

# Public Document Pack

**Date of meeting** Thursday, 1st September, 2022  
**Time** 7.00 pm  
**Venue** Astley Room - Castle  
**Contact** Denise French - 742211



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

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

## Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee

### AGENDA

#### PART 1 – OPEN AGENDA

- 1 **APOLOGIES**
- 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** **(Pages 3 - 10)**  
To consider the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 10 August 2022.
- 4 **UPDATE FROM CABINET**  
A verbal update will be given
- 5 **RECYCLING AND WASTE SERVICES** **(Pages 11 - 18)**
- 6 **FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND AND TOWN DEALS FOR  
KIDSGROVE AND NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME**  
Verbal updates will be given
- 7 **WORK PROGRAMME** **(Pages 19 - 20)**
- 8 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**  
Any member of the public wishing to submit a question must serve two clear days' notice, in writing, of any such question to the Borough Council.
- 9 **URGENT BUSINESS**  
To consider any business which is urgent within the meaning of Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Members:** Councillors Beeston, Bettley-Smith, Burnett, Edginton-Plunkett, Gorton, Grocott, Hutchison (Vice-Chair), Moffat, Panter, Skelding and G White (Chair)

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**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 Quorum: The meeting quorum for Scrutiny Committees is 4 of the 11 members.**

**SUBSTITUTE MEMBER SCHEME** (Section B5 – Rule 2 of Constitution)

The Constitution provides for the appointment of Substitute members to attend Committees. The named Substitutes for this meeting are listed below:-

|                     |            |          |
|---------------------|------------|----------|
| Substitute Members: | Allport    | S Jones  |
|                     | Crisp      | Stubbs   |
|                     | Dymond     | J Tagg   |
|                     | Fox-Hewitt | Whieldon |
|                     | Holland    | S White  |
|                     | D Jones    |          |

*If you are unable to attend this meeting and wish to appoint a Substitute to attend in your place you need to:*

- Identify a Substitute member from the list above who is able to attend on your behalf
- Notify the Chairman of the Committee (at least 24 hours before the meeting is due to take place)

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

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

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# Agenda Item 3

*Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee - 10/08/22*

## ECONOMY & PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 10th August, 2022  
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

**Present:** Councillor G White (Chair)

|              |                   |           |          |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------|----------|
| Councillors: | Bettley-Smith     | Grocott   | Panter   |
|              | Edginton-Plunkett | Hutchison | Skelding |
|              | Gorton            | Moffat    |          |

Apologies: Councillor(s) Beeston and Burnett

Substitutes: Councillor Fox-Hewitt (In place of Councillor Beeston)  
Councillor Holland (In place of Councillor Burnett)

|           |                  |   |
|-----------|------------------|---|
| Officers: | Daniel Dickinson | Head of Legal & Governance<br>/Monitoring Officer |
|           | Denise French    | Democratic Services Team<br>Leader                |
|           | Simon McEneny    | Executive Director - Growth and<br>Development    |

|                    |                   |   |
|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| Also in attendance | Councillor Fear   | Portfolio Holder – Strategic<br>Planning  |
|                    | Councillor S Tagg | Leader of the Council and<br>Portfolio Holder – One Council,<br>People and Partnerships |

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### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The committee considered the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 June 2022.

Councillor Moffat commented that she felt the minutes did not fully express the weight of concern raised at the meeting regarding the Local Plan. She suggested if the minutes had included more about this item then the Cabinet may have made a different decision when they considered the Issues and Options report at their 19 July, 2022 meeting. She also suggested that including Members names should be recorded against their comments in minutes.

The Chair responded that if Members wished for a specific point to be noted in the minutes then the process was to request this during the meeting.

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2022 be agreed as a correct record.

[Click here to watch the debate](#)

### **3. LOCAL PLAN - ISSUES AND OPTIONS - CALL-IN**

The committee had been convened to consider a Call-In made in relation to the decision of Cabinet on 19 July 2022 regarding the Local Plan – Issues and Options. Cabinet had resolved:

*“That:*

- 1) The feedback on the Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan Issues and Strategic Options consultation be noted; and*
- 2) The feedback received from the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee be noted.”*

The Chair introduced this item. He noted that the item had been scrutinised at the meeting in June and all Members had the ability at that point to make any statements, observations or put forward any other procedural issues on the Local Plan. The committee had come to the view that the report and recommendations on the Local Plan be accepted and this view was submitted to Cabinet. He was surprised to then receive a Call-In on an item that had already been scrutinised. He noted the costs in resourcing an additional meeting and asked that Members bear this in mind at any future scrutiny committee debates.

The Chair reminded Members of the provision in the Scrutiny Procedure Rules to declare the existence of the Party Whip; there were no declarations.

The Chair reminded the committee of the key reasons for the Call-In as stated in the Call-In notice:

1. Late adoption of paper-based submissions, resulting in a reduced window of opportunity for residents who struggle with access, or literacy with online methods.
2. Lack of in-person consultation events in certain ward areas (Bradwell) despite requests from local councillors. Limiting residents’ ability to access information or clarifications on the plan.

The Chair then outlined the procedure that would be followed at the meeting, in accordance with the constitution.

The Call-In was introduced by Councillor Moffat as lead Call-In Member. She referred to the Chair’s comments relating to time and asked that it be recorded in the minutes that time was a significant factor in relation to the Local Plan report. At the previous meeting of the committee, when consideration was given to the Local Plan – Issues and Options report the Planning Policy Manager in her introduction noted the meeting had already been underway for some time. Councillor Moffatt highlighted the need to ensure sufficient time was given to scrutinise the items brought to scrutiny and that additional meetings may be necessary.

Councillor Moffat then expanded on the points in the Call-In notice as follows:

- Low number of responses to the consultation which represented a very small proportion of the population of the Borough.

She raised concern that the low response rates could bring the council into disrepute.

- Difficulties in navigating the online portal and the failure of the online portal being a contributory factor in the low response rate.
- An expectation by members of the public that comments made at in person events would be taken on board and comprise part of the final report.

She recommended that the consultation should be re-run with a community-led design approach. She felt that there was a risk that the community would lack trust in the council and its engagement processes.

Councillor Moffat called 2 witnesses:

- (1) Len Gibbs of the Audley Local Plan Group. He reiterated the concerns around the low response rates. He referred to the two petitions submitted and the 757 identical letters which he felt indicated a desire to engage in the consultation process. He felt the feedback received showed overwhelming opposition to the proposals. He referred to other councils' Local Plan consultations which had received greater numbers of responses. He suggested the council consider adopting a target participation level. He felt that different methods of consultation could have been used such as producing a summary note. He also thought that the Plan had a lack of information on sustainability for the public to engage with.
- (2) Dr Colin Bielby of the Audley Local Plan Group – he referred to the consultation on the Audley Neighbourhood Plan for which a response rate of over 25% had been achieved. He felt low numbers of online responses was partly due to difficulties in responding and the time consuming nature of the amount of questions. He felt the readability level was too high and disenfranchised a high number of the population. He referred to in person meetings and lack of recording of views. He felt the size of the document was off-putting.

Councillor D Jones, as one of the Call-In Members then addressed the meeting. He was supportive of progressing the Borough Local Plan as soon as possible but was concerned if the Plan was rejected by the Planning Inspector and felt any risks needed to be mitigated early in the process. He suggested dovetailing the previous and forthcoming consultation so as not to risk any delay.

Councillor Fox-Hewitt, as one of the Call-In Members, addressed the committee regarding lack of face to face events. He referred to a specific query he had raised at a Members Planning event in September 2021 at which he had asked whether the consultation team would attend specific events if requested, this assurance was given but following a request he had subsequently made, the response was that the Portfolio Holder would approve all such attendances and despite a follow up request the consultation team had not attended the event requested. This denied opportunities to participate to those who were not digitally connected and reduced confidence in the process.

The Chair then called Councillor Fear as Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning to respond to the Call-In. Councillor Fear agreed that consultation responses were always welcome but the council could not compel views to be submitted; in addition, there had been only 8 complaints about the process. He also reminded the committee that the consultation period was 14 weeks compared to the statutory requirement of 6 weeks. The consultation period was also during the Omicron variant when in person meetings did not have to take place; officers had, however, attended a series of face to face events for which they had been praised. He

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understood written submissions were taken at face to face meetings as well as views over the phone. There had been initial issues with the portal which had been addressed and officers had also taken comments via the phone and uploaded them onto the portal on behalf of residents.

Councillor Fear called two witnesses:

(1) The Executive Director – Growth and Development confirmed that written comments were taken at face to face events. Officers assisted in uploading comments onto the portal. A summary note was not produced as it was felt better to provide the document in its entirety. Although there were 289 comments there were a greater number of attendees across all events and it may have been that some attendees did not have any comments to make. In relation to Bradwell, the intention was to have a spread of events and to hold events where the Local Plan was to have the most impact. There were capacity issues that preventing the team responding to all invitations; a number of parish councils and neighbourhood groups arranged to send a representative to an event who would then report back. The consultation did not include land allocations which could explain the low response rates.

(2) Councillor S Tagg, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for One Council, People and Partnerships addressed the committee. He thanked officers for their work with the consultation, including all the events and the support with collating comments. He noted other consultations that had had low response rates and other councils where no face to face consultation events had been held. He also noted that a residents group in his ward had nominated a representative to attend an event and report back. He noted social media reports that paper representations were not being accepted but this had been corrected by the council communications team. In relation to dovetailing the consultation it had been decided to focus on policy only at this stage with a site specific consultation later in the year which he felt would generate more interest. He also noted that the software used was one in use by many other councils.

Councillor Fear concluded by noting the previous meeting, no motion had been proposed or advice offered in respect of perceived inadequacies around the consultation process. The consultation had been lengthy and broad; it was about policy and not about areas of land and it was expected that the next stage would see increased responses.

The Chair then invited Call-In Members to ask any questions of the Cabinet Member.

(1) Councillor Edgington-Plunkett asked the Cabinet Member to clarify that there had not been a vote at the previous meeting of the scrutiny committee on the Local Plan item. Councillor Fear advised that his recollection was there was no motion placed at the meeting other than to receive the report and pass it to Cabinet; this was also confirmed by the Chair.

(2) Councillor Moffat reiterated that there had been a number of concerns raised at the scrutiny meeting in June but also made reference to the time pressures. The Chair explained that he would always give councillors as much time as they needed and if members at the June meeting had felt that more time was needed for the Local Plan then other items could have been delayed. Councillor S Tagg also reminded the meeting of the option for councillors to submit views to Cabinet and that there was a procedure for both councillors and the public to speak at Cabinet meetings.

(3) Councillor Gorton asked whether prior thought had been given to how many responses would be considered a good rate and also whether figures were kept of how many attendees were at the in person events. Councillor Fear felt having a specific figure in mind was not necessarily helpful. The Executive Director said figures were not kept per event but as he had attended both events at Audley he knew there were over 100 attendees at each but he was also confident that there were over 289 attendees overall.

(4) Councillor D Jones asked whether a risk assessment had taken place regarding the low number of responses and was there a mitigation strategy. Also was there a breakdown of responses between residents, stakeholders, local councillors etc. The Executive Director said no Risk Assessment had been carried out as it was not felt that the response rate was too low to a consultation on policies and options that did not include site specific information.

The Chair then invited the committee to debate the item and the following points were made:

- Councillor Fox Hewitt asked for a copy of the Equality Impact Assessment which was agreed
- Could a list of action points from the meeting be produced?
  - It appeared that all Cabinet members had either been present at the previous meeting, watched the livestream or the recording and had therefore been aware of all the points raised at the meeting
- Social media suggestions that paper based submissions were not being accepted were incorrect
- There did not appear to be any evidence that responses received were lower from areas where there were no in person events
- The Local Plan was a most important document that would impact the Borough for a number of years; it was paramount to get people engaged in the process throughout. There was no criticism of the efforts made by officers.
- The Statement of Community Engagement (SCE) had been agreed early in the process and had been approved by Cabinet without any Call-In and was applied throughout the process.
- The letter from the Chief Executive attached to the agenda pack dealt with a number of the issues that had been raised this evening. The letter confirmed that the consultation had been conducted effectively and in compliance with the SCE and accessibility regulations.
- Were there any suitable premises in Bradwell? Sites had been arranged across the area with the Chesterton site serving Bradwell residents but there was also the option to attend virtual events, made comments online and via the phone. The in person events were also held during the Covid pandemic.
- The methodology and response rate were not necessarily a cause and effect, where people were satisfied there was often a low response rate.
- The 289 responses did not reflect the total reach of the consultation as this included attendees at in person events, those who read about the proposals, discussions at Parish Council and other meetings. The next stage could garner a greater number of responses which could be due to the nature of the issues being consulted even though the reach could be of similar size.

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- An additional number of paper copies had been made available at in person events in response to feedback but paper copies had also been made available in local libraries.
- The consultation purpose was not to reach a wide audience but to receive responses, many residents had expressed difficulties with responding and it was important to acknowledge this and learn from it.

Councillor Moffat then made concluding remarks. She said the main purpose of the Call-In was to seek to re-run the consultation period due to the issues as highlighted throughout the meeting. The issues raised around accessibility and readability needed to be addressed to ensure a better response to the next round of consultation. There was no criticism of officers involved in the process.

Councillor Fear then made concluding remarks as Portfolio Holder. The two key points in the Call-In related to written responses not being accepted and lack of in person consultation events. It was suggested that the consultation had failed to reach certain groups of residents. Councillor Fear felt that the consultation had not failed as written submissions were accepted, the council had held in person events in spite of the Covid pandemic and there had been no requirement to do so. Councillor Tagg echoed these points. He noted there would be two further consultations, one relating to sites and one prior to the final Plan being submitted to the Inspector. It was important to look forward now to progressing the Plan. He also referred to the point about sustainability which was a part of the Local Plan which had a green thread running throughout.

A question was raised regarding a previous resolution about digital inclusion and not relying solely on online methods; Councillor Fear confirmed that his statement regarding not having to do face to face events was in relation to legislation which did not require face to face and allowed for online consultation only.

**Resolved:** that

- (a) no advice be offered to Cabinet regarding the Call-In; and
- (b) Cabinet be requested to take account of the views outlined at the meeting in regards to future consultations on the Borough Local Plan.

[Click here to watch the debate](#)

### **4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

### **5. URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

**Councillor Gary White  
Chair**



Meeting concluded at 8.53 pm

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## NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO SCRUTINY

01 September 2022

**Report Title:** Update on the Council's new Recycling Collection Service.

**Submitted by:** Head of Sustainable Environment.

**Portfolios:** Environment and Recycling

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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

To update on the operation and performance of the new recycling service introduced in 2020.

#### **Recommendation**

That the report be noted, and the Committee be invited to Scrutinise the new service, now bedded in, and its general performance/feedback from residents.

#### **Reasons**

At its last meeting in June 2022 the Environment Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee, as it was at the time, requested an update on the operation and performance of the new recycling collection service implemented two years ago during the first lockdown period. Although responsibility for environmental matters has now moved to Health Wellbeing and environment Scrutiny Committee, it was agreed between the two Chairs of these committee's that this report should go to this committee on this occasion.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1** In September 2018 Cabinet approved a cross-party working group recommendation to replace the source separated recycling collection service with a twin stream, (paper and card separate) collection system utilising a wheeled bin and bag to replace the boxes.
- 1.2** Plans for the new recycling collection service were at an advanced stage, with a projected implementation date of September 2020, when the COVID Pandemic hit the Country, which had a significant impact on recycling and waste collection services, not just within the Council, but also throughout the Country. Faced early on with a 25% reduction in operational staff, from mid-March 2020, through COVID related sickness, self-isolation, and shielding, EMT and Informal Cabinet agreed a range of options which could be deployed if staff shortages continued to grow, and that some early planning on services such as how to maintain recycling refuse and garden waste collections was a practical way forward.
- 1.3** As part of these discussions, a decision was also taken to bring forward the rollout and implementation of the new recycling collection service, with the roll out starting in May 2020.
- 1.4** The new 'twin stream' recycling collection service was fully operational by August 2020.

## **2. Issues**

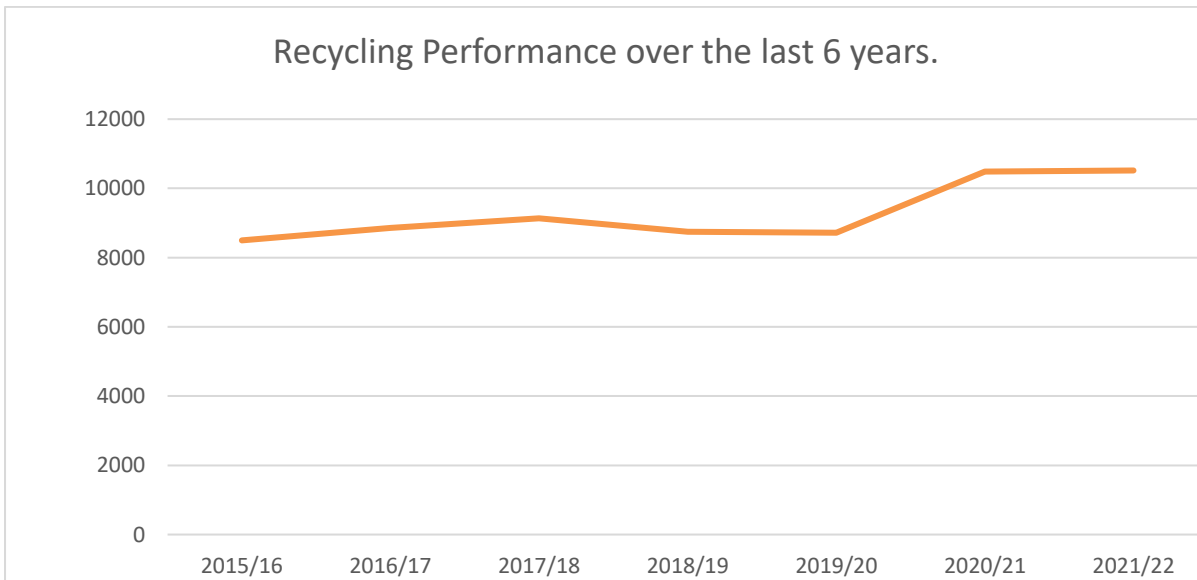
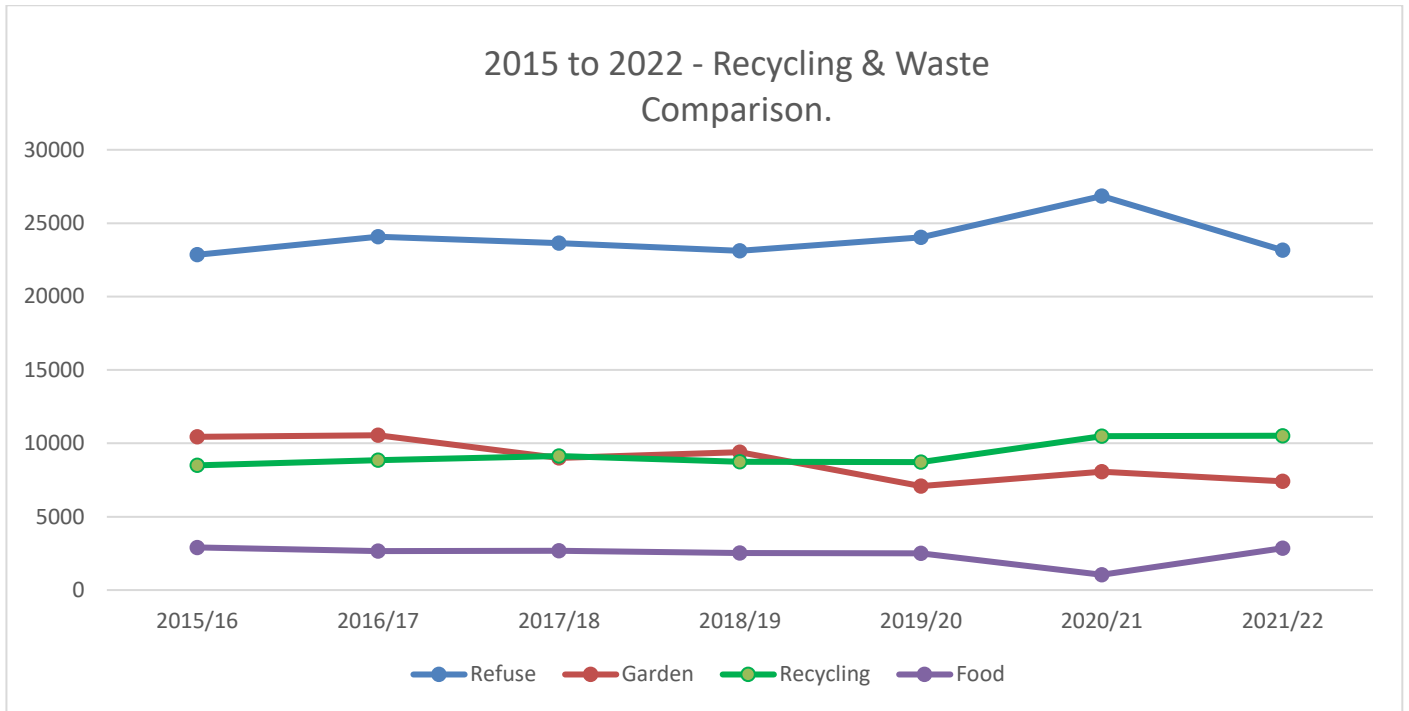
- 2.1** As well as resourcing issues, the COVID pandemic saw total waste arising's increase by over 25%, a result of people being at home, clearing things out, gardening, and buying more food and drink. This put substantial added pressure onto the collection service; however, the aim was to maintain all collection services as far as reasonably practical.
- 2.2** Ceasing operating the source separated recycling service early on in the pandemic, meant that food waste collections had to be suspended until the new twin stream recycling service was fully implemented. This put additional pressure on the residual waste collection service, however separate food waste collections were able to start again by the end of August 2020, following the delivery of the new fleet of food waste collection vehicles.

## **3. The Service Two Years On**

The new recycling and separate food waste collection services settled in quickly, with feedback from residents being very positive, and the Council receiving a high number of compliments made officially through the Councils corporate complaints and compliments system. Compliments included several for the sterling job done over lockdown, happy to be recycling more plastic, new recycling system is easier; leaflet is great, really like the new bins and bags. Additionally, feedback from collection crews is that they have been told by numerous of residents just how much they prefer the new recycling system as it's easy to use, and looks tidier on the streets both before and after collections.

### **3.1 Performance**

- 3.1.1** Performance has been very positive, with recycling tonnage increasing by 22% over the previous service, and this has been sustained. The addition of pots tubs and trays (PTT) to the mix of plastic has also had a positive benefit. Food waste collections have increased and following a major communications, initiative undertaken in summer 2021 now stands at 2% higher than the previous service.
- 3.1.2** Importantly the volume of residual waste has decreased significantly to below COVID pandemic levels, with a 13.7 % fall in tonnage.
- 3.1.3** The Council is now the second highest performer across Staffordshire in recycling and composting performance, with only Staffordshire Moorlands DC being slightly ahead.
- 3.1.4** The table and graphs below demonstrate the improvements in performance, modelling data for the last six years.



### 3.2 Collection Operations

3.2.1 Operationally the new service is far more efficient and reliable than the previous source separated system. With the four separate waste streams, now collected, Recycling, Food Waste, Garden Waste and Residual Waste, the Council undertakes on average 544,000 collections every month from households. The last quarter recorded the lowest number of missed bin collections ever recorded at 46.46 missed per 100,000 collections, meaning 99.95% collection success.

### 3.3 Material Re-processing

3.3.1 Maximising the amount of material collected being actually recycled, and ensuring high value in the materials collected means quality of the materials collected is of paramount importance.

- 3.3.2 The collection system was designed as a twin stream system, which made recycling easy for residents, while maximising quality of materials. For example, card and paper mixed with glass, renders the paper and card virtually worthless, as glass fragments in the paper and card mill process causes excessive damage. The first rule therefore is to keep paper and card completely separate from glass, either at the source of collection, or through very expensive and sophisticated sorting at a material recovery facility (MRF), of which there are fewer and fewer of these types of facility available.
- 3.3.3 Feedback from the Councils re-processing contractors has been very positive. Paper and card, because it is collected separately, in the blue bag, can be sold directly to paper and card production mills, therefore maximising its value, and ensuring it has a sustainable market and use within the UK.
- 3.3.4 The glass cans and plastics collected in the blue bins, known as Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR) is separated at a MRF designed to accept and deal with this mix of material. From April this year, and following a joint procurement process involving all the waste collection authorities in Staffordshire, the councils DMR goes to a facility in Four Ashes, in the south of the county, operated by Veolia. Once separated materials are then sold to re-processors specialising in particular material streams. The market for recycled material is a global one, but high quality material will generally find a home in the UK. As part of the contract the Council receives monthly reports detailing the end destinations of all the materials it sends to Veolia for processing. These reports show that over 95% of the materials collected by the Council are re-processed in the UK.

### **3.4 Digital Transformation**

- 3.4.1 As part of the project work in designing the new recycling and separate food waste collection service, the Recycling and waste service was the first in the Council to fully embrace and utilise digital processes to reengineer its policies and processes.
- 3.4.2 A back office and in-cab IT system called BARTEC is utilised and underpins the operation and delivery of the recycling and waste collection service. The system is integrated into JADU the Councils front end customer system, and for example, allows residents to subscribe to the garden waste collection service on line, which will then put their garden waste bin into service automatically on the collection schedule for their address. This system, and the improvements in efficiency and reliability over the previous service has resulted in a 90% drop in telephone and other enquiries to the Council.
- 3.4.3 Following the recent restructure of services within the council, the same transformation process, utilising BARTEC will be applied to the Councils Streetscene division.

## **4. Future Development – Short Term – Long Term Government RAWs**

### **4.1 Short Term**

- 4.1.1 With the service now operational for two full years, officers managing the service are undertaking a review of current collection rounds in order to re-optimize the collection routes. This needs undertaking periodically to take account of new homes being built, but also the tonnage collected on each round and the individual crew timings in completing rounds, which will settle over time. The optimisation process ensures all rounds are balanced against one another, and vehicles and crews operate in the most safe and efficient way, while ensuring reliability of the collections undertaken. In addition, work is ongoing to -

- Increasing separate food waste collection participation.
- Refreshing and enhancing recycling provision and collections for flats, ensuring they have the same level of service as other householders.
- Developing options for the introduction of commercial waste recycling and separate food waste collection services to businesses within the borough.

## **4.2 Long Term – Changes in National Policy – The Environment Act**

4.2.1 The Environment Act sees the biggest change in legislation for the waste industry and product supply chain since the introduction of Environmental Protection Act 1990.

4.2.2 It was granted Royal Assent on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021, and is now an Act of Parliament – ‘The Environment Act 2021’ the Act deals with issues including water, air pollution, biodiversity and conservation as well as resource and waste management.

4.2.3 Chapter three, Part three, sections 47 to 68 contain the parts of the Act covering Waste and Resource Efficiency. The main areas relating to local authorities are outlined below.

## **4.3 Office for Environmental Protection (OEP)**

4.3.1 The Bill outlines the formation of an OEP that will advise government on environmental issues and hold the government to account on its progress on plans and targets relating to the environment. It will be given powers to take enforcement action where applicable, against the UK government or in certain circumstance devolved governments. DEFRA have announced the OEP will be based in Bristol, which is where the headquarters of the Environment Agency are.

## **4.4 Extended Producer Responsibility for Collection Processing and Disposal Costs (section 48 of the Bill and Schedule 5)**

4.4.1 This section outlines the requirement of producers to cover the full net costs of their products after they have been used for their primary purpose. So for us as Local Authorities, these costs include —

- Collecting and transporting products or materials from households, for recycling or disposal
- Sorting and treating products or materials, for recycling or disposal
- Packaging litter placed in litterbins, collection and disposal.
- Providing public information (communications) about the recycling and disposal of products or materials.

4.4.2 How these costs are calculated in detail is still awaiting confirmation, but is likely to be modelled costs for LA’s based on demographics rurality and family groups. Consultations were undertaken in 2021, but the outcome is still awaited. First full net cost payments for our collections are expected in 2024.

4.4.3 It is likely that the current system of payment of recycling credits will cease at the same time.

## **4.5 Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) (section 51 and schedule 8)**

4.5.1 This section gives the powers to implement a DRS. It is now confirmed that Single-use drinks containers containing between 50ml and 3l of liquid will be in scope of the DRS for England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. These will include PET bottles, steel and aluminium cans, but not glass in England and Northern Ireland. Glass will be included in Wales and Scotland!

4.5.2 Dates for implementation are yet to be confirmed for England, likely to be post 2026. Scotland is due to go live next year, but details are still somewhat sketchy, and producers are not happy.

## **4.6 Charges for single use plastics (section 52 and schedule 9)**

4.6.1 The section gives the Secretary of State, and devolved ministers powers to implement charges on single use plastic items. The Bill outlines that charges can be made on items that: are single use items, are made wholly or partly of plastic, and are supplied in connection with goods or services. This could be likened to the current carrier bag charge.

## **4.7 Separation of Waste (section 54) – Consistency in collections**

- 4.7.1 This requirement is applicable to England only and will enable the Government to bring forward their plans outlined in the consistency consultation in 2021. The Bill states that food waste must be collected separately and at least weekly and also outlines the following recycling streams for separate collection: glass metal plastic paper and card food waste garden waste The Bill states that each recycling stream must be collected separately from other household waste and separately from each other. It does say that the 'TEEP' test still applies and so materials can be collected together where: (a) it is not technically or economically practicable to collect recyclable household waste in those recyclable waste streams separately, or (b) collecting recyclable household waste in those recyclable waste streams separately has no significant environmental benefit (having regard to the overall environmental impact of collecting it separately and of collecting it together).
- 4.7.2 This section also places similar requirements for separate collections to be undertaken for business and commercial waste as well. This will have significant implications for businesses.
- 4.7.3 Although we are still awaiting the full outcome of the consultations and statutory guidance for DRS and Consistency in collections, the Councils current recycling and separate food waste collection service will meet the requirements set out in the Act, placing the Council in a fortunate position. We will be required to add additional materials in our collection system for recycling, such as Tetrapacks (2024) and plastic film (2026), but the system now operating has been designed to be flexible and will be easily able to accommodate these additional materials. The quest which is difficult to calculate is how much material could be removed from the kerbside collection system by DRS?

## **5. Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 5.1 The Council has a legal duty, to provide collection services for none recyclable waste, and to collect separately four streams of recycling, namely, paper/card (fibre), metal, plastic, and glass all free of charge. The Council has no statutory responsibility to provide garden waste collection services, and can make a charge for doing so if it so wishes.
- 5.2 Currently the Council does not have any statutory recycling targets imposed by Central Government; however there is a service level agreement with the County Council to deliver recycling levels above 50% as part of their PFI arrangements for their Energy from Waste Plant in the South of the County.
- 5.3 The new Recycling and food waste collection service will meet the forthcoming government legislation and guidance, in achieving consistency in recycling collections across England, and mandatory separate food waste collections as outlined in section 4.2 above.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 An equality impact assessment has been completed for the new recycling and food waste collection service.
- 6.2 The nature of the new recycling service designs out many of the manual handling issues raised by residents with the previous box-based service, and resident accessibility for service use was a key part of the planning process. Issues raised included those around residents without English as a first language (which we address through clear, simple language and image-based messages), disability (we raised this on the leaflet delivered with the new containers to reassure existing assisted collection customers and raise the availability of help for other residents who may find the help useful – and noted a rise in applications for help during the container roll-outs), and rurality (properties accessed down un-adopted tracks receive visits to identify collection points which work for residents and the collection operation, especially where an assisted collection is subsequently requested)
- 6.3 A review of the EIA will be undertaken this year to ensure that we captured any negative impacts so we can look to mitigate them.



## 7. Financial and Resource Implications

7.1 There are no financial and resource issues resulting from this report. The budget for the new recycling and food waste collection service has been built up from base between officers from the recycling and waste service and financial services departments. The new waste budget was approved as part of the ongoing Revenue Budget.

## 8. Major Risks

8.1 A comprehensive Risk Register was developed, and remains live, for the development and introduction of the new recycling and separate food waste collection service. The Covid pandemic, and its effects became an integral part of the risk register and was used to help shape the control measures to ensure an effective and reliable service was maintained, and to take account of the new service rollout.

8.2 High level risks remaining are those to do with managing the COVID pandemic and implications of any further waves or local lockdowns, particularly with regard to staffing levels, safe service operation, and maintaining full service provision. Additionally contamination needs to be continually monitored and managed to ensure the Council minimises the risk of rejected loads from the MRF, and the associated financial consequences.

## 9. Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

9.1 The new recycling and separate food waste collection service supports the following global goals for sustainable development.



9.2 The new recycling and separate food waste collection service uses less vehicles than the previous collection service. The processing contract looks towards focused re-processing of materials in the UK and this will be further enhanced as part of the SWP procurement process which will also advocate closed loop recycling achieved within the UK.

9.3 This direction of travel will support national government targets in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and will help deliver the UK's circular economy strategy, and ensuring 65% of packaging waste is recycled.

9.4 The Council also has plans to use green fuel as an alternative to white diesel in its fleet of HGV vehicles employed in the Recycling and waste Service. This switch could see the Council's carbon emissions reduce significantly by over 25%, and being a major contributor to the Council reducing its carbon emissions to net zero by 2030.

## 10. List of Appendices

None

## 11. Background Papers

None

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ECONOMY AND PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2022-2026

Chair: Councillor Gary White

Vice-Chair: Councillor David Hutchison

Members: Susan Beeston, Robert Betley-Smith, Gillian Burnett, Joel Edgington-Plunkett, Richard Gorton, David Grocott, Sue Moffat, Barry Panter, Craig Skelding

Portfolio Holders covering the Committee's remit:

Councillor Johnson - Cabinet Member – Environment and Recycling

Councillor Fear - Cabinet Member – Strategic Planning



This committee scrutinises how the council influences, affects and interacts with the natural and built environment. It also scrutinises how the council influences, affects and interacts with the local, regional and national economy.

The core Work Programme is determined at the beginning of the municipal year. Issues can be added throughout the year with the Chair's approval or where a new priority area comes to the Committee's attention.

For more information on the Committee or its work Programme please contact Denise French on 01782 742211 or at [denise.french@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:denise.french@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk)

| DATE OF MEETING | ITEM   | BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES  |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 15 June 2022    | HS2 – look ahead to the next 12 months on works impacting on the Borough Sustainable Environment Strategy, Action Plan | Requested by the Chair<br><br>Regular update as requested by the Committee |

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|                   |  |  |
|-------------------|--|--|
|                   | Future High Streets Fund update & Town Investment Plans for Newcastle and Kidsgrove – update on progress<br><br>Borough Local Plan<br><br>Police presence in the town centre | Regular update<br><br><br>Requested by the Committee following the presentation by the BID Manager |
| 1 August 2022     | Borough Local Plan Call-In   | To deal with a Call-In   |
| 1 September 2022  | Recycling and Waste Services Update<br>Future High Streets Fund and Town Deals for Kidsgrove and Newcastle under Lyme  | Regular update   |
| 12 December 2022  |  |  |
| 16 March 2023     |  |  |
| 8 June 2023       |  |  |
| 21 September 2023 |  |  |
| 7 December 2023   |  |  |
| 18 March 2024     |  |  |
| 20 June 2024      |  |  |
| 12 September 2024 |  |  |
| 9 December 2024   |  |  |
| 13 March 2025     |  |  |
| 19 June 2025      |  |  |
| 11 September 2025 |  |  |
| 8 December 2025   |  |  |
| 19 March 2026     |  |  |
| 17 June 2026      |  |  |

August 2022

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