution across the rural areas</li> <li>○ There were several consultees that did not support any of the growth directions owing to perceived brownfield land availability, green belt loss impacting on rural character &amp; countryside and infrastructure concerns</li> <li>○ A greater proportion supported either growth directions 1, 2 and 6. Reasons for which include that it encourages a more even distribution of growth across the Borough and that Keele already has existing development and infrastructure in place to accommodate growth.</li> <li>○ Growth directions 3, 4 and 5 were less favoured in comparison to the others</li> <li>○ Proportionately, disagreement was evenly spread between the individual growth directions</li> <li>○ Growth direction 1 would result in increasing car journeys which would then increase traffic, congestion and pollution</li> <li>○ Growth direction 2 would result in the merging of Keele and Silverdale, losing their individual identities and undermining the function of the Green Belt</li> <li>○ Growth direction 3 would bring the settlements of Talke, Chesterton and Audley closer together, which would diminish their individual character and identity</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Growth direction 4 would lead to urban sprawl and the merging of Kidsgrove, Harriseahead, Mow Cop and Stoke (i.e. Goldenhill) to the north-east, and Kidsgrove and Alsager to the north-west</li> <li>○ There was concern about the cumulative impact of housing and employment development at Audley under growth direction 5.</li> <li>○ Many of the alternative options suggested were made up of components already forming parts of the existing six growth directions. Other suggestions moved away from housing and employment growth entirely</li> </ul>
Gypsy & Travellers (Q's 12 – 13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Very few site suggestions were put forward. Walleys Quarry, extension to the existing site at Cemetery Road was the most popular suggestion. The former municipal golf course at Keele and a couple of further observations of potential sites were put forward but there were no formal site submissions or sites put forward by landowners.</li> <li>○ Many suggested talking to the Gypsy and Traveller community to identify sites including for transit provision</li> </ul>
Other housing need (Q's 14 – 16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Broad consensus was that affordable housing levels should look to exceed the 10% figure</li> <li>○ Viability &amp; site specific circumstances could also be significant</li> <li>○ Some considered first homes should be prioritised</li> <li>○ Explore a tiered system based on varying land values across the Borough</li> <li>○ Older people's accommodation should be located with good access to services and facilities</li> <li>○ Consult those with other needs</li> <li>○ Support a range of models of housing for elderly care, integrate with other housing and support people to stay in their own homes.</li> </ul>
Strategic Employment Sites (Q's 17-19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Significant focus on the proposals at Junction 16, M6 in so far as they could impact on Audley and the surrounding localities</li> <li>○ Development would result in the loss of agricultural land, recreational value and biodiversity (habitats and species). Furthermore, development would have a negative impact on the rural and landscape character of Audley</li> <li>○ Existing employment development already located at Crewe and Alsager (i.e. Radway Green). The abundance of employment development will have cumulative impacts.</li> <li>○ Rather than a single large site, the focus should be on a series of smaller sites potentially tied in with existing employment areas/more central locations</li> <li>○ Focus should be on higher value industries</li> <li>○ The Local Plan does not set out a clear rationale for a new strategic employment site and more cooperation is needed with the adjoining boroughs.</li> <li>○ The Local Plan evidence base does not reflect the post-Covid economic environment</li> <li>○ Staffordshire County Council highlight that Keele Science &amp; Innovation Park remains one of their flagship employment sites and supports plans for its continued development. They also support the notion of the development of a site at M6 J16</li> </ul>
Development boundaries (Q's 20 – 21)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Majority considered that development boundaries should be reviewed with most supporting this to be undertaken through Neighbourhood Development Plans</li> </ul>
Retail/town centre regeneration (Q's 22 – 24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Key themes emerging were shopping including a greater diversity of retail offer, competition posed by sources such as online retail and out-of-town retail parks, parking, issues related to feeling safe and residential accommodation</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The general consensus was that it is futile to challenge these rivals to high-street shopping directly but rather an alternative needs to be presented by the high-street which online and out of town retail cannot provide</li> <li>○ The kinds of shops some respondents said they would like to see include, bars, restaurants and eateries, coffee shops, book shops, craft shops, convenience stores, post offices, doctors, and dentists</li> <li>○ The plan should prioritise the viability of existing retail centres. Providing a healthier balance of retailers, and improvements to the appearance of existing shop fronts, by encouraging market stalls, and offering business rates that are attractive to independent retailers.</li> <li>○ Of those that responded, just over half the respondents had no opinion on changes to town centre boundaries</li> <li>○ There were very few detailed comments on the boundaries overall</li> <li>○ Some sought specific expansions; in Newcastle to expand the centre beyond the ring road and in Kidsgrove to incorporate the railway for regeneration purposes.</li> </ul>
Pollution, water & environmental quality (Q's 25 -27)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A strong majority indicated a policy on air pollution is required for the Local Plan</li> <li>○ Walley's Quarry was a recurring theme</li> <li>○ The Local Plan and relevant policies are expected to address the impacts of air quality on people and the environment</li> </ul>
Development Management Policies (Q's 28-35)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Strong majority in supports for inclusion of DM policies re: water &amp; environmental quality including explicit reference to biodiversity net gain. Green infrastructure, flood risk, open space provision, enhanced active travel (walking, cycling) opportunities, renewable energy &amp; sustainable urban drainage systems were also considered significant</li> <li>○ Support was received for the principle of design codes to provide certainty to the development industry about design quality but also to improve the sustainability credentials of development</li> <li>○ A number of sustainable construction standards were referenced and suggested that these should be required in new development such as BREEAM and Passivhaus</li> <li>○ Staffordshire County Council strongly advises that a local policy on heritage is required. It advises that an up-to-date historic environment evidence base is needed</li> <li>○ The key evidence should include the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Integrated Transport Strategy. New development should be located and designed to limit journeys by car.</li> <li>○ Zero carbon targets should take account of Government ambitions and viability</li> <li>○ Health was considered significant in terms of other issues to consider</li> </ul>
Any other matters (Q36)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There were a large number of individual letters which did not relate to any specific question but had general comments on the content of the plan</li> <li>○ Points raised included concern that the plan will have a negative impact on climate change, population and statistical issues, potential green belt loss, infrastructure issues</li> <li>○ Consultation &amp; the structure/useability of the document were common themes</li> </ul>

### 3. **Proposal**

5.1 That Cabinet notes the feedback on the Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan Issues & Strategic Options consultation.



#### 4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

- 4.1 Consultation is a vital part of the preparation of the Local Plan. The Council needs to demonstrate how it has considered the representations and that the consultation was in conformity with its Statement of Community Involvement.
- 4.2 Consultation ensures local engagement and input to reflect local circumstances and ambitions for the Borough and this is taken further through collaboration with our partners and statutory undertakers. In this way, as the Local Plan evolves, the number and nature of representations to the Local Plan should be more focused and the later versions of the Local Plan should be more robust and justified. In turn, this will help focus a Local Plan examination and potentially reduce the number of hearing sessions and consequently reduce the time and cost of the examination in public.

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

- 5.1 The Local Plan Issues and Strategic Options included a range of land use issues and planning policy options that may exist to address them. An alternative option available to the report recommendation would be to request a multi-stage approach to consultation. This would result in a delay to the plan-making process and a risk of entering a repeating consultation loop, leading to a continued reliance on existing, dated local plans and policies. This would increase the risk of unplanned development and planning by way of planning appeal decisions. It could also result in the risk of intervention referenced in the third option referenced below. Alternatively, a fully drafted local plan could be published under Regulation 19 and submitted without further Issues and Options consultation, however this is not recommended as it will not enable feedback from the community to inform the policy approach.
- 5.2 A third option of not proceeding with the production of the Local Plan and cease work is not considered viable as it would directly conflict with the Government requirement for all Local Planning Authorities to have reached, or made good progress towards, having a Local Plan in place by the end of 2023. This option raises the risk of potential for Government intervention in the Council's Plan making process.

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

- 6.1 The Issues and Strategic Options consultation was undertaken in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations (Local Planning) 2012. The production of a Local Plan has to comply various legislation including Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment provisions as well as having regard to a range of relevant government policy and guidance.

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

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken for the Issues and Strategic Options document. At this stage of plan preparation, it is considered there are no specific detrimental equality impacts arising as a result of this report. The EqIA has been published alongside the main report.
- 7.2 The EqIA has assessed how the Issues and Strategic Options document and the questions raised within it impact on the nine protected characteristics identified in the Equalities Act 2010.
- 7.3 It is anticipated that the Plan will bring about a number of positive impacts. These include securing a range of housing types, increased open space provision, improved health care provision and safer environments. These gains will be of benefit to people with disabilities and of different ages or those who are pregnant. People from different ethnic or racial

groups and those who experience hostility and are threatened in the environment for their sexuality or sexual orientation will also benefit from policies in the Plan.

7.4 When the Plan moves on to its next stage and sites are proposed and specific policies put forward which may affect individuals and groups, an Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out on the recommendations.

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

8.1 There are no final implication as the costs of the public consultation exercise were provided for within set aside budgets and costs of making the consultation fully accessible (events and paper copies at libraries etc) were covered through this budget.

## 9. **Major Risks**

9.1 Failure to demonstrate transparency and inclusiveness in our engagement and consultation with stakeholders on strategy development.

9.2 If an aggrieved party e.g. a developer who's site hasn't be allocated or a resident group who are facing a major allocation near their houses feels the process has not been clear or biased to a certain site either through under or over promoting it may launch a challenge to the validity of the plan through the judicial review process.

9.3 Whilst these risks could result in either the plan being found unsound, delays through legal challenge or work proceeding too slowly such that more decisions on applications are made without the benefit of a local policy framework, it is felt appropriate mitigation is in place to reduce the possibility of these events occurring and in the unlikely event they do, any harm is minimised.

## 10. **UN Sustainable Development Goals**

10.1 As the Local Plan is primarily focused on the use of land and properties and how these relate to people's use of the environment a number of the UN Sustainable Development Goals will overlap with the aims of the Plan.

10.2 At this stage and as the draft plan is worked up, the following goals will be taken into account:



## 11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 This is not a key decision.

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

12.1 Cabinet - Wednesday, 9th December, 2020. Cabinet resolved to undertake a review on the viability of commencing work on a Borough Local Plan and ceasing work on the Joint Local Plan.

<https://moderngov.newcastlestaffs.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=118&MId=3422&Ver=4>

12.2 Cabinet - Wednesday, 13th January, 2021. Following completion of the review agreed at the previous meeting, Cabinet resolved to cease work on the Joint Local Plan and commence work on the Borough Local Plan.

<https://moderngov.newcastlestaffs.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=118&MId=3423&Ver=4>

12.3 Planning Committee - Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2021. Presentation of draft Issues and Strategic Options Paper to Planning Committee for consideration and for opportunity to pass comment on the plan to Cabinet

<https://moderngov.newcastlestaffs.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=119&MId=3819&Ver=4>

12.4 Cabinet – Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Cabinet resolved that public consultation be approved on the draft Issues and Strategic Options Paper and the publication of the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. It also resolved that a report be submitted to a future meeting summarising the findings of the consultation event.

<https://moderngov.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=118&MId=3429>

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 Appendix A: Summary of responses to the Local Plan Issues & Strategic Options Consultation

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 Contact Author

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**Question 1 Do you agree with the Vision for the Borough? If not, how could the Vision be improved?**

- Considered by some including CPRE & developers to be too insular, too limited, parochial, lacking imagination
- The Local Plan does not seem to follow the Vision – does not set high enough targets for the Borough to achieve
- Place more emphasis on living in town centres
- Should contain Vision Statements for individual settlements
- Improving/maintaining existing roads & improving network of community transport e.g. mini metro using 'old' railway links
- Green Belt should not be seen as an opportunity nor should any development be to its detriment/loss
- More emphasis on walking & cycling (public transport/active travel in general)
- Climate change must be at the heart of the Vision, with environment the main focus, with the assertion that we cannot build out of climate catastrophe
- Remove the word 'endeavour' in creating more sustainable places to demonstrate how serious the Local Authority is
- Should include desire to protect wild & green spaces
- The term 'jobs' should be defined – variety of skilled jobs?
- Does not reflect the economic reality & changed public health circumstances post Covid

**Question 2 Do you agree with the Strategic Objectives? If not, how could these be improved?**

- Poorly drafted & contains weakened commitments, not specific enough, too generic
- Alignment to Vision is not absolute
- Include a Strategic Objective on historic environment
- Emphasis on brownfield sites & town centre development is not strong enough
- Lack of clarity in terminology e.g. aspirational housing, re-imagination of town centres, enabling balanced growth etc
- Terms such as where possible, subject to viability & deliverability should be removed, although some parties thought there were valuable
- Objectives contradict each other - climate change, environment & development ambitions
- Confusion as to whether the Strategic Objectives are in priority order
- Development on Green Belt concerns were a very common theme
- Lack of understanding re: what constitutes Exceptional Circumstances
- Distribution & Logistics should not form part of the sectors for growth
- Audley & Keele numerous site specific concerns including Strategic Employment & the Golf Course
- Relationship to Neighbourhood Planning
- Infrastructure capacity & environmental damage concerns
- Desire for preservation of all green spaces



**Question 3 Do you have specific comments to make with regard to this chapter [housing and economy]?**

- Challenges to population statistics, stagnated employment and impact of the pandemic which results in suggestions that no new housing is required
- Should only utilise brownfield sites and sites in the town centre/regeneration sites for new housing, and not Green Belt or green field land
- Calculations should be refreshed in light of the 2021 census and to reflect the impact of the pandemic
- Opposition to development on Green Belt land and at J16 and in Audley Parish
- No need for new warehouses when the calculations show we have surplus employment land. Some suggestions that this surplus should be used for housing. Some suggestions that warehousing will only provide low skilled jobs.
- Concern over the impact of housing on infrastructure, particularly the transport network
- Government targets are overestimates and should be challenged in line with a clause in the NPPF
- Some scepticism over the findings of the housing and economic needs assessment, particularly the case for higher growth scenarios
- Suggestions that the chapter could have been written more clearly, or that there were issues with the interpretation of data
- Some support for new home building to reflect the findings of the housing need assessment and to address past under delivery. Support also for maintaining a 5 year supply of housing

#### **Question 4 Which option for growth is the most appropriate to use in the Local Plan?**

- Majority support for option 1 – national minimum, standard methodology target. This option was considered to have a lesser impact on infrastructure and was more in line with past delivery
- A large number of respondents disagreed with any housing growth, some suggested challenging the government target on the basis of brexit, the pandemic, population, stagnant employment, the 2021 census or they disagreed with the need.
- Once all brownfield sites were developed there was no need for further development.
- Some suggested growth is at odds with mitigating against climate change.
- Some suggested higher growth scenarios were deliberate to justify Green Belt release
- Safeguard Green Belt land and build in town centres and brownfield first
- Some respondents, mainly representatives of landowners or the development industry agreed with the justification in the housing and economic needs assessment for targets above the standard methodology and put forward detailed reasons for support, for example to address past under delivery, to support economic growth, in line with modelling.
- Should focus more on town centre regeneration, housing mix not number, and the type of employment development needed
- Bring empty homes back into use

**Question 5 Do you agree with the proposed hierarchy of centres? If answering no, why?**

- Generally even response – slightly more than half the respondent's that answered the quantitative question do support the hierarchy
- Many respondents supported the hierarchy in principle but had one or two main points of disagreement which meant they couldn't overall mark support for the hierarchy – essentially a yes and no answer.
- The hierarchy does not reflect proposals in the plan which focus on large scale rural development.
- Prioritise development in urban centres, particularly town centres, protect the Green Belt and villages.
- Some disagreement with the District Centres identified and concern over further development of these.
- Some disagreement or issues associated with Baldwin's Gate and Betley and Wrinehills proposed classification of a rural centre from those Parish Council's and some other respondents.
- Concern over the link between position in the hierarchy and link to the level of development that could come forward. Some suggested infrastructure and capacity had not been given sufficient consideration
- Thistleberry missed from list of centres

**Question 6 Do you have suggestions for new development sites within development boundaries? Please see the evidence base & topic papers webpages (link below) for maps of all existing development boundaries. <https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/planning/planning-policy>**

- Some site suggestions were put forward for consideration either land/sites that had been observed or sites being promoted through the Local Plan process. Not all respondents were clear on whether the sites were in the development boundary or provided information about the ownership of land
- Many non-specific site suggestions were put forward seeking for the Council to examine all derelict land, vacant and commercial premises, brownfield land and surplus employment which could be converted to residential, empty homes
- The majority of comments objected to consideration of release of Green Belt land
- Some comments acknowledged the position that there is limited land supply remaining for development in the urban area
- General agreement with the process of exhausting land in development boundaries before consideration of other sources of sites
- suggestion that the land supply from within the existing urban area should be properly scrutinised through the Local Plan process to ensure that sites relied upon within the supply will come forward during the plan period, and that sufficient flexibility is built into the supply to deal with any potential non-delivery.
- Some criticism of the difficulty in viewing the current development boundary maps

**Question 7 Are there any areas in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Kidsgrove and within the development boundaries of Rural Service Centres that should be protected from development?**

- Some specific spaces were highlighted, mostly areas of nature reserves, open space or recreational land.
- Many highlighted the need to protect open space within built up areas and spaces such as conservation areas, locally designated green spaces, schools playing fields, allotments and recreation grounds
- Many highlighted land in the Green Belt to protect including specific suggestions including the former municipal golf course at Keele and land around Audley Parish
- Some mentioned agricultural land including specific landholdings
- Consider brownfield first
- The benefits of protecting green spaces were often highlighted to health, wellbeing, nature and climate change
- Existing boundaries should be protected and only allow development in line with Neighbourhood Development Plans
- Issues associated with loss of green space were highlighted including pressure on infrastructure and climate change

### **Question 8 Which option/s for expansion do you support?**

- There were several consultees that did not support any of the growth directions. The reasons are as follows:
- There is a belief that brownfield sites are available in non-Green Belt locations to accommodate growth. Development should be in accordance with the Hierarchy of Centres, focusing on non-Green Belt locations within Urban Centres, Rural Centres, Neighbourhood Centres and Villages.
- There was concern Green Belt release would negatively impact the rural character and countryside. Furthermore, the rural area does not have the road / highway infrastructure to accommodate growth. Existing services and facilities are already constrained with capacity issues.
  
- A greater proportion supported either growth directions 1, 2 and 6. The reasons are stated below:
- Growth Directions 1 and 6 encourage development of brownfield sites, and within defined centres in accordance with the hierarchy. Suggested development opportunities exist at Ryecroft, Roebuck Centre, Mid Way and numerous units above retail shops within the town Centre.
- Growth directions 1 and 6 encourages a more even distribution of growth across the Borough, and impacts of development would be minimized in comparison to larger and fewer sites at a specific location. This approach would help to maintain a housing supply in the medium and long term.
- The countryside and agricultural land should be protected.
- Some considered growth direction 2 as a suitable option because Keele has existing development and infrastructure to accommodate future growth (i.e. university, employment, and transport connections to Newcastle Town Centre).
- An urban extension at Keele would attract workers at the university and Science and Business Park to live within the area. This would encourage more sustainable modes of transport and less vehicle usage. Furthermore, development would support the growth of the University.
- An extension at Keele would provide the opportunity to deliver affordable housing.
  
- Growth directions 3, 4 and 5 were less favoured in comparison to the others. However, some supporting comments were made:
- Growth direction 3 was considered suitable because Talke and Chesterton has existing infrastructure (retail, employment provision, transport connections) to accommodate growth. The proximity of housing and employment would encourage sustainable modes of transport and less vehicle usage.
- Growth direction 3 provides opportunities to enhance access and extend public transport routes between proposed development, Newcastle and Kidsgrove Town Centre, and Kidsgrove Railway Station.
- Growth Direction 4 was considered suitable as Kidsgrove has existing infrastructure, services and facilities (i.e. shops, schools, community centres etc). This growth option provides the opportunity to expand and upgrade Kidsgrove Railway Station, and to enhance transport connections associated with it.
- Growth at Kidsgrove would support neighbouring rural settlements such as Mow Cop.
- There are development opportunities at Slacken Road, Kidsgrove.
- Growth direction 5 was least supported. However, it was highlighted Audley has minimal retail and employment offer. Previous industries such as coal mining have disappeared, and opportunities in agriculture are limited. Growth at Audley would help to address this and provide greater employment opportunities.

### **Question 9 Which option/s for expansion do you disagree with?**

- There were several consultees that disagreed with all six growth directions for the following reasons:
- Growth in the Green Belt would result in the loss of agricultural land, open / green space, biodiversity, and amenity.
- The loss of Green Belt would impact the environment's ability to mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration.
- It is believed there are plenty of development opportunities on brownfield sites (e.g. warehousing / industrial sites) in non-Green Belt locations. Empty and vacant properties should be prioritised, especially within Town Centres before considering new development.
- Development in the Green Belt would result in a greater reliance of vehicle travel, and not encourage sustainable modes of travel across the Borough. Increases in traffic, congestion and pollution would occur.
  
- Proportionately, disagreement was evenly spread between the individual growth directions. For each growth direction, the reasons for were as follows:
- Growth Direction 1 would result in increasing car journeys which would then increase traffic, congestion and pollution.
- Large scale rural extensions would encourage urban sprawl into rural areas across the Borough.
- Growth direction 2 would result in the merging of Keele and Silverdale, losing their individual identities and undermining the function of the Green Belt.
- Growth at Keele would impact on the historic, heritage and natural environment. Development at Keele Golf Course would impact the ability to mitigate climate change and increase carbon sequestration on Council owned sites as suggested in the AECOM report.
- Keele has already witnessed growth at the Hawthorns and Hamptons sites. The existing road / highway network cannot accommodate further growth. Parking provision is an existing problem.
- The university's growth aspirations were questioned due to the pandemic. Suggestions were made that the pandemic has altered the demand for student accommodation and housing around Keele. The lack of demand for student housing could also free up units for the housing market.
- Growth direction 2 contradicts the local plan objectives SO-II and SO-X.
- It is viewed that improvements are required to the existing road / highway network including the A500 and A34 to accommodate development at Talke and Chesterton under growth direction 3. Currently, there are limited pathways, cycleways and public transport connections across the area.
- Growth direction 3 would bring the settlements of Talke, Chesterton and Audley closer together, and would diminish their individual character and identities.
- Further development at Talke and Chesterton would place greater existing pressures on services and facilities including schools and healthcare.
- There is a variety of open and green spaces hosting an abundance of wildlife and biodiversity. Sites include Parrots Drumble Nature Reserve, Bathpool Woods and Bradwell Woods. Development would have an adverse impact on these sites.
- Growth direction 4 would lead to urban sprawl and the merging of Kidsgrove, Harseahead, Mow Cop and Stoke (i.e. Goldenhill) to the north-east, and Kidsgrove and Alsager to the north-west. This undermines the purpose of the Green Belt.
- Growth direction 5 was of particular interest with more detailed comments in comparison to others. There were concern about the cumulative impact of housing and employment development at Audley under growth direction 5.
- Growth at Audley would severely impact the open and rural character of the parish and the settlements within it. Urban sprawl would result in the merging of settlements

within Audley, thereby losing their individuality and identities. Furthermore, growth would impact on the historic (Conservation Area) and natural environment (loss of biodiversity).

- The existing road / highway network does not have the capacity to accommodate further housing and employment development. Roads within Audley are narrow and would increase traffic, congestion and pollution (air and light). Parking provision is an existing problem.
- Proposed growth would undermine Audley's status and a Rural Service Centre, and the aims and objectives of the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan. It contradicts local plan objective SO-IV, and would not be compliant with part 2.8 of the NPPF.
- It was suggested that Audley is already a sustainable location given its status as a Rural Service Centre, and therefore growth is not required. Church Street hosts a variety of retail services (e.g. hairdressers, supermarket, restaurants, library, doctors (latter oversubscribed) etc).
- Numerous consultees expressed their disapproval for the allocation of strategic employment site (AB2) stating it was not in keeping with Audley in terms of density, type and design of development. The site is viewed as open space used for leisure and recreational purposes (i.e. walking, horse riding etc).
- Site AB2 currently has no public transport connections (e.g. bus travel), and the surrounding road / highway infrastructure is not HGV compatible.
- It is perceived that jobs created will be low skilled and low paid, and would not benefit the residents of Newcastle-under-Lyme due to the site's location bordering Cheshire East. Neighbouring employment developments in Crewe and Alsager (e.g. Radway Green) was often highlighted as a reason to not allocate site AB2.



### **Question 10 Are there any alternative options which require consideration?**

- Many of the alternative options suggested were made up of components already forming parts of the existing six growth directions. Other suggestions moved away from housing and employment growth entirely. The following suggestions were made:
- No Green Belt release at all, and to build in non-Green Belt locations and on brownfield sites. Development should be considered on surplus commercial and industrial land. Redevelopment opportunities at Ryecroft and Roebuck Centre are examples. Refurbishment of empty, derelict and abandoned building (i.e. retail units and residential properties) should be considered. Bring back the 1000+ empty properties into use within the Borough.
- Development should be focused in accordance with the Hierarchy of Centres, with the Urban Centres (Newcastle and Kidsgrove) being the first point of call, followed by the District Centres, Neighbourhood Centres and then villages. Priority should be made to improve the health of the town centres. Reduce business rates and rents and ensure completion of unfinished developments (e.g. Nelson roundabout – Sky Building) before building elsewhere.
- Equal amounts of growth across the Rural Service Centres and other rural settlements – Madeley, Betley, Keele, Baldwins Gate, Loggerheads and Audley. Greater dispersion of development would have less impact in comparison to a large single strategic site.
- A combination of smaller sites adjacent to existing settlements and strategic sites. This would help to maintain a housing supply within the Borough in the medium / long term. Another suggestion was strategic sites only within sustainable rural areas.
- To continue development to fulfil Policy ASP5 which seeks to address the failing housing market through focusing development in Newcastle and Kidsgrove Town Centre, Silverdale, Thistleberry, Knutton, Cross Heath, Chesterton, Clayton, Westlands, Seabridge, May Bank, Wolstanton, Porthill and Bradwell.
- Focus development along the A500 and A34 corridors. Development opportunity at land east of the A34 between High Carr and the A500.
- Optimise and uplifting the density of development within the urban area and town centres. Consider building upwards rather than outwards to use less land.
- If Green Belt was to be released, the weaker performing sites should be developed on.
- Focus on a long-term sustainable approach rather than development alone. The climate emergency and environmental protection should be the priority.
- Growth should be target where identified within Neighbourhood Development Plans.
- Fulfil the development needs and growth through Duty to Co-operate – Stafford, Stoke-onTrent, Shropshire, Cheshire East, Staffordshire Moorlands.
- Central Government should be challenged in terms of their national growth targets.

**Question 11 Should development in the rural area be spread equally across the Rural Centres? If not, how should growth be distributed in the rural area?**

- The majority that responded quantitatively (66%) suggested that development should not be spread equally
- A high number of respondents suggested that evidence and unique factors to each settlement including local need, history, infrastructure capacity, and character should be considered
- Development should be balanced and proportionate to reflect the character and identity of settlements
- Some mentioned planning gains should be taken into consideration which align with economies of scale in terms of housing numbers
- Comments supporting an urban first approach, protecting the rural area from over development
- Support for small scale and infill development
- Concern about impact on the rural road network and additional commuting
- For those that did support equally spreading growth this was often in the context of fairness and only after other options had been exhausted
- Should be in line with Neighbourhood Development Plans.

**Question 12 Do you have suggestions for potential Gypsy & Traveller sites which are deliverable?**

- Very few site suggestions were put forward. Walleys Quarry, extension to the existing site at Cemetery Road was the most popular suggestion. The former municipal golf course at Keele and a couple of further observations of potential sites were put forward but there was no formal site submissions or sites put forward by landowners.
- Many suggested talking to the Gypsy and Traveller community to identify sites
- Some supported addressing the needs of this community, some expressed concerns or suggested there was no need or the need should not be differentiated from general housing need.

**Question 13 Which option should the Council use to address the need for transit provision?**

- There was a limited response to this question. Of those that responded, the most supported options were for a negotiated stopping policy or a transit pitch with 3-13 pitches.
- Most responded 'other' and suggested talking to the Gypsy and Traveller community to determine what the best solution was, or suggested a mix of the options to address transit provision, as opposed to one solution.
- There were some suggestions that any transit site required defined rules, there was a suggestion that sites on Council owned land could be better controlled.
- One suggested the need was underestimated, whilst another suggested there was no need

**Question 14 Should the Local Plan set an alternative target for affordable housing to the national minimum (10%)?**

- Some were content with the national minimum of 10% affordable housing. However, there was greater support for setting an alternative target above the 10% requirement.
- The West Midlands Housing Association Planning Consortium provided detailed justification for a higher affordable housing target.
- Suggestions of 15% and 25% affordable housing was made. A tiered approach was also suggested starting with a minimum of 15%.
- Many discussed low income households and first time buyers cannot afford to get onto the property ladder, and this is a reason for increasing the affordable housing requirement.
- There was the view that the affordable housing target should reflect the local needs of the settlements and Borough as a whole.
- Developers should develop not just for financial gain. They should comply with the affordable housing triggers and requirements associated with new housing development.
- From a developer's perspective, the affordable housing contributions should not render development schemes unviable.

**Question 15 Do you agree with the general ratio of 5% social rented, 2.5% first homes and 2.5% flexibility to make up the composition of affordable homes on qualifying sites?**

- Some considered first homes should be prioritised
- Some felt the ratio for affordable housing should be higher than 10% to help people to access the housing market and to reduce poverty. Suggestions for 30% and 50% put forward.
- Suggestion for more local housing need surveys to inform policy
- Some support from the development industry for 10% affordable ratio. The level should only be based on what the market can sustain.
- Tiered system suggested based on the land value as this differs across the borough.
- Some support for models which enable eventual full private home ownership
- Some concern on the social rented element, how this will be delivered
- The West Midlands Housing Association Planning Consortium highlighted that the ratio of tenures is not compatible with national policy
- A detailed late representation was received from Aspire

**Question 16 How should the Local Plan help to deliver accommodation for older and disabled people and the specific needs of other groups?**

- Several observations were made that older people's accommodation should be located with good access to services and facilities. This included healthcare and retail shops.
- More evidence and community consultation required with carers and elderly required to understand housing solutions
- Help older people remain in their homes and to be independent
- Encourage private providers to develop buildings and offer high quality care
- Increase social renting
- Schemes such as extra care, retirement villages, co-housing sites, lifetime homes standards
- Encourage community led development
- Promote integration of different groups and avoid creating ghettos
- No further student accommodation is required
- Specific need and allocations for C2 uses required
- Need for larger family housing

**Question 17 Do you think a strategic employment site should be allocated in the Local Plan?**

- Significant focus on the proposals at Junction 16, M6 in so far as they could impact on Audley and the surrounding localities
- Extensive submission from promoters of Junction 16, M6 detailing its merits & supporting evidence
- Capacity of infrastructure would be far exceeded
- Major negative impacts on biodiversity & green belt loss
- Such proposals contradict climate change objectives & settlement hierarchy
- Rather than a single large site, the focus should be on a series of smaller sites potentially tied in with existing employment areas/more central locations
- Existing empty units should be utilised first
- Air, noise & light pollution consequences
- Enough sites need to be allocated to flexibly support employment opportunities
- Schemes within adjacent Local Authorities offer similar development types as well as alternative, more sustainable, transport methods such as rail hubs. Further expansion at Chatterley Valley also advocated.
- Focus should be on higher value industries
- Detrimental to the identity of settlements & the Parish would not directly benefit
- Extensive car borne in-commuting
- The benefits to the affected areas would be very limited/non-existent
- Such schemes should be focussed on areas of higher unemployment than within Newcastle under Lyme
- Areas should be retained for agriculture and leisure pursuits
- Enhanced graduate retention benefits potentially accrued from further development at Keele
- There remains areas undeveloped within the University that should be exploited first, with considerable capacity remaining for growth
- Hub for technological business growth at Keele seen as having value & potential
- The Local Plan does not set out a clear rationale for a new strategic employment site and more cooperation is needed with the adjoining boroughs.
- The Local Plan evidence base does not reflect the post-Covid economic environment
- Staffordshire County Council highlight that Keele Science & Innovation Park remains one of their flagship employment sites and supports plans for its continued development. They also support the notion of the development of a site at M6 J16.



**Question 18 Should Site AB2 – Land south east of Junction 16 be considered for Green Belt release?**

- A strong majority were not in favour of site AB2 being released from the Green Belt. The reasons are stated below:
- Existing employment development already located at Crewe and Alsager (i.e. Radway Green). The abundance of employment development will have cumulative impacts.
- Concerns were made that the existing road and highway network cannot accommodate the proposed growth for housing and employment. Roads are narrow within the settlement of Audley which would cause traffic and congestion. Local roads are not suitable for HGV traffic.
- Growth would result in increasing vehicle usage, which would cause greater noise and air pollution.
- Site AB2 is viewed as a valuable green space and is used for recreational purposes, i.e. walking, cycling, horse riding.
- Development would result in the loss of agricultural land and biodiversity (habitats and species). Furthermore, development would have a negative impact on the rural and landscape character of Audley.
- The development of site AB2 would contradict the Local Plan objectives SO-I, SO-II, SO-IV, SO-VI, SO-XI and SO-XIII.
- Part of the site falls within Flood Zones 2 and 3. Development would cause further flooding.
- Employment development on site is associated with lower waged and lower skilled jobs (i.e. warehousing). This is not aspirational for the Local Plan.

**Question 19 Should site KL15 -Land to the south and east of new development site, Keele University be considered for Green Belt release?**

- Emphasis should be more on climate change than economic growth
- Presents a positive opportunity if sustainable building techniques were employed and the site was developed sensitively e.g. green roofing with full consideration of biodiversity aspects
- Flora & fauna and significant recreational value of the site is significant. Geology may also be an issue
- Opportunity to build upon the existing infrastructure owing to its proximity to the town centre & symbiosis with the higher education facility
- Serve to encourage high skilled, well-paid roles to the area and this aligns with SSLEP evidence base
- Ongoing dialogue between the University & the Local Authority should be maintained
- Full justification should be provided to establish the need for the expansion
- Absence of detail, such as Keele Masterplan not being publicly available, makes forming a view difficult. Environmental impacts also need to be fully evaluated.
- The University has ample land to the south toward Newcastle that is developed in readiness for buildings
- Infrastructure pressures for existing community which are already exacerbated by Walley's Quarry
- Flood risk concerns
- Alternative sites such as Ryecroft would present better options for expansion of the University
- Any loss of green belt should be accompanied by opportunities for improvement being maximised, with impacts minimised and mitigated as far as possible
- Will serve to coalesce Keele Village with other areas such as Seabridge & Westlands. This is challenged by the University itself who also contest that it's not a valued landscape and would involve a limited release of countryside
- Historic England have concerns as to heritage impacts
- Presence of a high voltage cable would be expensive to re-route underground
- Existing congestion problems would be exacerbated. Add to pollutant levels in Newcastle under Lyme town centre.
- The site is not of strategic scale & should not in any way be considered as an alternative to the proposals for J16, M6
- Additional sites are promoted for residential purposes that it is argued would complement the expansion of the University.
- Release of further land in the University Growth Corridor advocated for high quality and accessible new residential development, to support the attraction and retention of employees, academics and future graduates as part of a mixed sustainable settlement for the Borough.

**Question 20 Do you agree with the key principles of development boundaries?**

- Of those that responded, most (62%) supported the key principles of development boundaries
- Support for boundaries that prevent settlement expansion or building on green spaces and the Green Belt
- Boundary maps need to be provided as there isn't clarity on the boundaries
- Boundaries are not appropriate for every settlement – for example where a boundary would be ill defined
- Support for boundaries which protect Audley and Keele
- Some suggested boundaries need to change to reflect new allocations in the Local Plan, others did not want to see boundaries change to accommodate growth
- Some disagreed with the list of areas which should be excluded from the development boundary
- Suggestion that the term built up area boundaries is more appropriate
- Suggestion that any adjustment should be overseen by Neighbourhood Plan groups
- Make use of sites temporarily built on rather than exclude them
- Support for an alternative criteria based approach which would enable more flexibility

**Question 21 Do you think the development boundaries should be reviewed? If so, through the Local Plan or through Neighbourhood Plans?**

- Of those that responded, 62% considered that development boundaries should be reviewed with most supporting this to be undertaken through the Neighbourhood Development Plans
- The boundaries are not currently clear so review is welcomed
- Some supported maintaining the boundaries as they are
- For those that supported review through Neighbourhood Plans it was felt local people are better placed to draw appropriate boundaries
- For those that supported boundary review through the Local Plan, many suggested that boundary reviews had not taken place for some time and would align with new site allocations through the Local Plan. It was also said that reviewing boundaries through Neighbourhood plans could result in delays to the Local Plan
- Review of boundaries should be an open and transparent process subject to consultation
- Any boundary review should benefit local people not developers

## Question 22 What would you like to see on your local high street?

- Key themes in the responses to this question were shopping, competition posed by sources such as online retail and out-of-town retail parks, parking, issues related to feeling safe and residential accommodation.
- Of 87 responses to this question, 44 respondents used the word 'shop', a smaller proportion of responses used alternative words with similar meanings such as 'retail' and 'retailer' instead. 25 responses used the word 'market'.
- Multiple respondents acknowledge changes in the average person's shopping habits, with shoppers preferring to spend their money either with online retailers, or at out-of-town retail parks, and that this is syphoning business away from the high street. The general consensus was that it is futile to challenge these rivals to high-street shopping directly but rather an alternative needs to be presented by the high-street which online and out of town retail cannot provide. 14 respondents expressed the view that Newcastle-under-Lyme should return to its roots as a market town.
- Respondents expressed that they would like to see a greater diversity of high street shops, a significant proportion stated a desire to see independent shops, specialist shops, and artisans; the word 'independent' or a misspelling of it appears some 26 times.
- In contrast to this, some other respondents stated a desire for more well-known, high-end, high-class, upmarket, boutique, or quality shops and brands, the phrases used varied so it's harder to count these, but there were fewer people asking for this than those asking independent shops.
- Several respondents note the difficulty posed in making up-market or independent high street shops sustainable, so that the people who live here can afford what is being sold, and the retailers themselves can afford rent. A reassessment of/ reduction in business rates was suggested, as was the offering of 'incentives'.
- The kinds of shops some respondents said they would like to see include, bars, restaurants and eateries, coffee shops, book shops, craft shops, convenience stores, post offices, doctors, and dentists. Out of 87 respondents, 12 said they would like to see more 'leisure.'
- 'Charity shops', 'bargain shops', or 'pound shops' are mentioned 14 times, in all but 1 of these instances they were being described as a negative aspect of local high streets as they exist currently.
- There are 11 separate respondents who were unhappy with and mentioned specifically the number of empty or derelict shops and premises.
- More than once respondent suggest that other high streets such as Leek, Congleton, Nantwich, Sandbach, and 'towns in Cheshire' should be looked to as successes, and as examples of what to do with our own high street.
- Of 87 responses, the word 'parking' is used in 12 responses. Of those 12, 3 respondents expressed wanting 'free parking. Some respondents felt that easier, and reduced or free parking would encourage shoppers to stay longer in the town
- Of 87 responses, 4 respondents desired an increase in 'police' or 'policing', 6 used the word 'safe', still others did not use these exact words but expressed concern for their safety in terms of homelessness and vagrancy, and of gatherings of teenagers with nothing to do and nowhere to go, and of anti-social behaviour. Still others expressed a simpler desire for the high street to be clean and tidy.
- 11 respondents suggested that they would like to see more dwellings alongside or above high street shops.

**Question 23 What should the Local Plan do to enhance the vitality & vibrancy of the Borough's retail centres?**

- Many of the same themes appeared in this question as appeared in the previous one, question 22. In brief, a majority of respondents stated that the plan should prioritise the viability of existing retail centres. Providing a healthier balance of retailers, and improvements to the appearance of existing shop fronts, by encouraging market stalls, and offering business rates that are attractive to independent retailers. Uses should be found for vacant units E.g., flea markets and pop-up shops. More dwellings should be provided around the in and around the town. Mix in housing with retail developments. More accommodation for the elderly/retired close to town. Areas above shops should be converted into accommodation if viable. Neighbouring retail centres should be looked to for inspiration and support should be given to rural areas for their own retail growth.
- Transport and access to retail centres was a new key theme. Again, respondents expressed desire for cheaper/ easier or free parking which it was felt by several respondents would increase footfall. More should be done to encourage cycling and walking, creating cycle routes, improving public transport for example by having more evening buses. A respondent suggested the introduction of 'smart crossings' to manage traffic. Further pedestrianisation of the High Street, reducing speed limits in these areas, allowing for a café culture to develop/ outside eating in the summer.
- Linked to the matter of access to the retail centres, public safety was a recurring theme; respondents wanted the council to tackle the problems of homelessness/ vagrancy, and increase visible police presence in retail centres, as well as to provide convenient pedestrian access to and through the town for people who don't wish to use the underpasses or alleyways, or at least to make them safer.
- More events should be put on which will encourage people to come to the town centre, the Council should make sure that they are publicised so that people know about them.
- Many suggestions touched upon the promotion of urban green spaces and open spaces; more should be done to maintain and enhance existing gardens, and consideration should be given to the creation of 'linear parks', creating and connecting smaller scale wildlife habitats to each other, green walls and roofs, wildflower areas, community growing spaces, more trees in streets. We should add more colour and greenery to the town.
- One respondent suggested that incentives should be offered which attract skilled and green businesses to the area. That Newcastle could become known for eco-friendly/ carbon neutral business.

**Question 24 Do you agree with the recommended changes to the town centre boundaries? If you don't agree, why?**

- Of those that responded, just over half the respondents had no opinion on changes to town centre boundaries
- Just over a quarter agreed with the changes
- There were very few detailed comments on the boundaries overall
- A few mentioned that the community should be consulted and should agree
- More detail on the proposals and rationale were sought by some
- Some sought specific expansions; in Newcastle to expand the centre beyond the ring road and in Kidsgrove to incorporate the railway for regeneration purposes.
- One noted there was an anomaly between the text in table 12 and the map of Newcastle boundary

**Question 25 Is a Local Plan policy on air pollution required? If so, what should a policy on air pollution contain?**

- A strong majority indicated a policy on air pollution is required for the Local Plan.
- Whalley's Quarry was a popular theme for this question. We should learn from the mistakes of Whalley's Quarry and ensure future air quality issues are avoided from new and existing development.
- The Local Plan and relevant policies are expected to address the impacts of air quality on people and the environment.
- It is recommended to monitor air pollutants and particulates, ensuring they do not reach thresholds above national standards from existing and new development.
- Growth in Audley was raised several times, with concerns of the cumulative impacts of housing and employment development on air quality.
- It is observed that growth would lead to increasing vehicle usage, which in turn would result in increasing traffic, congestion and air pollution. These impacts should be avoided or mitigated as a result of development.



**Question 26 Is a Local Plan policy on water quality required? If so, what would it contain?**

- A strong majority stipulated a policy on water quality is required for the Local Plan.
- It is observed the Issues and Strategic Options Consultation Document provided little detail about water quality and relevant issues within the Borough.
- It is recommended water quality should be monitored to ensure the highest possible standards, and it is not impacted by existing and future developments.
- Whalley's Quarry was mentioned several times with the suggestion of monitoring the effects of landfill sites on water quality. Again, we should learn from the mistakes from Whalley's Quarry.
- Growth in Audley is mentioned on numerous occasions with reference to the Water Cycle Study on page 55. It states Audley does not have the capacity at the treatment works the proposed growth in the Local Plan.
- A policy on water quality should protect all existing waterbodies, watercourses and habitats, and ensure the control of discharge and wastewater from new and existing development.
- The implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) should be strongly encouraged, and policies on Green Infrastructure should be adopted to reduce or prevent flood risk and water related impacts.
- The Local Plan should address water quality and flood risk management in line with paragraphs 159-169 of the NPPF.
- Up to date and relevant evidence should inform the Local Plan on water quality and flooding issues (e.g. River Basin Management Plans).

**Question 27 Is a Local Plan policy on environmental quality required? If so, what should a policy on environmental quality contain?**

- A strong percentage stated a policy on environmental quality is required for the Local Plan. Development proposals should not pose a threat to environmental quality.
- It is perceived that Green Belt release and development would compromise the quality of the environment within the rural areas.
- Efforts must be made to prevent fly-tipping.
- Environmental quality covers a broad spectrum of themes which was reflected in the responses. However, many comments were focused around the protection of the natural environment.
- Policies in the Local Plan should ensure new and existing development does not negatively impact on habitats and species, biodiversity (including international, national and local designated sites for nature conservation), air quality, water quality and amenity.
- Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance the natural environment in accordance with paragraph 175 and 180a of the NPPF.
- The Local Plan should set out an approach to deliver biodiversity net gains from developments. This includes transport proposals, housing and community infrastructure etc.
- Policies should be in place to ensure the protection of irreplaceable habitats such as ancient woodlands, and ancient and veteran trees.
- The Local Plan should safeguard soils and versatile agricultural land as they play a role in carbon storage and sequestration – climate change mitigation.

**Question 28 Do we need additional measures in the Local Plan to support national policies and guidance including the National Model Design Code on the design of development?**

- Some confusion over what the National Model Design Code is and whether this was an appropriate discussion point
- A fair level of support was received for the principle of design codes to provide certainty to the development industry about design quality but also to improve the sustainability credentials of development
- A number of sustainable construction standards were referenced and suggested that these should be required in new development such as BREEAM and Passivhaus.
- Support from Sport England for using Sport England Active Design principles and from the County Council for reflecting cycle infrastructure design transport notes
- Some felt this was already clearly covered at a national level and that any change should be set through building regulations rather than the Local Plan
- Suggestions that officers and members should receive additional training on design
- Where appropriate, Neighbourhood Plans should feed into design codes.
- Public realm, Sustainable urban drainage, co-housing, affordable housing, renewable energy, adequate on and off road parking and heritage were also frequently referenced themes
- Mix of high level design framework in the Local Plan and more detailed codes in the Neighbourhood Plan could be used.
- Beautiful design is subjective, who decides?

**Question 29 Do you agree that the Local Plan should set out identified areas for ecological recovery?**

- The majority were in support of the Local Plan identifying areas for ecological recovery.
- The Local Plan should aim to achieve 10% biodiversity net gain as stated within the Environment Act. Any approach should be in line with paragraph 73, 104, 120, 174, 175 and 180a of the NPPF.
- Policies on ecological recovery should be informed by relevant evidence base work and should complement Nature Recovery Strategies at County level.
- Observations were made that the local plan evidence on ecology and biodiversity needs to be updated. Current evidence includes the Biodiversity Opportunities Mapping Report produced in 2014. Engagement with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders is encouraged when updating evidence and identifying sites for ecological recovery.
- Development plan policies should promote and encourage the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.0 to calculate net gains and losses of biodiversity resulting from development.
- A Habitats Bank and offsetting sites register should be established to enable developer compliance, and resources to be directed towards important areas for nature recovery.
- Natural England and Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management provide good practice guidance for biodiversity net gain which could inform the Local Plan.
- As well as ecological recovery, the Local Plan should identify opportunities for new multi-functional green and blue infrastructure, and recognize the functions and benefits they provide (i.e. climate change mitigation, reduce flood risk, physical and mental well-being, education, amenity etc).
- It is perceived that all Green Belt sites are rich in biodiversity and should be protected. Development should not take place in the Green Belt. The former Keele Golf Course site and Chorlton Moss were highlighted as examples.

### **Question 30 Is a local policy on heritage required? If so, what should a local policy on heritage contain?**

- Respondents overwhelmingly stated that they would like to see a local policy on heritage, with 97.5% of respondents answering in the affirmative. Of the 2 respondents who answered 'no', they stated that they did not think it would be required if it was simply a duplication of national policies. While all of the 78 respondents who answered 'yes' felt a policy should be in place to preserve, enhance, and promote local heritage, thoughts, suggestions and priorities concerning how this should be done varied.
- New developments should only be undertaken well away from places of historic interest. Designs should be sympathetic to the area and in keeping with other local buildings. Requirements that developments do not obstruct long-standing views.
- Measures should be in place to protect heritage assets from theft or damage. Every heritage asset should have its heritage status reviewed and changed if needed, each should have a protection management plan to examine what is being retained, and what must be done to protect it.
- Some felt that this should not be left in the hands of a lay person, and that skilled people with local knowledge should be making these assessments. An alternative approach was voiced by another respondent who felt that there is too much reliance placed on communities having the knowledge to designate heritage assets for the local list and more resources should be made available to help them do this. The importance of local knowledge was touched upon in many responses, with one respondent writing that this is a key reason why neighbourhood plans are so important, saying they should be used to inform local plans, because that community knowledge base is vital to recognising heritage significance.
- Among the responses we had, some took a broader view of heritage, they stressed that preserving heritage is not just about assets in the sense of buildings but can mean the protection of the countryside, lanes and footpaths. These are an important part of the borough's heritage and should be maintained at all times as part of any heritage policy.
- Multiple respondents felt that special consideration should be given in the Local Plan to protecting the Borough's industrial heritage. 6 responses used the word 'mining', 4 used 'industry', 2 used 'mine.' 2 used 'industrial.'
- Visitor centres, information boards, and monuments could be erected at sites of historic interest, work should be undertaken to offer tours to school parties and other groups, educational videos could be produced for online viewing, social media accounts dedicated to promoting local heritage could be set up. One respondent suggested that to further promote the history of the borough, consideration could be given to employing a small touring theatre group to visit schools and enact short plays about the history of the area.
- Another respondent suggested that Apedale could still be further developed; we could build an outdoor activities centre and encourage much more use of the heritage centre to attract paying visitors.
- Staffordshire County Council strongly advises that a local policy on heritage is required. It advises that an up-to-date historic environment evidence base is needed, the evidence base we have is not as robust as elsewhere. Our baseline understanding of the historic character and sensitivities of the borough is not where it needs to be, and that this is leaving us blind to the impact which medium to large scale development may be having. The County Council makes a number of detailed recommendations to remedy this in their representation.

**Question 31 What are your perspectives on the policy approach advocated in the 2019 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment?**

- The majority of comments were focused around content and why a policy on flood risk is required in the Local Plan, rather than specifically referring to the SFRA 2019. They are as follows:
- The natural environment is already at risk of flooding which impacts on habitats and species (biodiversity).
- Policies on flood risk should ensure landowners better manage their land to prevent or reduce water run-off, whether it is a result of agriculture practices or new and existing development. Development will result in an increase of surface run-off.
- A flood risk assessment should be required prior to any development. Upgrades to property and highway drains should be implemented to accommodate proposed growth.
- There is a general assumption that developing in the Green Belt would result in increasing flood risks.
- The local plan needs to acknowledge climate change, with the evidence indicating an increase in rainfall events, which in turn will increase flood risk.
- The Local Plan should actively promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), and areas of natural drainage should be preserved to reduce flood risk.

**Question 32 Do you agree that an open space policy should set out open space provision requirements in new developments?**

- The majority were supportive of an open space policy establishing open space provision requirements from new developments.
- It is suggested that the quantum of open space provision should be in accordance with national policy and relevant evidence base work such as the Open Space Strategy.
- A Local Plan policy should make new and existing open space publicly accessible by foot and bike. This will encourage active lifestyles and offer travel alternatives to vehicles. It would promote sustainable modes of travel.
- New open spaces, walkways and cycle paths should be created to increase accessibility and connectivity across the Borough.
- The plan should recognise the benefits of open space provision. Open space provides health benefits both physically and mentally such as reducing obesity. Open space also provides environmental benefits such reducing flood risk and hosting wildlife.

**Question 33 Is a Local Plan policy on transport required? If so, what should a policy on transport contain?**

- Responses to this question answered overwhelmingly in the affirmative, with 96.34% of people saying 'yes'.
- A key theme in 'yes' answers was that more should be done by the local authority to ensure to promote alternatives to driving in a private vehicle which uses fossil fuel, and that a policy on transport in the local plan could enshrine this, and any such policy should be linked closely with policies concerning the environment, e.g. green infrastructure, air quality, ecological networks, and supporting resident's access to nature.
- Public transport should be cheaper and more reliable. There should be better co-ordination across the borough between bus, coach, and rail. More environmentally friendly public transport vehicles should be introduced for example electric or hybrid buses. It should be ensured that developments and expansions give greater consideration to walking, cycling, public transport and links to bus stops and stations, routes and service frequency. E.g. Any development north of Audley will need to include cycle/footway to Alsager station.
- Developers should also give greater consideration to the safety and usability of existing roads which can be affected by new developments.
- The network of walking and cycling routes across the Borough should be expanded, existing routes should be consolidated and improved. One respondent suggested that whenever possible cycling infrastructure should be segregated from the highway to increase safety and uptake of active travel.
- Respondents want the council to consider measures such as increased provision of electric vehicle charging points (EVCPs), at car parks and on all new developments (some adding the caveat; so long as they don't jeopardise the viability of the development).
- The County Council states their opinion that a policy on transport is required. The County Council considers walking, cycling and public transport as the key to sustainable transport and meeting the climate change declaration. The Staffordshire Local Transport Plan 2011 is outdated and does not reflect current policy. The policy will need to reflect Staffordshire's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) 2021 and Bus Service Improvement Plan 2021. The key evidence should include the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Integrated Transport Strategy. New development should be located and designed to limit journeys by car and should contribute to a step change in accessibility by active travel modes and public transport. The residual impact of traffic generation from new developments should be considered. Junction improvements, access roads and highway widening if deemed necessary should meet design standards.



**Question 34 What measures would you like to see in a Local Plan policy on renewable energy?**

- All consultees approved of a renewable energy policy for the Local Plan.
- The 'fabric first' approach was referenced on several occasions which has implications for building design. New buildings should be designed maximising the performance of components and materials they are made up of, ensuring buildings are energy efficient and eco-friendly.
- The installation of solar panels and sustainable heating systems (or pumps) should be a mandatory requirement for new build developments.
- Employment allocations or proposed development, specifically in relation to industrial and warehousing should be in proximity to the rail network. This would offer sustainable modes of transport for the transfer of goods.
- A design policy for new builds should establish design standards that go beyond the requirements of Building Regulations.
- There was confusion with carbon zero targets. The Council / Local Plan has set a carbon zero target for the Borough by 2030. The Government has set a carbon zero target for Britain by 2050. Is the Borough target realistic, and should it be more aligned with the Government's target?
- There was also the view that the Local Plan should not deviate away from Government targets for reducing carbon emissions. Higher targets may affect the viability of development schemes.
- Policies on renewable energy and climate change matters should be informed by the AECOM Climate Change Study. Several policy options and strategies from the evidence could be implemented through the Local Plan.

### **Question 35 Are there any other topics that the Local Plan should address?**

- The environment and health were at the forefront of people's minds in answering this question.
- The word 'green' appeared in 13 out of 62 responses to this question, the word 'development' appeared 9 times. The majority of respondents who answered this question and who used these key words in their comments were against green belt loss/ release, though one respondent advocated a review of the existing green belt boundaries which they called out of date. Other comments expressed; that communities should be consulted on any developments in their areas, that the Local plan should give greater consideration to the climate emergency and the National Government's stated target of net zero by 2050, and that the Local Plan should give more consideration the impact which new developments have on local services and amenities like healthcare and schools.
- 2 respondents stated that the Local Plan should recognise the impacts which the HS2 project and the COVID-19 pandemic would have upon the Borough; as it relates to any housing site proposals, land charges, transport, environment, ecological recovery policies that may form part of the Local Plan.
- Related to COVID-19, the health of the Boroughs residents both in terms of mental and physical health and wellbeing was a key issue. 10 out of 62 responses to this question used the word 'health.' Within this context of the Local Plan promoting good health and wellbeing, respondents comments touched upon encouraging healthier lifestyles, safeguarding and improving open spaces and making sure residents have access to it, reducing pollution and introducing cleaner public transport, the creation of more cycle routes and footpaths for recreation and to enable active methods of commuting, developers needing to consider the health and wellbeing of residents in their proposals, and making activities and resources available to communities, especially the elderly, after what may have amounted to years spent in isolation.
- Two respondents referenced Walley's Quarry stating that greater consideration should be given to waste and minerals in the Plan, and that thought should be given to the perceived negative health impacts which the site could cause those living nearby.
- The suggestion that a Local Nature Recovery Strategy should be introduced, which would address concerns such as restoring degraded peatland, preventing large scale tree loss and replacing any lost trees, implementing root protection zones, and the creation and sequestering of habitats for carbon storage such as wetlands, woodlands, and diverse grasslands was made.
- There were some comments which touched upon communication about the progress of the Local Plan to residents of the Borough, and that this needed to improve. A small number of complaints were voiced here about the website. Several respondents also took this opportunity to re-iterate their feelings about previous consultation points.

**Question 36 Are there any other matters you would like to make a comment on?**

- There were a large number of individual letters which did not relate to any specific question but had general comments on the content of the plan
- Points raised included concern that the plan will have a negative impact on climate change, population and statistical issues, potential green belt loss, infrastructure issues.
- In addition to the template letter which made a number of detailed points of concern including the potential for development in Audley Parish including at J16 of the M6, there were further unique letters that raised similar issues particularly in terms of infrastructure in Audley Parish, impact on the transport network, disagreement with the rationale for more housing or large scale employment sites, concern over impact on land holdings, agriculture, the countryside, wildlife and the environment
- Some noted issues with the consultation such as that it was not transparent, not advertised well enough or that technical issues with consultation portal / objective made it difficult to submit comments. Some also suggested there were too many questions or that these were leading questions
- Some noted issues with the content of the document suggesting it was too long or language within the consultation document was difficult to understand and that the consultation period should have been extended to be able to read, digest, interpret and respond to the consultation material

**Question 37 Do you have any files to upload?**

- The majority of submissions to this question were more detailed and lengthily representations to the questions in the general consultation, often by organisations including statutory consultees or agents on behalf of landowners. Note: these have been summarised under the relevant questions
- There were a few detailed submissions which promoted specific sites with development potential seeking allocation through the Local Plan
- Some of the letters submitted as attachments addressed very similar to issues for those raised for question 36 including issues with the consultation and concern about potential development in Audley Parish

**Report Settings Summary**

Table 1

Event	<b>Local Plan Issues and Options</b>
Total Responses	<b>3,604</b>
Total Respondents	<b>290</b>
Questions	<i>Custom selection (see Table Of Contents)</i>
Filter	<i>(none)</i>
Pivot	<i>(none)</i>
Document Name	
Created on	2022-04-14 10:03:06
Created by	Jacob Wood

<b>Question 1</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Question 2</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Question 4</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Question 5</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Question 8</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Question 9</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Question 11</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Question 13</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Question 14</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Question 15</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Question 17</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Question 18</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>Question 19</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Question 20</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Question 21</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>Question 21b</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>Question 24</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>Question 25</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>Question 26</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>Question 27</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>Question 30</b> .....	<b>26</b>

<b>Question 32</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>Question 33</b> .....	<b>28</b>
<b>Question 34</b> .....	<b>29</b>

### Question 1

Question responses: 138 (3.83%)

Do you agree with the Vision for the Borough?

Table 2

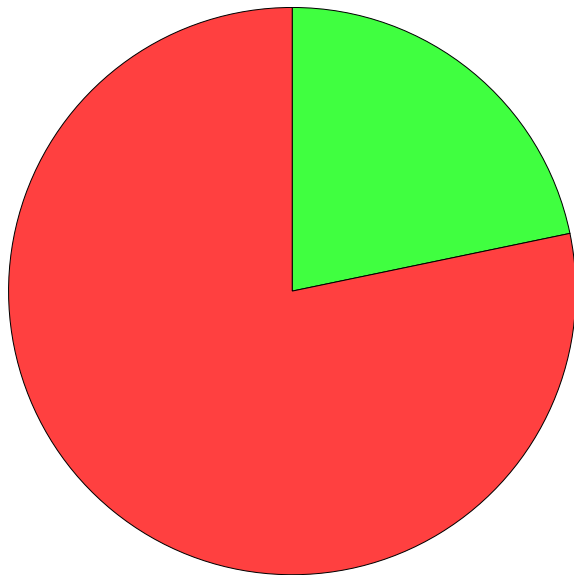


Table 3

	% Total	% Answer	Count
Yes	0.83%	21.74%	30
No	3.00%	78.26%	108
[No Response]	96.17%	--	3,466
Total	100.00%	100.00%	3,604

Question 2

Question responses: 134 (3.72%)

Do you agree with the Strategic Objectives?

Table 4

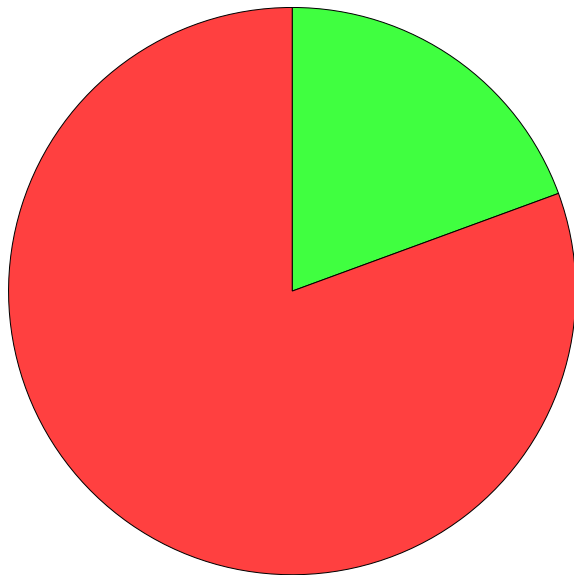


Table 5

	% Total	% Answer	Count
Yes	0.72%	19.40%	26
No	3.00%	80.60%	108
[No Response]	96.28%	--	3,470
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>3,604</b>



**Question 4**

Question responses: **101 (2.80%)**

Which option for growth is the most appropriate to use in the Local Plan?

Table 6

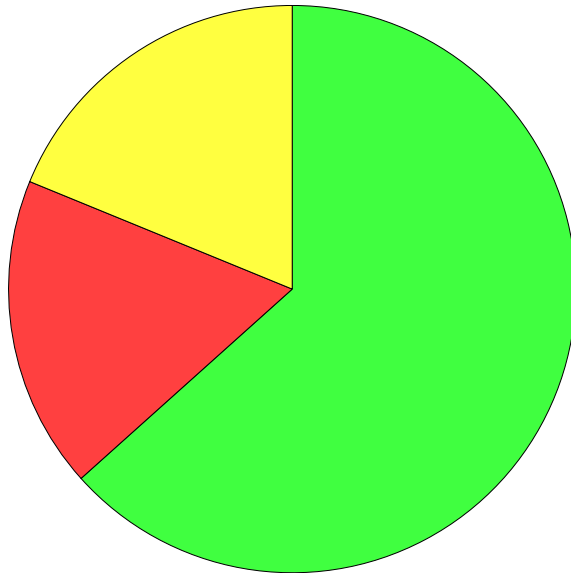


Table 7

	% Total	% Answer	Count
Option 1 - Nationally set growth target (Standard Methodology)	1.78%	63.37%	64
Option 2 - Sustainable growth target (Experian Baseline)	0.50%	17.82%	18
Option 3 - Greater job growth target (Experian Plus)	0.53%	18.81%	19
[No Response]	97.20%	--	3,503
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>3,604</b>

Question 5

Question responses: 100 (2.77%)

Do you agree with the proposed hierarchy of centres?

Table 8

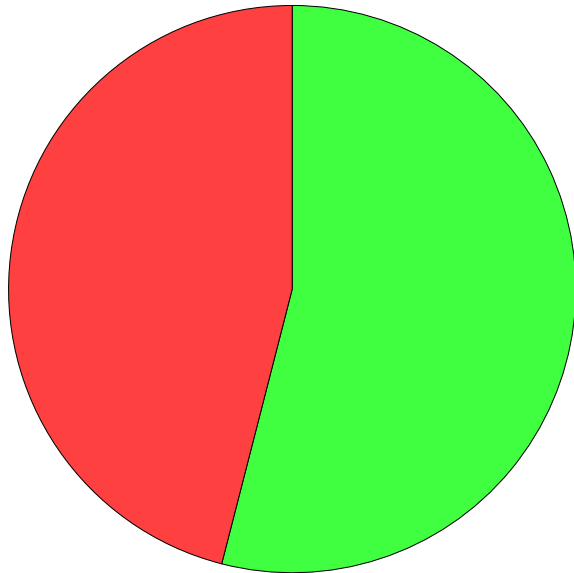


Table 9

	% Total	% Answer	Count
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Yes	1.50%	54.00%	54
<span style="color: red;">■</span> No	1.28%	46.00%	46
<span style="color: grey;">■</span> [No Response]	97.23%	--	3,504
Total	100.00%	100.00%	3,604

**Question 8**

Question responses: **78 (2.16%)**

Which option/s for expansion do you support?

Table 10

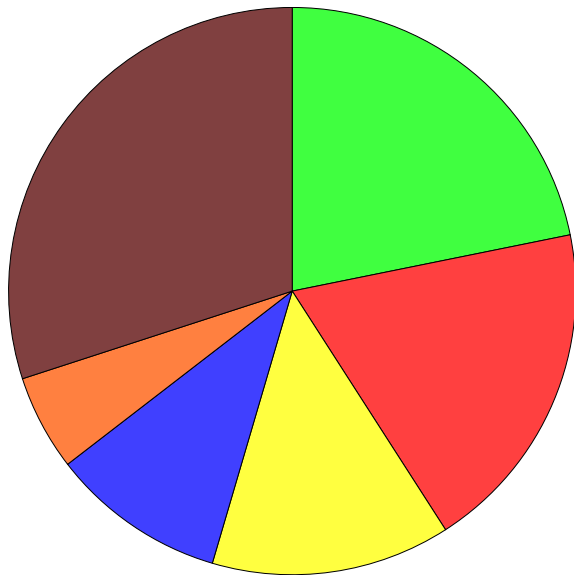


Table 11

	% Total	% Answer	Frequency	Count
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Growth direction 1: Development on strategic sites outside the Green Belt - Large scale rural extensions	0.66%	21.82%	0.67%	24
<span style="color: red;">■</span> Growth direction 2: Strategic green belt release for an urban extension - University Growth Corridor	0.58%	19.09%	0.58%	21
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Growth direction 3: Green belt release for development of strategic sites - Talke and Chesterton expansion	0.41%	13.64%	0.42%	15
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Growth direction 4: Green belt release for development of strategic sites - Kidsgrove expansion	0.30%	10.00%	0.31%	11
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Growth direction 5: Green belt release for development of strategic sites - Audley Rural Expansion	0.17%	5.45%	0.17%	6
<span style="color: brown;">■</span> Growth direction 6: Combination of strategic sites across the Borough comprising both sites outside the green	0.91%	30.00%	0.92%	33

	% Total	% Answer	Frequency	Count
belt and sites which require green belt release				
<input type="checkbox"/> [No Response]	96.97%	--	97.84%	3,526
Total	100.00%	100.00%	0%	3,636

**Question 9**

Question responses: **123 (3.41%)**

Which option/s for expansion do you disagree with?

Table 12



Table 13

	% Total	% Answer	Frequency	Count
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Growth direction 1: Development on strategic sites outside the Green Belt - Large scale rural extensions	1.62%	15.14%	1.75%	63
<span style="color: red;">■</span> Growth direction 2: Strategic green belt release for an urban extension - University Growth Corridor	1.82%	17.07%	1.97%	71
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Growth direction 3: Green belt release for development of strategic sites - Talke and Chesterton expansion	1.69%	15.87%	1.83%	66
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Growth direction 4: Green belt release for development of strategic sites - Kidsgrove expansion	1.64%	15.38%	1.78%	64
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Growth direction 5: Green belt release for development of strategic sites - Audley Rural Expansion	2.59%	24.28%	2.80%	101
<span style="color: brown;">■</span> Growth direction 6: Combination of strategic sites across the Borough comprising both sites outside the green	1.31%	12.26%	1.42%	51

	% Total	% Answer	Frequency	Count
belt and sites which require green belt release				
<input type="checkbox"/> [No Response]	89.33%	--	96.59%	3,481
Total	100.00%	100.00%	0%	3,897

**Question 11**

Question responses: **91 (2.52%)**

Should development in the rural area be spread equally across the Rural Centres?

Table 14

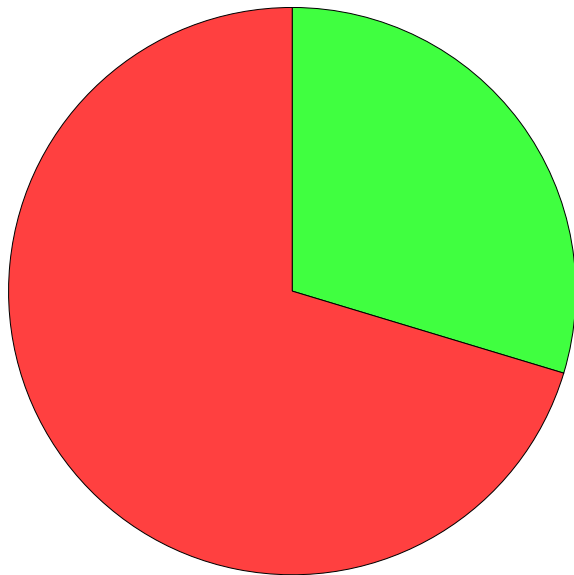


Table 15

	% Total	% Answer	Count
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	0.75%	29.67%	27
<input type="checkbox"/> No	1.78%	70.33%	64
<input type="checkbox"/> [No Response]	97.48%	--	3,513
Total	100.00%	100.00%	3,604

Question 13

Question responses: 48 (1.33%)

Which option should the Council use to address the need for transit provision?

Table 16



Table 17

	% Total	% Answer	Count
I. Transit Site with 3 pitches	0.08%	6.25%	3
II. Transit Site with 3-13 pitches	0.31%	22.92%	11
III. Temporary stopover site	0.11%	8.33%	4
IV. Negotiated stopping policy	0.36%	27.08%	13
Other	0.47%	35.42%	17
[No Response]	98.67%	--	3,556
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>3,604</b>



**Question 14**

Question responses: **87 (2.41%)**

Should the Local Plan set an alternative target for affordable housing to the national minimum (10%)?

Table 18

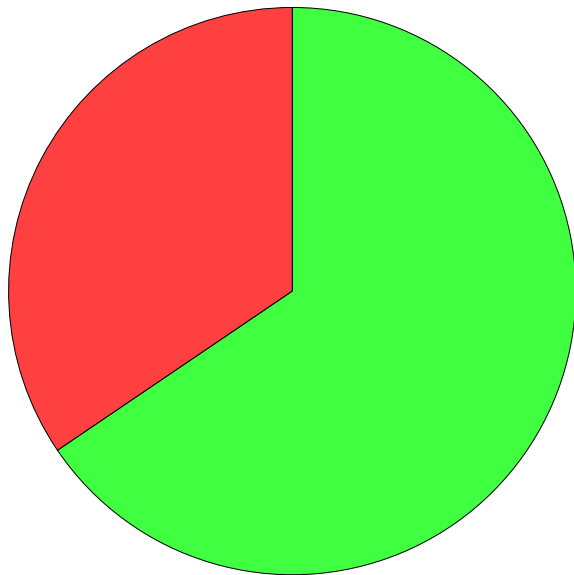


Table 19

	% Total	% Answer	Count
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Yes	1.58%	65.52%	57
<span style="color: red;">■</span> No	0.83%	34.48%	30
<span style="color: grey;">■</span> [No Response]	97.59%	--	3,517
Total	100.00%	100.00%	3,604

**Question 15**

Question responses: **72 (2.00%)**

Do you agree with the general ratio of 5% social rented, 2.5% first homes and 2.5% flexibility to make up the composition of affordable homes on qualifying sites?

Table 20

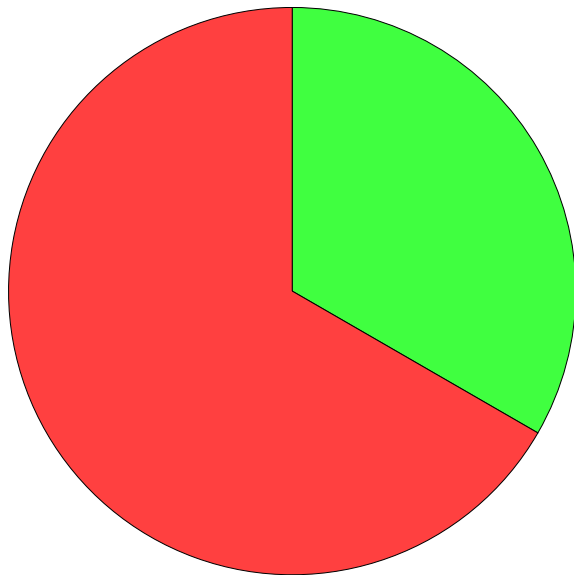


Table 21

	% Total	% Answer	Count
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Yes	0.67%	33.33%	24
<span style="color: red;">■</span> No	1.33%	66.67%	48
<span style="color: grey;">■</span> [No Response]	98.00%	--	3,532
Total	100.00%	100.00%	3,604

**Question 17**

Question responses: **94 (2.61%)**

Do you think a strategic employment site should be allocated in the Local Plan?

Table 22

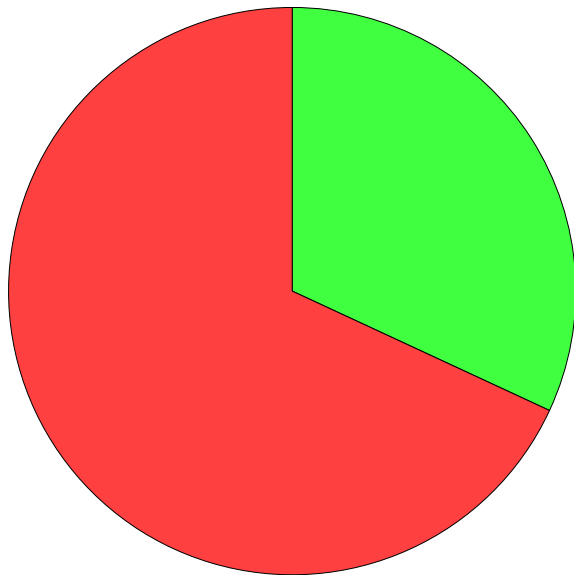


Table 23

	% Total	% Answer	Count
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Yes	0.83%	31.91%	30
<span style="color: red;">■</span> No	1.78%	68.09%	64
<span style="color: grey;">■</span> [No Response]	97.39%	--	3,510
Total	100.00%	100.00%	3,604

**Question 18**

Question responses: **126 (3.50%)**

Should site AB2 - Land south east of Junction 16 - be considered for green belt release?

Table 24



Table 25

	<b>% Total</b>	<b>% Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Yes	0.22%	6.35%	8
<span style="color: red;">■</span> No	3.27%	93.65%	118
<span style="color: gray;">■</span> [No Response]	96.50%	--	3,478
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>3,604</b>

**Question 19**

Question responses: **96 (2.66%)**

Should Site KL15 - Land to the south and east of new development site, Keele University - be considered for green belt release?

Table 26

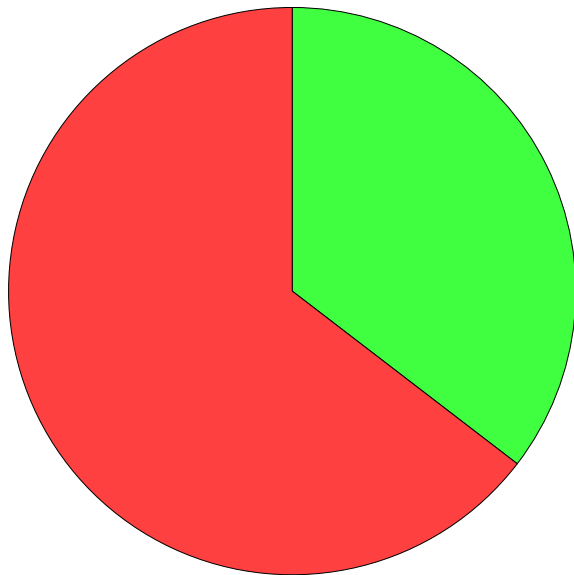


Table 27

	% Total	% Answer	Count
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Yes	0.94%	35.42%	34
<span style="color: red;">■</span> No	1.72%	64.58%	62
<span style="color: grey;">■</span> [No Response]	97.34%	--	3,508
Total	100.00%	100.00%	3,604

**Question 20**

Question responses: **73 (2.03%)**

Do you agree with the key principles of development boundaries?

Table 28

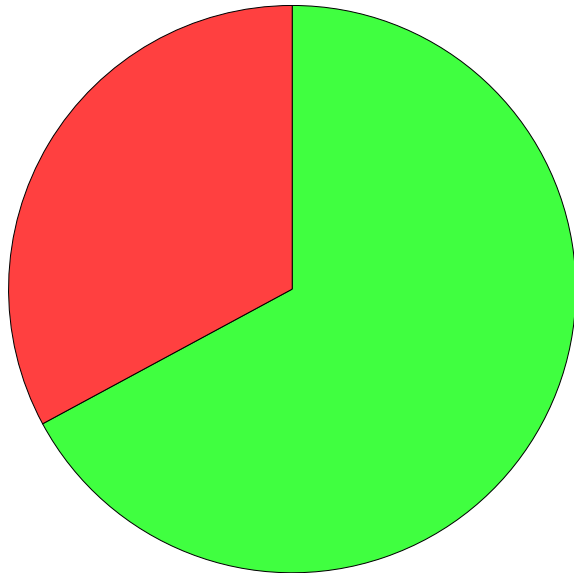


Table 29

	% Total	% Answer	Count
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Yes	1.36%	67.12%	49
<span style="color: red;">■</span> No	0.67%	32.88%	24
<span style="color: grey;">■</span> [No Response]	97.97%	--	3,531
Total	100.00%	100.00%	3,604

### Question 21

Question responses: **72 (2.00%)**

Do you think the development boundaries should be reviewed?

Table 30

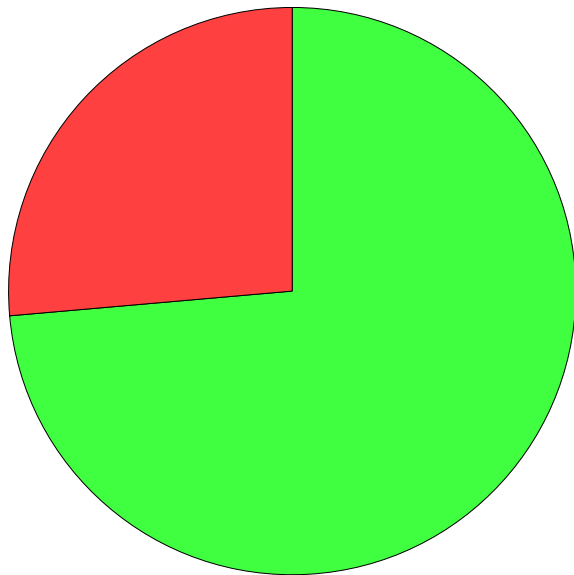


Table 31

	% Total	% Answer	Count
Yes	1.47%	73.61%	53
No	0.53%	26.39%	19
[No Response]	98.00%	--	3,532
Total	100.00%	100.00%	3,604

Question 21b

Question responses: **51 (1.42%)**

If so, through the Local Plan or through Neighbourhood Plans?

Table 32

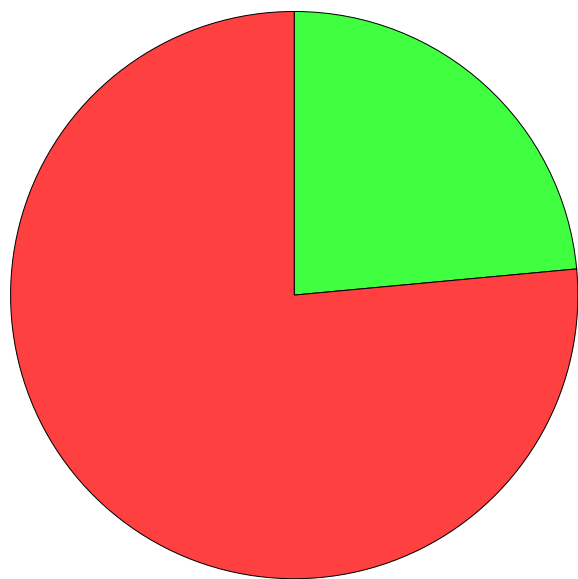


Table 33

	% Total	% Answer	Count
Local Plan	0.33%	23.53%	12
Neighbourhood Plans	1.08%	76.47%	39
[No Response]	98.58%	--	3,553
Total	100.00%	100.00%	3,604



**Question 24**

Question responses: **65 (1.80%)**

Do you agree with the recommended changes to the town centre boundaries?

Table 34

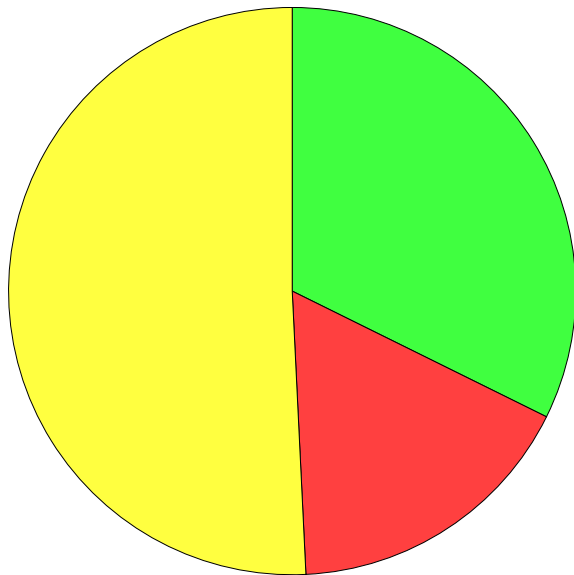


Table 35

	% Total	% Answer	Count
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Yes	0.58%	32.31%	21
<span style="color: red;">■</span> No	0.31%	16.92%	11
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> No opinion	0.92%	50.77%	33
<span style="color: grey;">■</span> [No Response]	98.20%	--	3,539
Total	100.00%	100.00%	3,604

**Question 25**

Question responses: **93 (2.58%)**

Is the Local Plan policy on air pollution required?

Table 36



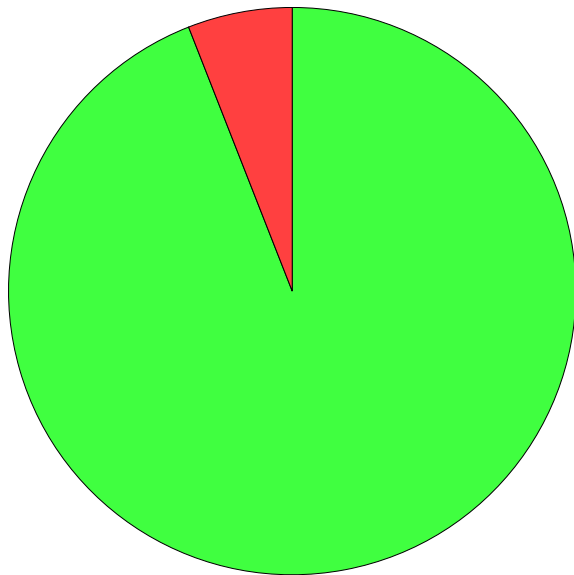
Table 37

	% Total	% Answer	Count
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Yes	2.47%	95.70%	89
<span style="color: red;">■</span> No	0.11%	4.30%	4
<span style="color: gray;">■</span> [No Response]	97.42%	--	3,511
Total	100.00%	100.00%	3,604

**Question 26**

Is a Local Plan policy on water quality required?

Table 38



Question responses: **84 (2.33%)**

Table 39

	% Total	% Answer	Count
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Yes	2.19%	94.05%	79
<span style="color: red;">■</span> No	0.14%	5.95%	5
<span style="color: gray;">■</span> [No Response]	97.67%	--	3,520
Total	100.00%	100.00%	3,604

**Question 27**

Question responses: **84 (2.33%)**

Is a Local Plan policy on environmental quality required?

Table 40



Table 41

	% Total	% Answer	Count
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Yes	2.28%	97.62%	82
<span style="color: red;">■</span> No	0.06%	2.38%	2
<span style="color: gray;">■</span> [No Response]	97.67%	--	3,520
Total	100.00%	100.00%	3,604

**Question 30**

Question responses: **80 (2.22%)**

Is a local policy on heritage required?

Table 42



Table 43

	% Total	% Answer	Count
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Yes	2.16%	97.50%	78
<span style="color: red;">■</span> No	0.06%	2.50%	2
<span style="color: gray;">■</span> [No Response]	97.78%	--	3,524
Total	100.00%	100.00%	3,604

**Question 32**

Question responses: **79 (2.19%)**

Do you agree that an open space policy should set out open space provision requirements in new development?

Table 44

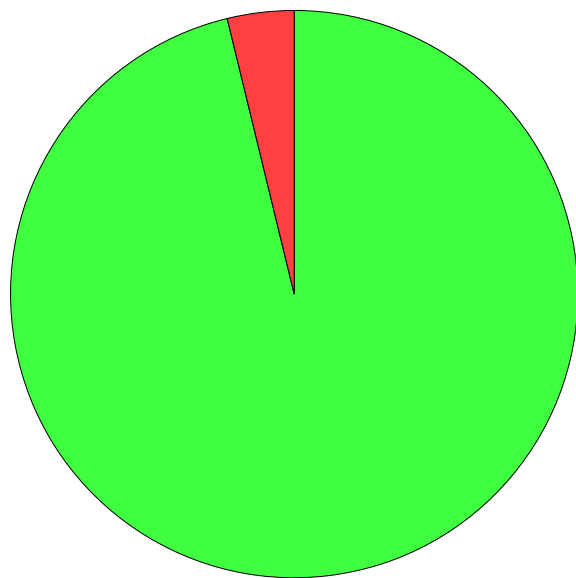


Table 45

	% Total	% Answer	Count
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Yes	2.11%	96.20%	76
<span style="color: red;">■</span> No	0.08%	3.80%	3
<span style="color: gray;">■</span> [No Response]	97.81%	--	3,525
Total	100.00%	100.00%	3,604

**Question 33**

Question responses: **82 (2.28%)**

Is a Local Plan policy on transport required?

Table 46

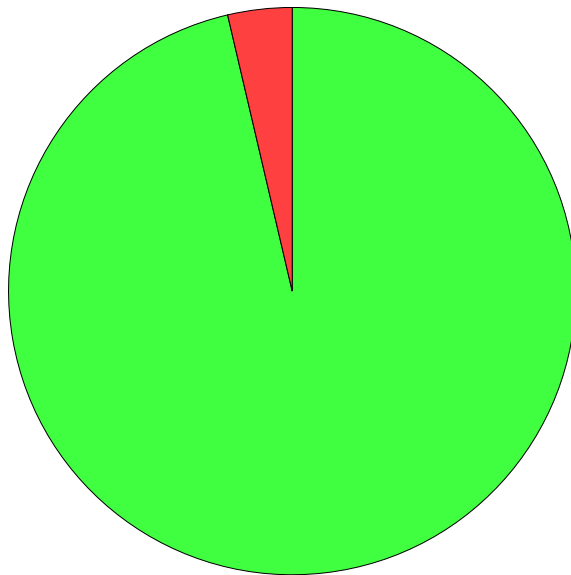


Table 47

	% Total	% Answer	Count
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Yes	2.19%	96.34%	79
<span style="color: red;">■</span> No	0.08%	3.66%	3
<span style="color: gray;">■</span> [No Response]	97.72%	--	3,522
Total	100.00%	100.00%	3,604

**Question 34**

Question responses: **79 (2.19%)**

What measures would you like to see in a Local Plan policy on renewable energy?

Table 48

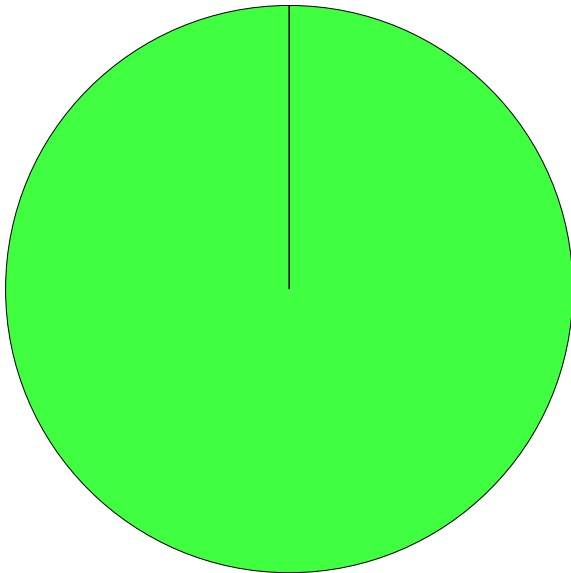


Table 49

	% Total	% Answer	Count
<span style="color: green;">■</span> [Responses]	2.19%	100.00%	79
<span style="background-color: #cccccc;">■</span> [No Response]	97.81%	--	3,525
Total	100.00%	100.00%	3,604



## NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO

Cabinet  
19 July 2022

**Report Title:** UK Shared Prosperity Fund

**Submitted by:** Commercial Development and Economic Growth

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

**Ward(s) affected:** All

#### Purpose of the Report

To seek authority from Cabinet to take the necessary steps in order to receive and utilise the UK Shared Prosperity Funding ("UKSPF") allocated to the Council.

#### Recommendation

That Cabinet:-

1. ratifies the establishment of a UK Shared Prosperity Board ("the Board") with the membership as set out in paragraph 2.6 below.
2. authorises the Executive Director Commercial Development and Economic Growth in conjunction with the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships to:-
  - a) vary the terms of reference and membership of the Board from time to time as necessary to meet the needs and objectives of the Board
  - b) develop and submit an investment plan to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)
  - c) accept any UKSPF allocated to the Council
  - d) on behalf of the Council, develop and commence the commissioning of projects to be funded by UKSPF and commence commissioning on Council led projects in preparation for the
3. notes that a report will be taken to a future meeting of Cabinet to update on the delivery of UKSPF projects.

#### Reasons

So that Cabinet is aware of the funding opportunity and gives appropriate authority to establish the Board and ensure that the UKSPF allocation can be realised and utilised.

## 1. **Background**

- 1.1 On 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022, the Government launched the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This fund is central to the Governments Levelling Up agenda and replaces the old EU structural funds. With £2.6bn allocated to local areas for investment in local priorities, it will help to deliver enhanced outcomes and target funding where it is needed most; in building pride in place, supporting high quality skills training, supporting pay, employment and productivity and increasing life chances.
- 1.2 The overarching objective is Building Pride in Place and Increasing Life Chances with three investment priorities:
- Community and place – interventions include High St infrastructure improvements, improvements of green spaces, energy efficiency and travel enhancement projects
  - Supporting Local Business – interventions include support to businesses in the visitor economy, enhancing digital skills in the market place and in innovation and R&D companies.
  - People and Skills – interventions include skills and training aimed at reducing worklessness and improvement digital skills in the population and green skills.
- 1.3 In order for Newcastle to secure funding through this programme, the Council will need to become the lead accountable body, support a Shared Prosperity Board and submit an Investment Plan. It is therefore appropriate that the Cabinet considers these issues prior to the deadline for submitting the Investment Plan.

## 2. **Issues**

- 2.1 The UKSPF allocation for Newcastle is £4,836,174. The DLUHC methodology is designed to ensure a real-terms match of what authorities previously received from EU structural funds. 70% is allocated on a per capita basis on population size. 30% of the allocation uses the needs-based index previously used to identify UK Community Renewal Fund priority places. The funding is available from April 2022 to March 2025 however; the first payment is not expected until October 2022 as it is subject to the approval of an Investment Plan.
- 2.2 Investment Plans can be submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) between 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022. It should be noted that prior to submitting the Investment Plan approval is required from the Leader of the Council and its Chief Executive Officer and Section 151 Officer.
- 2.3 Lead local authorities for each area will have flexibility over how they deliver the Fund. The prospectus highlights that authorities may wish to have competition, procurement, commissioning or deliver some activity through in-house teams.
- 2.4 The Council has commissioned Stantec to support the new Board to develop the Investment Plan. This will include appraising options against agreed criteria to develop a shortlist of projects. Each project will then require a project lead who will support the development of this project within the Investment Plan.
- 2.5 The Council is well placed to develop proposals, some of which could be in partnership with local providers to meet the needs of our community. Officers will be working to develop proposals that will be considered by the Board. As part of Stantec's commission, projects will be refined and prioritised within the Investment Plan.
- 2.6 A Shared prosperity Board has been established to ensure that an Investment Plan can be developed within the timeframe. Learning from the experience of establishing the Town

Deal Boards and taking into account the expectation from DLUHC that local MPs should be closely engaged in the design and delivery of the investment plan, the Board has been established with the following representatives:

Category	Organisation	Name
Lead local authority NBC	NBC Leader and Deputy Leader	Cllr Simon Tagg and Cllr Stephen Sweeney
County Authority	Staffordshire County Council	Cllr Philip White
Education	Keele University	Trevor McMillan
Local Business	Aspire	Dan Gray
Members of Parliament	Newcastle constituency	Aaron Bell MP
	Stoke-on-Trent North	Jonathan Gullis MP

2.7 As the Board develops, further invitees may be considered and substitutes will be invited when required. When the Board changes to become more focussed on delivery, changes to the terms of reference to the Board may be considered. If this happens then these will be agreed by the Executive Director Commercial Development and Economic Growth in conjunction with Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships.

### 3. **Proposal**

3.1 As set out in the recommendations above.

### 4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 So that Cabinet is aware of the funding opportunity and gives appropriate authority to establish the Board and ensure that the UKSPF allocation can be realised and utilised.

### 5. **Options Considered**

5.1 Whilst the Council has been allocated funding through the Shared Prosperity Fund, it could decline to receive it. The Borough needs funding to support a wide range of projects and this presents an excellent opportunity to work with partner organisations to deliver needed services to our residents. The only sensible option is to therefore support a Shared Prosperity Board and submit an Investment Plan as required by the Government.

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

6.1 The guidance states district councils are the lead investment authorities. DLUHC has outlined that this is to be a genuinely devolved fund with plenty of local discretion, where the investment proposal is about “unlocking the allocation”. As lead authority, the Council will be required to complete monitoring returns and financial statements.

6.2 Lead authorities will be asked to report on progress every six months against the milestones and timescales set out in a Memorandum of Understanding at the start of the investment period.

6.3 Lead authorities are required to have project selection and contracting process so they have mechanisms to recover funding where beneficiaries do not comply with fund parameters, UK law or any local requirements.

6.4 There will be a need to take legal advice and enter into a number of different legal agreements to administer the Board and UKSPF, and to devise and deliver individual projects. There is currently no provision in base budgets for this additional demand so it will have to be resourced from the UKSPF.

## 7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 The Fund seeks to invest in community, business and people. As part of the development of the Investment Plan consideration of equality impacts will be required, but essentially investment will seek to improve any inequalities within our communities.

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

8.1 Newcastle's allocation is £4,836,174. Lead local authorities set out their preferred mix of funding in the Investment Plan but this plan must have the minimum capital funding in line with the below percentage splits.

Year	Core UK SPF Revenue	Core UK SPF Capital
2022-23	90%	10%
2023-24	87%	13%
2024-25	80%	20%

8.2 As highlighted above, subject to the Investment Plan being approved the funding can commence from October 2022 with the completion date of March 2025.

8.3 Up to 4% of the total £4,836,174 can be used for fund administration and will be required to cover additional staffing resource to meet the Fund administration during the investment period.

8.4 In addition, there was a £20,000 made available to the Council as the lead local authority to undertake the initial preparatory work including the development of the local investment plan. This funding has been used to commission Stantec consultancy to enable the Council to develop the Investment Plan.

## 9. **Major Risks**

9.1 The Shared Prosperity Fund is a significant opportunity to support our local community without the formation of a Board and the development of an Investment Plan that meets the needs of the prospectus then the area risks missing this opportunity.

9.2 There will be legal and compliance risks around project delivery that will need to be appropriately managed on a case-by-case basis.

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

10.1 The fund seeks to support the delivery of projects to support economic growth, sustainable development and the following UNSGDs:-



## 11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 This is a key decision as it seeks authority to accept a revenue-funding grant in excess of £100,000.

11.2 The authority delegated to commission and deliver projects using UKFPS may involve the taking of one or more key decisions. Any key decision taken under delegated powers will be taken in compliance with the requirements of the Council's constitution.

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

12.1 None.

## 13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 None.

## 14. **Background Papers**

14.1 Information on the fund is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>

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## NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO

Cabinet  
19 July 2022

**Report Title:** Commercial Strategy

**Submitted by:** Director – Commercial Development and Economic Growth

**Portfolios:** Finance, Town Centres and Growth and One Council, People and Partnerships

**Ward(s) affected:** All

#### Purpose of the Report

To provide an update of the Council's Commercial Strategy. To delegate authority to the Director of Commercial Development and Economic Growth to secure suitable property investments in accordance with the Commercial Strategy.

#### Recommendation

That Cabinet:-

1. notes progress on the Council's Commercial Strategy
2. delegates authority to the Director of Commercial Development and Economic Growth, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader and the Section 151 officer, to seek and secure suitable investments and subsequently report the matter to Cabinet.
3. authorise the Director of Commercial Development and Economic Growth, in consultation with the Deputy Leader, to procure feasibility studies on industrial and commercial development opportunities.

#### Reasons

The Property investment market is currently buoyant such that as soon as assets are coming to the market they are selling. Therefore, decisions regarding acquisitions need to be made in between Cabinet cycles.

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 On 16 October 2019, Cabinet approved the Commercial Strategy for the Council. The Strategy outlines a framework for identifying and managing commercial and income generation opportunities.
- 1.2 The Finance Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee received an update in respect of the work being carried out under the Commercial Strategy in March 2022.
- 1.3 A major source of potential income generation is the property investment market. This market is very strong at the moment so when properties become available they are selling quickly.

1.4 The Council's investment consultants are continuing to advise on potential investment opportunities

## 2. Issues

2.1 The Council faces challenging financial times. Our Medium Term Financial Strategy is continually being updated and anticipates a cumulative budget shortfall of circa £2m over the next 5 years.

2.2 The need to identify further efficiencies, exploit our asset base and generate income is considerable. Coupled with increasing demand for services, higher public expectations, challenging national political circumstances and economic uncertainty, the Council must use all the means at its disposal to ensure that its medium term finances and ability to provide a full range of services to the local community are sustainable. That means that the Council must become more commercial; generating service efficiencies and new income streams, maximising existing revenue streams, having effective procurement and contract management processes, making prudent investment in income generating assets, and developing our strategic asset base in order to boost local growth.

2.3 Commercial activity is not new to the Council. The Council already has a substantial commercial property portfolio that contributes £400,000 annually to the Council's revenue budget. It also operates commercial services in areas including leisure, theatre events, car parking and garden waste. The commercial strategy provides an overarching framework for these activities, ensuring a co-ordinated approach across the Council and access to the expertise needed to drive forward our commercial ambitions within a context of robust risk management.

2.4 An important element of the Council's commercial approach is finding the right balance between delivering social value and our commercial practices, ensuring that income generated through commercial activity is reinvested in local priorities, services and improvements for the long-term benefit of residents of the borough.

2.5 The strategy approved at Cabinet on 16 October 2019 proposes a number of guiding principles that describe how we will achieve our commercial ambitions. It includes acting with intelligence, integrity and agility and working collaboratively across organisational boundaries. The strategy is explicit that the Council will seek to extract maximum value from its land and property assets, challenge where services can be commissioned and stop activities that add no value or benefit to customers.

2.6 Delivering our vision for a more sustainable and business-oriented Council that maximises commercial opportunities will require a fundamental shift in how we do business and individual and organisational development around commercial thinking.

2.7 The new income generation opportunities currently being explored are listed below:

- Land at Parkhouse Road West, Chesterton

This site measures approximately 2 acres and is situated on the edge of Parkhouse Industrial Estate. The Council has appointed consultants to carry out a market analysis demand survey in respect of a number of sites throughout the Borough of which this is one. The results of this study will inform the mix of units on this site. A design and build contractor is to be appointed to develop out the site following which the Council will let out the space. This will be subject to a separate future Cabinet report. The aspirations for the site and its use is for a 'Green' industry, with



sustainable energy and building solutions along with Green Travel plans, setting the tone for future sustainable industrial sites across the Borough.

- Land at Apedale, Chesterton

In January 2022, Cabinet approved the letting of this 4.5-acre site on a 25-year term for battery storage. The Company are currently carrying out their due diligence prior to finalising the lease terms.

- Land at Chatterley Valley

The landowner/developer is now progressing with the land remediation works to level the site to create the building platforms, utilising Town Deal Funds and investment from Staffordshire County Council. It is the intention of the Council to invest in a small business park to support the supply chain of the Advance Ceramic facility being developed.

- Land off Hassell Street, Newcastle (rear of the former Zanzibar premises)

Aspire Housing are redeveloping the site of the former Zanzibar premises and it is proposed that they sell part of the site to the Borough Council for commercial development. As part of the market analysis demand survey that has been commissioned, this site is to be assessed, which in turn will inform future proposed uses.

- York Place, Newcastle

The Council has acquired the York Place shopping centre as part of the Future High Streets Fund regeneration initiative in Newcastle Town Centre. The future uses of this development are currently being considered.

2.8 In addition to the projects above, the Council needs to be in a position to procure additional revenue generating assets. The market for commercial assets is currently buoyant and disposals move at a pace which militates against being able to take decisions to purchase through the current cabinet decision making cycle. Rather, a more agile decision process is required without compromising the rigour of opportunity appraisal that needs to underpin asset acquisition.

2.9 In order to facilitate acquisition it is proposed to delegate the decision making process to the Director of Commercial Development and Economic Growth in the basis of:

- A commercial appraisal which is approved by the S151 Officer
- Consideration of the appraisal by the Corporate Capital, Assets and Commercial Investment Review Group
- Consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader
- Reporting to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity

### 3. **Proposal**

3.1 As set out in the recommendations section above. That Cabinet:- (as above)

#### 4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

- 4.1 Generating efficiencies and additional income by adopting a more commercial approach is key in the Council's plans for addressing the forecast funding gap and maintaining financial sustainability in the medium to long term.
- 4.2 The Property investment market is currently buoyant and as soon as assets are coming to the market, they are selling. Therefore, decisions regarding acquisitions need to be made in between Cabinet cycles.

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

- 5.1 Officers to continue to review new investments and report any opportunities to Cabinet. This option carries with it the disadvantages associated with not being able to move quickly between Cabinet cycles.
- 5.2 Officers seek suitable investments and, following consultation with both the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, secure these investments and subsequently report the matter to Cabinet. This is what is being proposed.

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

- 6.1 There is complex legislation and case law that governs local government's ability to undertake commercial activities and generate income. This includes trading in services to make a surplus and the recovery of part (contribution) or the whole of the cost of a service through charging.
- 6.2 The Council will need to make sure that its commercial activities are legally and subsidy control (state aid) compliant, including having regard to the Public Sector Duty within the Equality Act 2010, statutory guidance on local authority investments and The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.
- 6.3 All commercial projects and investment opportunities will be examined to ensure that they are within the Council's powers and legal implications will be identified on a case-by-case basis. Specialist legal and/or professional advice will be required and funded as from the capital programme.

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

- 7.1 Delivering our vision for a more sustainable and business-oriented Council that maximises commercial opportunities will require a fundamental shift in how we do business and individual and organisational development around commercial thinking.
- 7.2 As a first step towards embedding a more entrepreneurial culture, we will invest in developing the skills of our members and our workforce. However, moving forward it will also influence the skills that we require in the people that we recruit in future into key roles and in the partnerships that we develop.

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

- 8.1 The aim of the commercial strategy is to facilitate sensible investments, based on local need and subject to robust risk management, which enable the Council to improve outcomes for our residents in accordance with the priorities set out in the council plan. This includes contributing towards the budget savings required to bridge the forecast funding gap over the next 5 years through income generation, as opposed to reducing spending on services.

8.2 The approved 10-year capital programme in February 2022 includes £100,000 per annum for project feasibility studies.

8.3 Officers including the Chief Executive, S151 Officer and Executive Director of Commercial Development and Economic Growth review and appraise commercial investment schemes prior to their consideration at Cabinet and Corporate Capital, Assets and Commercial Investment Review Group. The operation of the scheme is open to scrutiny by the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee.

## 9. **Major Risks**

9.1 Management of risk is central to our commercial approach and all potential activities will be assessed with due regard to the risks being taken. This will be in line with the Council's corporate approach to risk management including review of risk frequency.

9.2 As part of a robust risk management process the Council will continue to seek advice from industry experts and specialists, carry out meticulous due diligence and ensure rigorous approval processes and project scrutiny.

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

10.1 The Commercial Strategy supports UNSG and Climate Change objectives in a number of ways. Principally, through partnership working, promoting sustainable development, the re-use of land, enterprise, infrastructure and skills, the following UNSGs are supported:-



## 11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 The update element of this report is not a key decision. However, the report seeks authority to delegate decisions which themselves may be key decisions in light the financial sums likely to be involved. All delegated key decisions will be taken in accordance with the requirements of the council's constitution.

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

12.1 Cabinet approval of Commercial Strategy on 16 October 2019.

## 13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 None

## 14. **Background Papers**

14.1 None.

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**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S  
REPORT TO**

**Cabinet**  
**19 July 2022**

**Report Title:** Award of Contract – Provision of a Children and Young Persons Domestic Abuse Support Service for the period 2022-25

**Submitted by:** Martin Hamilton, Chief Executive

**Portfolios:** Community Safety and Wellbeing

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Purpose of the Report**

Retrospective approval request for award of contract

**Recommendation**

That retrospective approval is given to the award of contract to Honeycomb Charitable Services Limited following the completion of a compliant procurement process.

**Reasons**

The contract is for the Provision of a Children and Young Persons Domestic Abuse Support Service on behalf of the Newcastle Partnership & the Borough Council of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 The Borough Council of Newcastle-under-Lyme, as the lead agency for the Newcastle Partnership, is seeking to maintain the delivery of a support service to enhance existing domestic abuse services. The service is commissioned across Staffordshire and is specifically for children and young people.
- 1.2 The Newcastle Partnership is committed to delivering a high quality service to the vulnerable and those at risk in the Borough of Newcastle. The main purpose of the service is to offer specialist support to children and young people affected by domestic abuse, either due to them witnessing it within the family home or experiencing it in their own relationships.
- 1.3 The previous Children and Young Persons Domestic Abuse Support Service contract expired on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022 and was delivered successfully.
- 1.4 As part of a compliant procurement process, the Borough Council invited suitably qualified agencies to provide a proposal and quotation for the provision of a Children and Young Persons Domestic Abuse Support Service for the period 2022-25. Officers informed all local agencies and partners

(listed on the Newcastle Partnerships database of local agencies) of the contract opportunity, publishing a national contract notice.

- 1.5 Officers sought to find a local agency for the delivery of the service, based on the nature of the delivery requirements. With a robust service outline in place, the evaluation was based on 30% price and 70% quality.
- 1.6 Whilst there were six interests initially noted for the contract opportunity, at the closing date for submissions only one bid had been received. A panel of three officers evaluated the submission and all agreed that the proposal was fully compliant and responded well to the published service outline requirements.
- 1.7 A contract was let to the bidder for an initial ten-month period with the option to extend for a further two separate twelve month periods. Extensions are subject to available funding and satisfactory performance (as assessed by officers of Newcastle Partnership & Borough Council).
- 1.8 Regrettably, due to a miscalculation in arriving at the total contract sum for the purposes of applying the Council's "Key Decision" rules, authority was not sought from Cabinet prior to letting the contract. A decision of Cabinet is now required to ratify the decision to let the contract.

## 2. **Issues**

- 2.1 The main issues are set out above.

## 3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 To ratify the decision to award the contract to Honeycomb Charitable Services Limited.

## 4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

- 4.1 The service outline meets the needs of vulnerable residents and supports wellbeing and good use of funds.

## 5. **Options Considered**

- 5.1 Internalisation of the service was discounted as an option based on the special characteristics and specialists skill sets required from a service provider; these skill sets not being available within the Council, coupled with the estimated recruitment / salary costs being higher than the available supportive funding (budget) for the service.
- 5.2 No other bids for the contract were received, so alternative would be to restart the procurement process

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

- 6.1 Set out in the body of the report.

## 7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 The contract ensures the provision of relevant services on a non-discriminatory basis.

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

8.1 The aggregated value over the life of the contract is £127,500 these monies being made available as part of Community-safety-related Locality Deal, Proceeds of Crime and People Power Funds on a year to year basis.

8.2 The budget availability for this service will be monitored and reviewed annually based on the availability of the above (Community-safety-related Locality Deal, Proceeds of Crime and People Power) funds.

## 9. **Major Risks**

9.1 The most significant risk is considered to be the non-provision of the service and the missed opportunity to provide better outcomes for affected persons.

## 10. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

10.1 Delivery of the Children and Young Persons Domestic Abuse Support Service will support in addressing:



## 11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 Over the potential 3 years of the contract delivery, the overall cost will potentially reach £127,500

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

12.1 n/a

## 13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 n/a

## 14. **Background Papers**

14.1 n/a

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## **Cabinet Forward Plan**

This plan gives notice of decisions that [Cabinet](#) is expecting to take over the next few months. It also gives, except in cases of urgency, at least 28 days notice of all “Key Decisions” that will be taken. “Key Decisions” are decisions about “executive” functions that will:-

- A) result in the Council incurring expenditure or making savings of £100,000 or more (revenue), and/or £250,000 or more (capital); and/or
- B) be significant in terms of the effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards of the Borough.

We have to take some Cabinet decisions in private because they deal with confidential or “exempt” information. That is information described in one or more of the following categories set out in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under the authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals an authority proposes;
  - a. to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
  - b. to make an order or direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of a crime

If we intend to take a decision in private, we will tell you why in the plan below. If you disagree with our reasons, you can tell us why using the contact details below. We will respond to you directly and will publish our response in the meeting agenda. If we have published the meeting agenda before we can respond, we will respond verbally at the meeting and record the response in the minutes.

You can find more information about Cabinet, Cabinet Members and their portfolios, agendas, reports and minutes [here](#).

More information on Cabinet procedures, executive functions, Key Decisions, urgent decisions and access to information is available in our [Constitution](#).

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if applicable)	Key Decision Yes/No
Walley's Quarry update	To consider an update on Walley's Quarry	Environment and Recycling	Cabinet – 19 July 2022	Economy and Place	All Wards	N/A	N
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	To consider approval of grant submission	Finance, Town Centres & Growth	Cabinet – 19 July 2022	Finance, Assets & Performance	All Wards	N/A	Y
Commercial Strategy Update	To consider the latest position on the Commercial Strategy	Finance, Town Centres & Growth	Cabinet – 19 July 2022	Finance, Assets & Performance	All Wards	N/A	Y
Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation Update	To consider the outcome of the Issues and Options consultation previously undertaken	Strategic Planning	Cabinet – 19 July 2022	Economy and Place	All Wards	N/A	Y
Provisional Financial Outturn 2021/22	To consider a report on the financial outturn for 2021/22	Finance, Town Centres & Growth	Cabinet – 19 July 2022	Finance, Assets & Performance	All Wards	N/A	N
Provision of Children & Young Persons Domestic Abuse Support System	To consider a report on the contract for this support service. <b>Note</b> – the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has given approval for this item be	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Community Safety and Wellbeing	Cabinet – 19 July 2022				

	considered at Cabinet without the required 28 days' notice on the Forward Plan, and for call-in to be waived. This is due to the urgent need to ensure that the contract can continue without disruption to the service.						
Walley's Quarry update	To consider an update on Walley's Quarry	Environment and Recycling	Cabinet – 6 September 2022	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	N
Quarter 1 Budget & Performance report	To receive the Q1 Finance & Performance Report	Finance, Town Centres & Growth	Cabinet – 6 September 2022	Finance, Assets & Performance	All Wards	N/A	Y
The Council Plan	To consider approval of the Council Plan	One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet – 6 September 2022	Finance, Assets & Performance	All Wards	N/A	N
Kidsgrove Town Deal	To consider funding agreements for the delivery of the Kidsgrove Town Deal	One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet – 6 September 2022	Economy and Place	Kidsgrove Wards	N/A	Y

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