

Public Document Pack

Date of meeting Thursday, 23rd June, 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

Health, Wellbeing & Environment Scrutiny Committee

AGENDA

PART 1 – OPEN AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (Pages 5 - 8)
To consider the Minutes of the last meeting of the Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held on 7th March 2022.
- 4 UPDATE FROM CABINET**
- 5 WALLEY'S QUARRY ODOUR ISSUES** (Pages 9 - 32)
- 6 NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY - ANNUAL REPORT** (Pages 33 - 48)
- 7 STAFFORDSHIRE HEALTH AND CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** (Pages 49 - 54)
To receive feedback from members of this committee who attended the meetings of the Staffordshire Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 8 PLANNING FOR INTEGRATED CARE HUBS** (Pages 55 - 58)
- 9 STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE FIRE AND CRIME PANEL** (Pages 59 - 64)
- 10 WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 65 - 72)
The previous Work Programme is attached for information. The Scrutiny Chairs and Scrutiny Champions will be meeting shortly to coordinate Work Programmes based on the new remits for the Scrutiny Committees.
- 11 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.

12 URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any business which is urgent within the meaning of Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members: Councillors Rupert Adcock (Vice-Chair), Lilian Barker, Jacqueline Brown, Nicholas Crisp, Sylvia Dymond, Simon Jones, Paul Northcott, Philip Reece, Lesley Richards, Ian Wilkes (Chair) and Ruth Wright

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:	Susan Beeston	Dave Jones
	Amy Bryan	Sue Moffat
	Gillian Burnett	Andrew Parker
	Joel Edginton-Plunkett	John Tagg
	Andrew Fox-Hewitt	Simon White
	Mark Holland	

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.

ON EXITING THE BUILDING, PLEASE ASSEMBLE AT THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING BY THE STATUE OF QUEEN VICTORIA. DO NOT RE-ENTER THE BUILDING UNTIL ADVISED TO DO SO.

Agenda Item 3

Health, Wellbeing & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee - 07/03/22

HEALTH, WELLBEING & PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 7th March, 2022
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

Present: Councillor Ian Wilkes (Chair)

Councillors:	Julie Cooper	Silvia Burgess	Graham Hutton
	Barry Panter	Sue Moffat	
	Mark Holland	Ruth Wright	

Apologies: Councillor(s) Bert Proctor

Substitutes: None

Officers:	Andrew Bird	Head of Sustainable Environment
	Denise French	Democratic Services Team Leader
	Joanne Halliday	Head of Commercial Delivery

Also in attendance: Councillor Gill Heesom
Portfolio Holder - Community Safety and Wellbeing

72. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bert Proctor; and Councillor Jill Waring, Portfolio Holder.

73. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

74. **MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2021 be approved as a correct record.

75. **UPDATE FROM CABINET**

There was nothing to update from Cabinet.

76. **DELIVERY OF NEWCASTLE HOUSING ADVICE SERVICE**

The Committee considered a report on the delivery of the Newcastle Housing Advice Service which had returned to an in house service from April 2021. Members were advised that key benefits including the introduction of a new Joint Housing register and Allocations Policy in partnership with Aspire Housing and availability of housing

advice at the first point of contact. There was assisted support available for those who needed it.

Members asked about accuracy of homelessness figures and whether the figures were masked by people who may be temporarily staying with friends (sofa surfing), had difficulties accessing systems or were not eligible for emergency support. The Committee was advised of the legislation; how priority needs were assessed which included people with children below the age of 18 years; and that current numbers of Rough Sleepers showed there were 9-10 which was higher than previous years. Housing Advisors gave a lot of support but it was noted that not everyone was willing to accept support. The report outlined arrangements to develop emergency and temporary accommodation; this was important as it was less likely to fail and less expensive than hotels which would be used as temporary accommodation in the absence of other options.

Resolved: that the update be noted.

[Click here to watch the debate](#)

77. HOW SERVICES HAVE MANAGED WITH WINTER PRESSURES

The Committee considered a report on how front line services had managed over winter including the additional pressures caused by the Omicron variant of Covid. Members heard that in the first week of January there was a 30% absence among the Recycling and Waste workforce alongside a 50% increased tonnage of recycling collected and a 30% increase in food waste. The service managed to continue with minimal disruption due to the usual suspension of garden waste collections and support from streetscene and agency staff. Members expressed their gratitude to staff for maintaining the services.

Resolved: that the update be noted.

[Click here to watch the debate](#)

78. SPACE PROGRAMME

At the previous meeting of the Committee, a presentation had been received from Ben Adams, Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner for Staffordshire. During the presentation Mr Adams had made reference to the Space Programme held over the summer holidays to provide activities for young people and offered to share the Evaluation report once ready; this was attached to the agenda. The Committee agreed to refer back to Mr Adams queries relating to provision for people with Special Educational Needs and whether there were any learnings or initiatives that hadn't worked well.

Resolved: that the SPACE Evaluation Report 2021 be received and the Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner be contacted regarding the provision that was made for people with Special Educational Needs and whether there were any learnings or initiatives that had not worked well.

[Click here to watch the debate](#)

79. STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE FIRE AND CRIME PANEL

The Committee considered the reports from meetings of the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel.

Resolved: that the reports be received.

80. **STAFFORDSHIRE HEALTH AND CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered the regular digest from Staffordshire County Council outlining the work of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 29 November, 13 December and 31 January.

Resolved: that the update be received.

81. **WALLEY'S QUARRY HEALTH IMPACTS**

The Committee considered the latest information regarding Walley's Quarry. A regular email was circulated by Staffordshire County Council to Members and the latest communication included reference to a consultation by the Environment Agency on its draft decision to vary two environmental permitting conditions for Walleys Quarry Landfill.

Members discussed the ongoing issues with odours from the landfill and the following points were raised:

- Concern about the unknown long term physical impacts on health
- The ongoing detrimental impact on mental health
- Concern over whether hazardous waste was being dumped at Walley's Quarry as raised by the local MP in parliament
- Whether the Posi-shell capping was effective or was it disintegrating?
- Impact on the watercourse
- Residents experiencing 'reporting fatigue' and giving up reporting odours on the official channels.
- Members were also concerned about traffic issues at the site from HGVs queuing on the highway and difficulties of reporting obstructions via 101 due to long call wait times and asked whether there could be police presence at the site.
- Members asked whether the Director of Public Health was aware of any studies looking at the long term impact of odours on health.
- Members noted that supporting the permit variation could be seen as supporting the operation whereas the view of the Council remained that the Quarry operation should be shut down and the permit withdrawn immediately.

Resolved: that the points made at the meeting be referred to the County Council in its statutory health scrutiny role and any update be made to the next meeting.

[Click here to watch the debate](#)

82. **MEETING WITH THE CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP**

Health, Wellbeing & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee - 07/03/22

The Committee considered the notes of the regular meeting with Tracey Shewan of the Clinical Commissioning Group held on 18 February 2022. The meeting had discussed the current situation with Covid; pressures at Royal Stoke Hospital and the 111 online system.

RESOLVED: that the report be received.

[Click here to watch the debate](#)

83. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Work Programme. Members suggested the next meeting could consider the topics of Dementia, Safeguarding, Emergency Planning specifically climate change and flooding as well as the regular overview of health impacts arising from Walley's Quarry.

RESOLVED: that the Work Programme be approved and items for consideration at the next meeting include Dementia, Safeguarding, Emergency Planning specifically climate change and flooding; and the regular items including Walley's Quarry health impacts.

[Click here to watch the debate](#)

84. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

85. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

86. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 23 JUNE 2022

**Councillor Ian Wilkes
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 8.02 pm

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO

Health Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee
23 June 2022

Report Title: Walley's Quarry Odour Issues

Submitted by: Chief Executive

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

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To update the committee on the latest position regarding the problematic odours in the Borough associated with Walley's Quarry.

Recommendation

That

1. The committee notes the report and the current position.

Reasons

To ensure the committee is kept updated on the ongoing work regarding the problem odours associated with Walley's Quarry.

1. Background

1.1 The committee at its meeting on 13 September 2021 considered a report from the meeting of the County Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 26 July 2021 regarding the health impacts from Walley's Quarry. The county council has the statutory power to undertake health scrutiny. This committee requested a regular update on the health impacts of Walley's Quarry. As this committee's remit now includes environment and it is the first meeting of the committee following elections it was thought appropriate to provide a detailed update on the current position with odours associated with Walley's Quarry. The latest report to Cabinet is attached.

2. Issues

2.1 The issues at Walley's Quarry are ongoing. Cabinet receives a report to each meeting on the latest position. The report that went to Cabinet on 7 June 2022 is attached to enable this committee to be updated on the current position and raise any questions.

3. Proposal

3.1 That the committee notes the report and current position.

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 . To ensure the committee is kept updated on the ongoing work regarding the problem odours associated with Walley's Quarry.

5. **Options Considered**

5.1 None

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 See attached report.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 See attached report.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 See attached report

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 See attached report.

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

10.1 See attached report

11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 This is not a key decision.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 There have been update reports to this committee regarding Walley's Quarry Health Impacts on 13 September 2021, 29 November 2021 and 7 March 2022. .

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 None

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 N/A.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO CABINET

7th June 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended note the contents of this update report.

Reasons

To ensure Cabinet is kept updated on the ongoing work regarding the problem odours associated with Walleys Quarry.

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 13th 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 3rd 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 provide 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.
- 2.6 The revised court timeline included a further hearing on 14 June to deal with any remaining disclosure issues. There are some remaining issues that the court will have to deal with at that hearing, although that is not expected to delay the overall timetable. This process will be used to finalise the expert evidence which both parties are due to exchange in September. A pre-trial review will take place on 30 September with the final hearing currently scheduled for 24 October - this is expected to take up to four weeks.
- 2.7 No agreement has been reached with Walleys Quarry Ltd to seek to resolve this matter through mediation.

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
January 2022		
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
February 2022 31/1/2 – 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
March 2022 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
April 2022 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
May 2022 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 – 28/5/22	20	81

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 until March 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 (H₂S) – 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/m³, 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

- 4.3 The data shows that whilst the frequency of incidences when the WHO annoyance threshold was exceeded reduced through the autumn of 2021, the data for 2022 to date shows a less positive picture, with WHO annoyance threshold exceedances still being a regular occurrence.
- 4.4 The Environment Agency have undertaken an evaluation of measurements at MMF9 in 6th March to 30th April 2021 compared to 6th March and 30 April 2022, with their report attached as Appendix 1. This shows that whilst the problems have not gone away, some improvement is apparent:
- Complaints/reports are down between 2021 & 2022 – 12,986 for the 2021 period, and 7849;
 - Annoyance threshold exceeded 36.4% during the 2021 period, and 20.1% for the 2022 period;
 - Average measured H2S concentrations have reduced – from 27.2 μm^3 in March/April 2021 compared to 12.4 μm^3 for the same period in 2022;
- 4.5 The Environment Agency report acknowledges that it is not possible to quantify how much of the differences between the two years in influenced by operations on site, and how much by other variables such as meteorology.
- 4.6 Whilst current monitoring data, and the recent Environment Agency report point to an improving situation. The issue is by no means abated, and odours continue to give rise to annoyance to residents. The absence of certainty about the how much of the improvement can be attributed to the Contain Capture Destroy strategy being implemented on site, and how much is seasonal variation or meteorological conditions point to the need to maintain a clear focus on securing sustainable improvement.

Environment Agency Enforcement Action

- 4.7 Since the last report to Cabinet in April 2022, the Environment Agency report that during a recent site inspection by their Officers, including observation of waste being received, one load was rejected, and plasterboard identified in another incoming load was removed.
- 4.8 EA have advised that their officers have been regularly on site as part of regulatory work to ensure effective delivery of the plan to 'contain, capture and destroy' landfill gas from the site, including site inspections. They further advise that Walleys Quarry Ltd has contractors on site carrying out permanent capping works. So far 6,000m² of the planned 26,000m² has been capped, approximately 23% of the total. The EA are monitoring the works and assess implementation of the construction plan. Waste deposits have commenced in Phase 3 following agreement of a management plan to capture the gas from that phase.
- 4.9 The average gas collection value for the last 4 weeks is 3020 m³/hr, which is substantially increased from the 2100 m³/hr collected in March of this year. 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.
- 4.10 The EA report that a survey of gas emissions shows that the gas well installation has led to a significant reduction in the escape of landfill gas from the surface and state 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.
- 4.11 On 10 May 2022 EA served a Regulation 36 Enforcement Notice requiring Walleys Quarry Ltd to improve its waste acceptance procedures, part of its written management system, by 10 June 2022. Enforcement Notices are subject to a right of appeal within two months of the date of the Notice. EA served the Enforcement Notice because it believes Walleys Quarry Ltd has breached a permit condition.
- 4.12 EA have also reported temporary monitoring interruptions at mobile monitoring facilities (MMFs) as follows:
- 4.13 *We detected an electrical fault at our air quality mobile monitoring facility MMF9 (at Galingale View) on Friday 6 May. We were unable to access the landowner's electrical supply board until the following day, when power was restored ensuring all the equipment restarted. A power interruption at MMF6 (at the fire station) was detected in the early hours of Saturday 7 May. Power was restored on Monday 09 May, when we were able to check all equipment was operating correctly. Despite this loss of some data the data capture dates remain extremely high for this monitoring study. The causes have not been established, but there has been no reoccurrence. Our officers did not identify odour when attending the MMFs. This is confirmed by the low number of odour pollution reports from the public during that time*

Consideration of further Council Action

- 4.14 A multi-agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group 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. Under the auspices of the SCG a number of "Cells" have been established to maintain momentum on regulation and enforcement,

communications, community impacts. The Council's Chief Executive chairs a Tactical Coordination Group comprising the chairs of each of the cells.

- 4.15 Cabinet has requested the creation of an additional body to provide political oversight of, and constructive challenge to, the work of the SCG. This request has been considered by the SCG and agreement has given to form such a group, with the terms of reference now being finalised.
- 4.16 At its meeting in April 2022 Cabinet 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.
- 4.17 The Council is progressing the Statutory Nuisance case in its regulatory role. Officers have previously explored the full range of legal options available to the Council and its partners. Cabinet has also asked officers to consider whether there are any other steps that could be taken to support the community in bringing about an end to the ongoing issues with odours from the site. Officers will advise Cabinet at its July meeting on whether there are any further alternative options it can take or whether it can support any action that might be taken by others.

5. **Proposal**

- 5.1 Cabinet is recommended to note the contents of this update 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.

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.

10. Financial and Resource Implications

10.1 There are none directly arising from this report.

11. Major Risks

11.1 There are no 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, 9th June 2021, 7th July 2021, 21st July 2021, 8th September 2021, 13th October 2021, 3rd November 2021, 17th November, 1st December 2021, 12th January 2022, 2nd February 2022 and 23rd February

15. List of Appendices

15.1 None

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Comparisons of Ambient Air Quality Data at MMF9 Galingale View, Silverdale

1 June 2022

We are the Environment Agency. We protect and improve the environment.

Acting to reduce the impacts of a changing climate on people and wildlife is at the heart of everything we do.

We reduce the risks to people, properties and businesses from flooding and coastal erosion.

We protect and improve the quality of water, making sure there is enough for people, businesses, agriculture and the environment. Our work helps to ensure people can enjoy the water environment through angling and navigation. We look after land quality, promote sustainable land management and help protect and enhance wildlife habitats. And we work closely with businesses to help them comply with environmental regulations.

We can't do this alone. We work with government, local councils, businesses, civil society groups and communities to make our environment a better place for people and wildlife.

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Comparisons of ambient air quality data at MMF9 Galingale View, Silverdale between the 6 March 2021 – 30 April 2021 and 6 March 2022 – 30 April 2022

1. The Environment Agency's Ambient Air Monitoring Team (AAM team) has carried out three ambient air monitoring studies at various locations in Silverdale. The monitoring periods cover:
 - Study 1:** 6 July 2017 – 14 February 2018
 - Study 2:** 15 January 2019 – 25 June 2019
 - Study 3:** From 4 March 2021 – Ongoing
2. This document provides commentary on data collected at Galingale View (MMF9) between 6 March 2021 – 30 April 2021 and 6 March 2022 – 30 April 2022 (latest available data).
3. Caution should be exercised when comparing such a small data set of only two months as there are several variables that will have influenced the data, including activities in the local area, operational improvements on the site and meteorological conditions. Comparison of the data over a longer period would be more appropriate and reliable but this was not carried out as only the period of interest was considered.
4. We have considered hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) concentrations, wind direction, wind speed, temperature and pressure measurements and the number of odour reports. We did not have complete datasets for wind direction and wind speed for the period 06 – 16 March 2021 at MMF9.
5. Walleys Quarry Landfill Site (WQLS) is at a bearing of approximately 225° – 320° from the MMF, at 0.4km distance. This monitoring location has provided the highest H₂S concentrations during the 2021/22 monitoring study (see Figure 1 & 2).
6. In the period March-April 2021, dominant winds were from the northwest. For the same period in 2022 the dominant wind direction was from the northwest and southeast, with wind patterns following the topography of Silverdale valley. The wind was blowing from the direction of WQLS towards the MMF9 monitor (from wind sector 320° – 330°) for 44% of the time in March - April 2021 and 34% of the time in March - April 2022. Under conditions of low wind speed and temperature, higher H₂S concentrations have been observed for a wider range of wind directions. Consideration of the wind speed data shows that there was a higher frequency of low wind speeds <1m/s in March - April 2022 (see Figure 3 & 4).
7. Consideration of H₂S concentrations over the two monitoring periods shows a lower mean average concentration for March-April 2022 (27.2 µg/m³ for March-April 2021 and 12.4 µg/m³ for March- April 2022) (see Table 1 and Figure 5).
8. The data showed that the H₂S 30-minute mean concentrations were above the World Health Organisation (WHO) odour guideline of 7µg/m³ for 36.4% of the time in March - April 2021 compared to the 20.1% recorded for March - April 2022. This demonstrates a reduction in the amount of time H₂S concentrations were above the

odour guideline in March - April 2022, however we recognise that 20% is still a significant proportion of the time. The 24-hour mean H₂S concentrations were above the daily WHO health guideline of 150µg/m³ during March - April 2021 on two occasions. There were no days in March - April 2022 where H₂S concentrations were above the WHO health guideline level (see Table 1 and Figure 6).

9. The number of odour reports received by the Environment Agency was greater in March – April 2021 (12,986) compared to March – April 2022 (7,849). This represents a reduction of around 39%. The trend in the number of odour reports received often closely follows the trend in the number of daily mean H₂S concentrations (see Table 1, Figure 7 & 8).
10. Meteorological conditions have a strong influence on the H₂S concentrations measured at Silverdale. The data shows that lower temperatures with a strong undulation between daytime and night-time temperatures, accompanied by low wind speeds, resulted in elevated H₂S concentrations in late March and April 2021. These meteorological conditions occurred earlier in 2022, in late February and March of, resulting in an elevation in H₂S concentrations in March 2022 (see Figures 9 – 11).
11. The H₂S data measured at Galingale View (MMF9) shows lower H₂S concentrations between 6 March 2022 – 30 April 2022 compared to those measured between 6 March 2021 – 30 April 2021.
12. It is not possible to quantify how much the differences in H₂S concentrations between the two years is influenced by the operational improvements implemented at WQLS and other variables such as meteorology, which also have a strong influence on the concentrations measured.

Data Warning -

It is important to note that all this data, is rectified data. This means it has been subjected to some quality assurance checking and calibrations, but it is not final data.

The rectified data should not be relied solely upon to make regulatory or health decisions or public statements as it may change significantly once it goes through the final quality assurance checking and calibration process.

We strongly recommend that this document is considered in conjunction with all previously published Environment Agency air quality data and UKHSA's monthly health risk assessment data to give a more complete picture of the environmental and health issues in the local area.

Copies of these documents can be obtained from the Citizen Space website here -

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/walleys-quarry-landfill-silverdale>

Figure 1: Map of MMF9 Monitoring Location

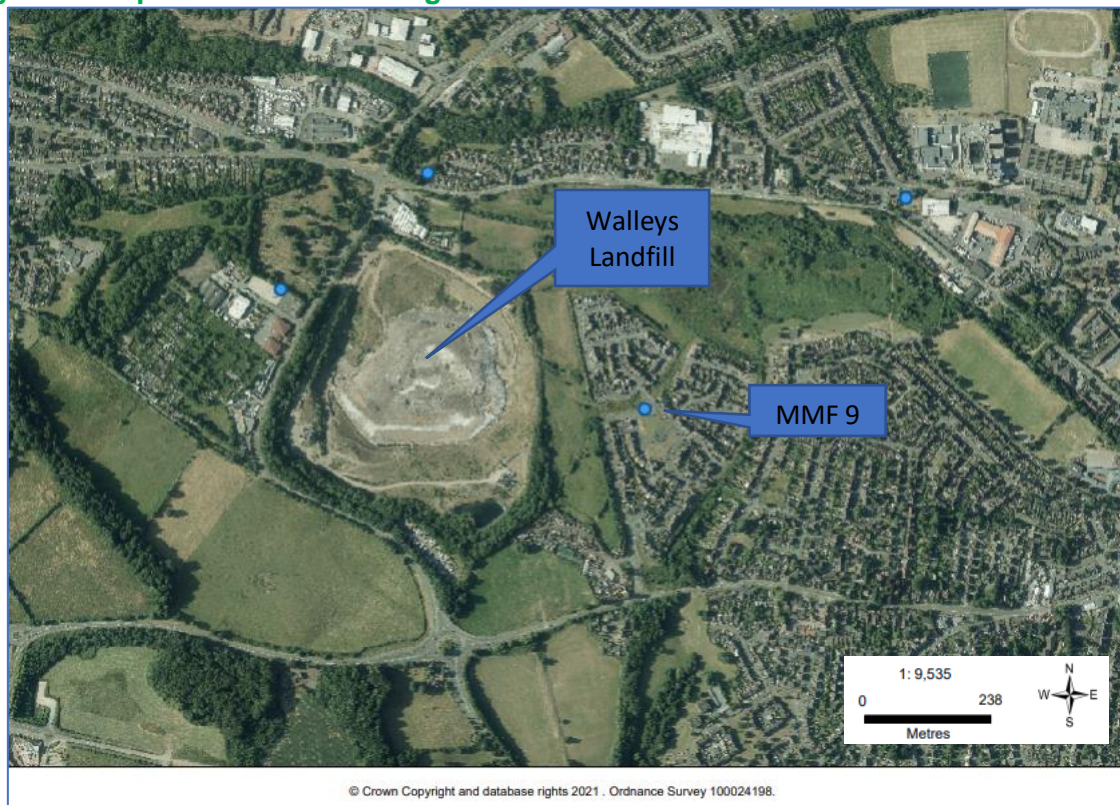


Figure 2: Picture of MMF9 Monitoring Location



Figure 3: MMF9 Wind Frequency Roses (from 5-minute values)

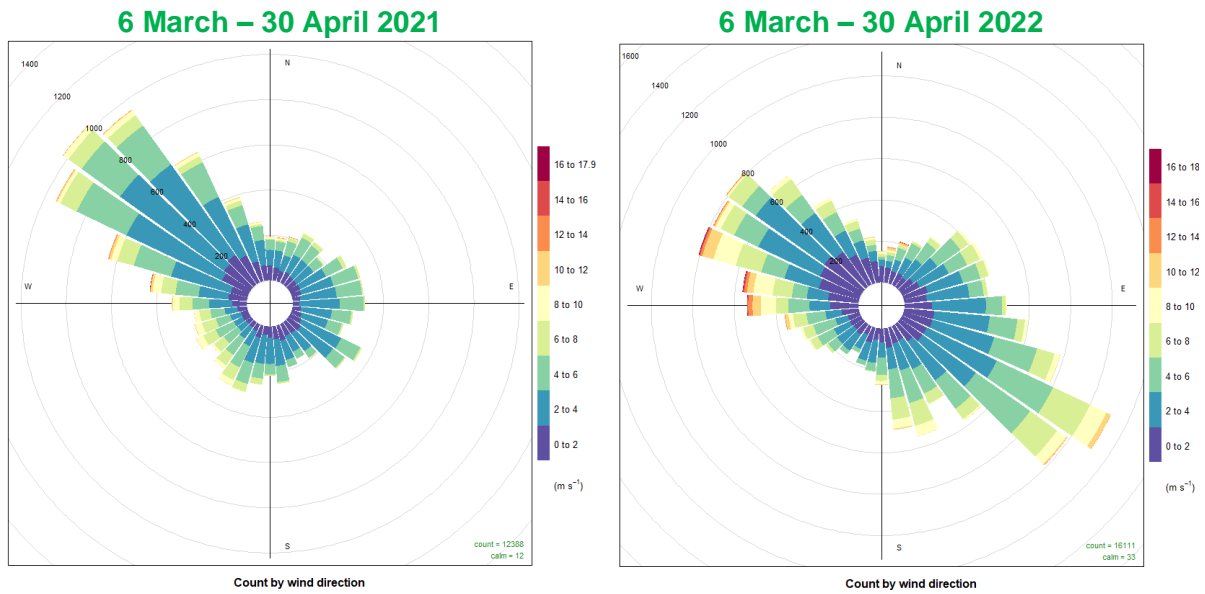


Figure 4: MMF9 Polar plots of wind frequency and speed for 10° sectors (from 5-minute values)

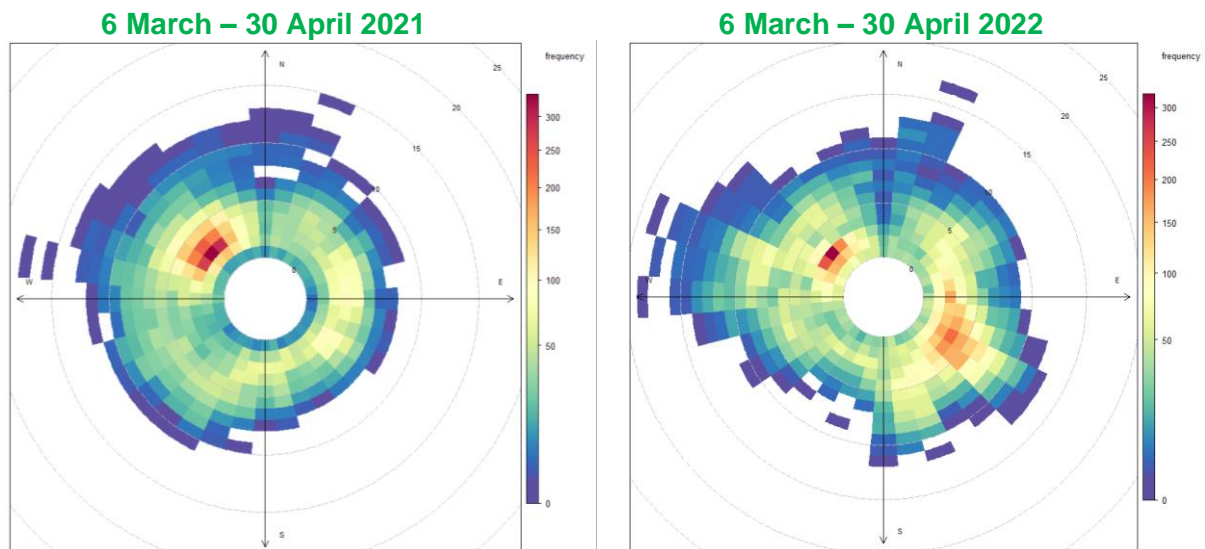


Table 1: Consideration of H₂S concentrations for 6 March 2021 – 30 April 2021 and 6 March 2022 – 30 April 2022.

H ₂ S concentrations		
	6 March – 30 April 2021	6 March – 30 April 2022
Mean	27.2	12.4
Maximum	1350.9	1197.5
99th%ile	383.5	213.0
95th%ile	136.8	67.8
75th%ile	15.7	2.9
50th%ile	2.4	0.9
25th%ile	1.4	0.6
Minimum	0.08	0.02
24-hour maximum	199.0	54.7
Number of 30-minute H ₂ S mean values > WHO odour guideline (7µg/m ³)	36.4%	20.1%
Number of days above the WHO H ₂ S health guideline value (150 µg/m ³)	2	0
Number of odour reports	12986	7849

Figure 5: Time series of 24-hour (midnight-midnight) mean H₂S concentrations

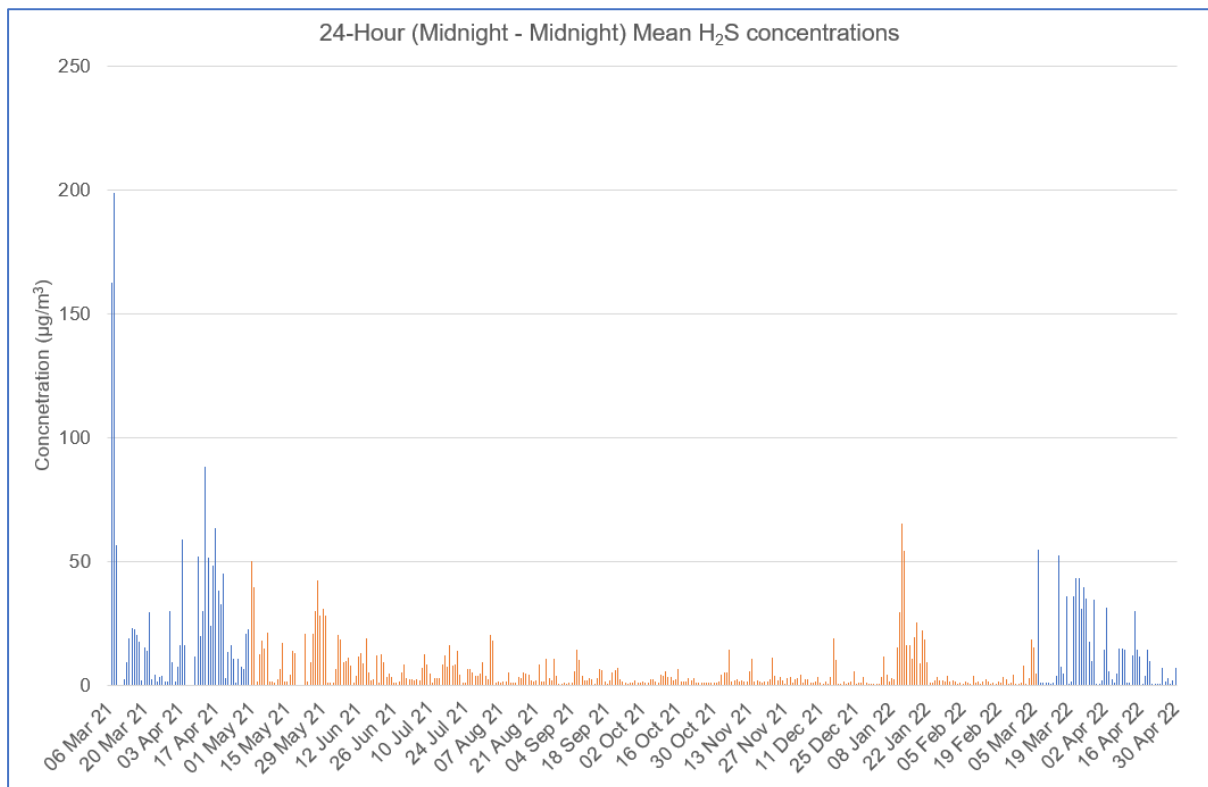


Figure 6: Percentage of time each day that H₂S concentrations were above the 30-minute mean WHO odour guideline (7 µg/m³).

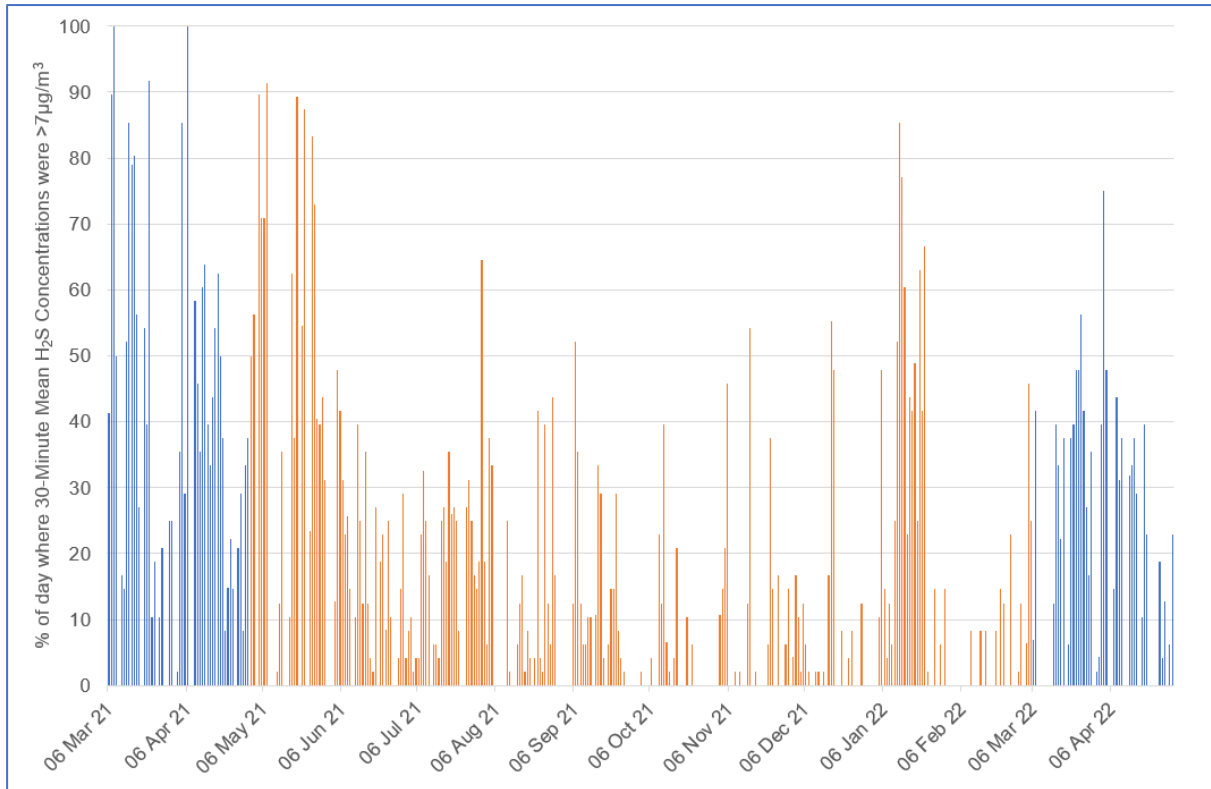


Figure 7: Daily number of odour reports for March – April 2021

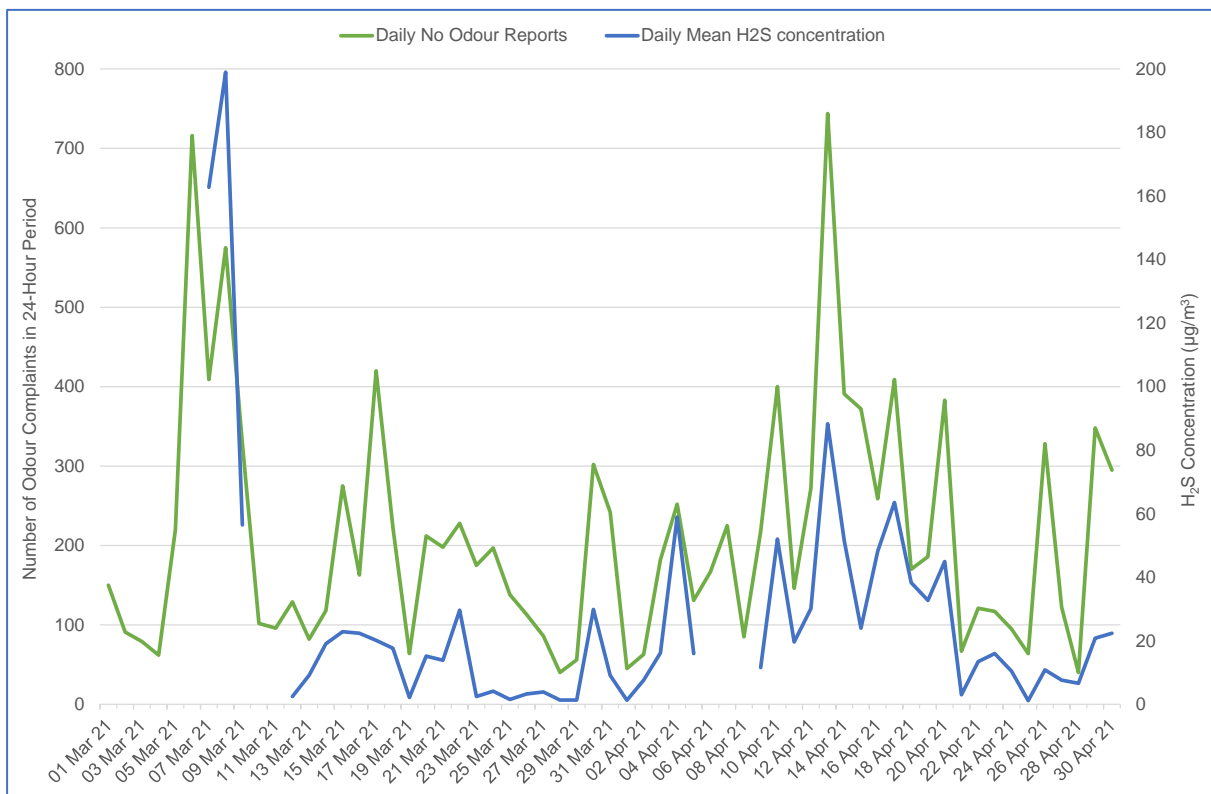


Figure 8: Daily number of odour reports for March – April 2022

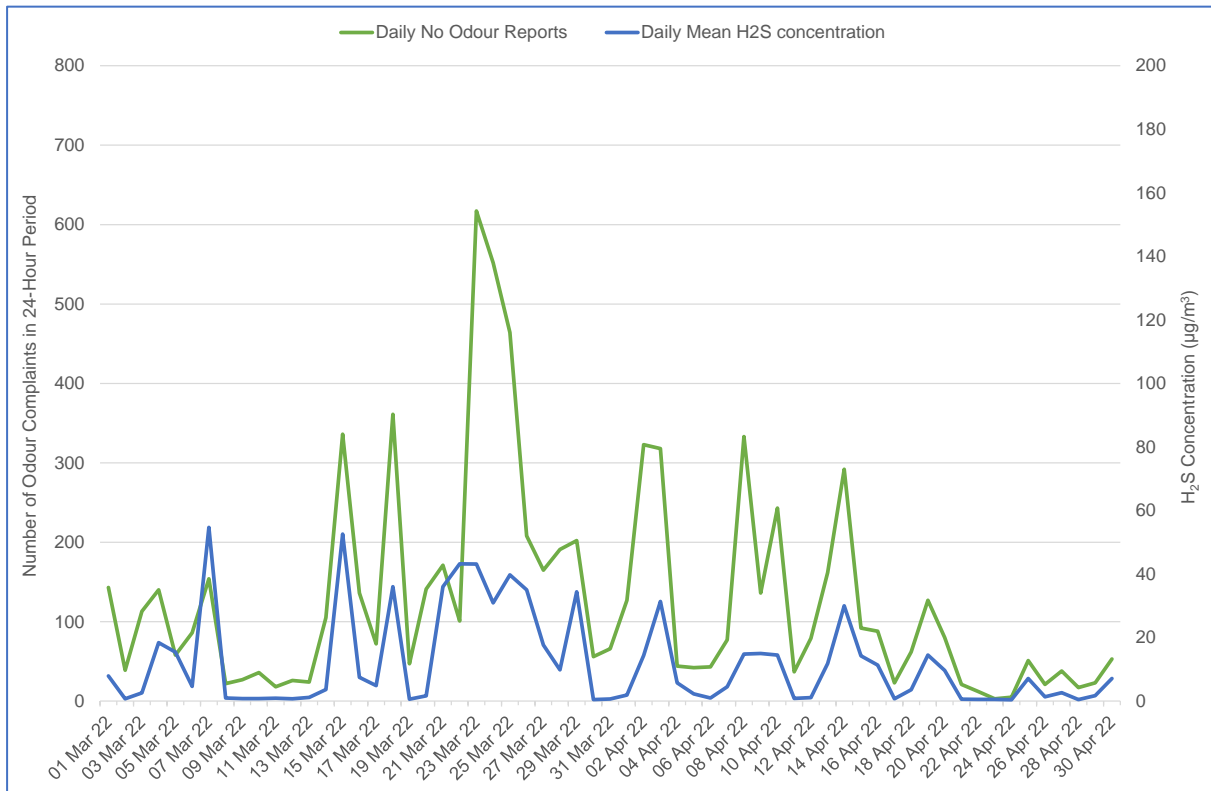


Figure 9: MMF9 scatter plots of 30-minute mean H₂S, wind speed and temperature values for week 9 - 17 of 2021 and 2022 (Monday – Sunday).

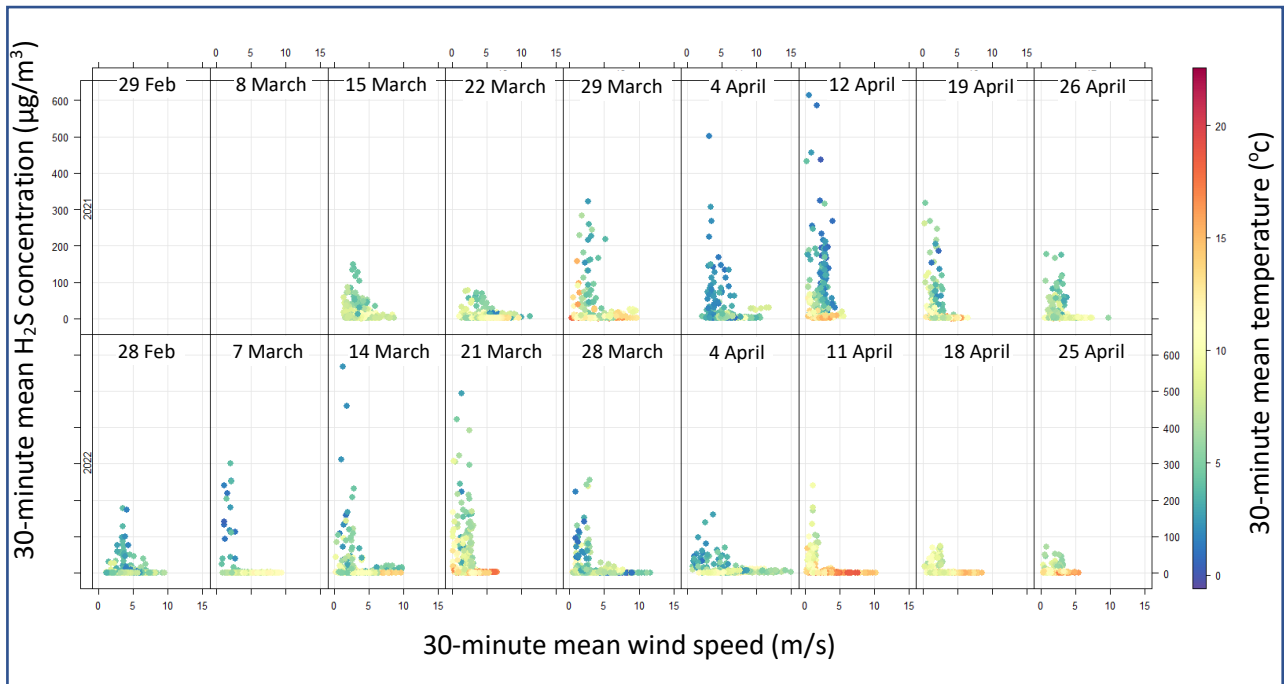


Figure 10: MMF9 30 – minute mean time series from 6 March – 30 April 2021

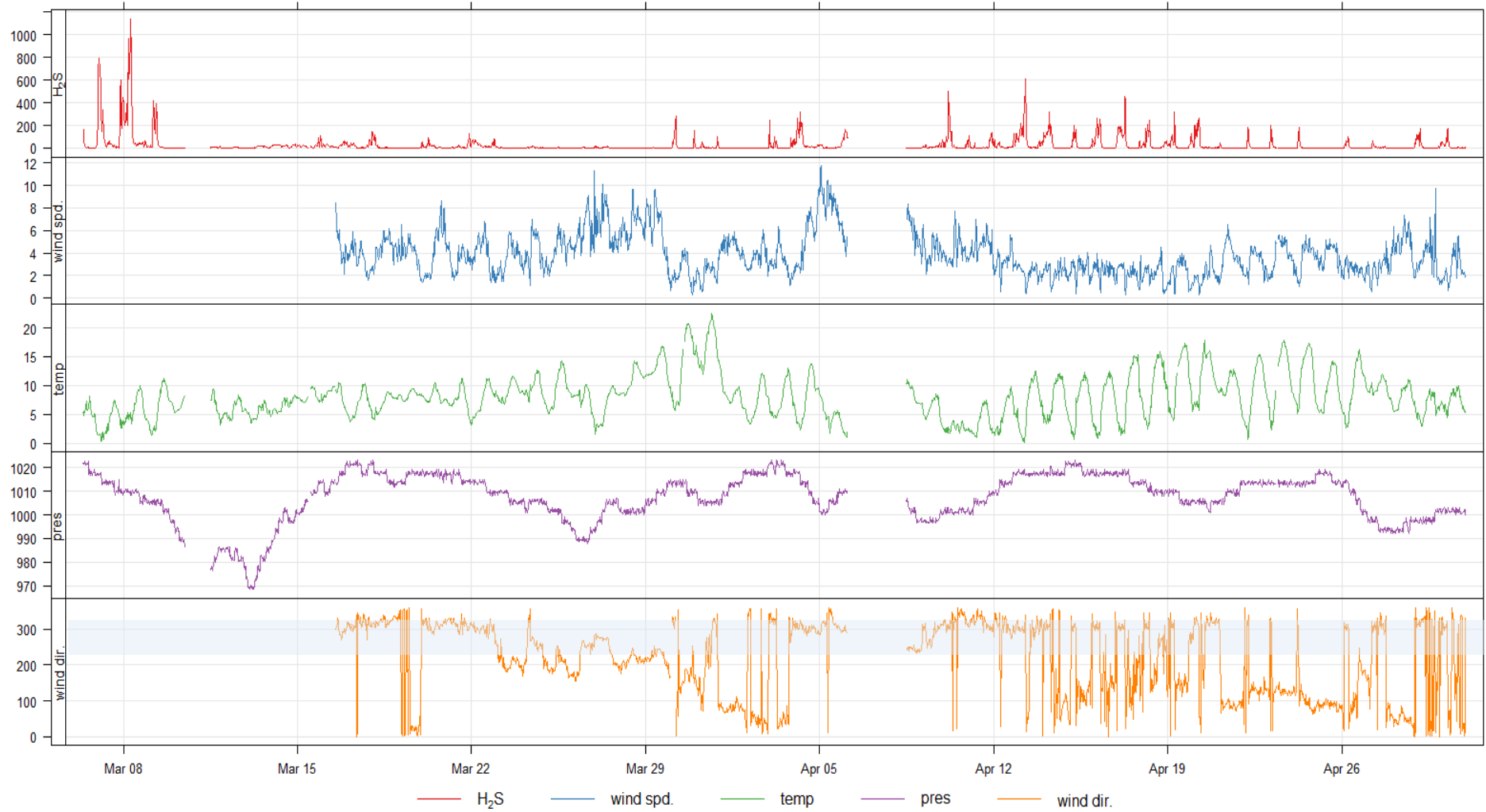
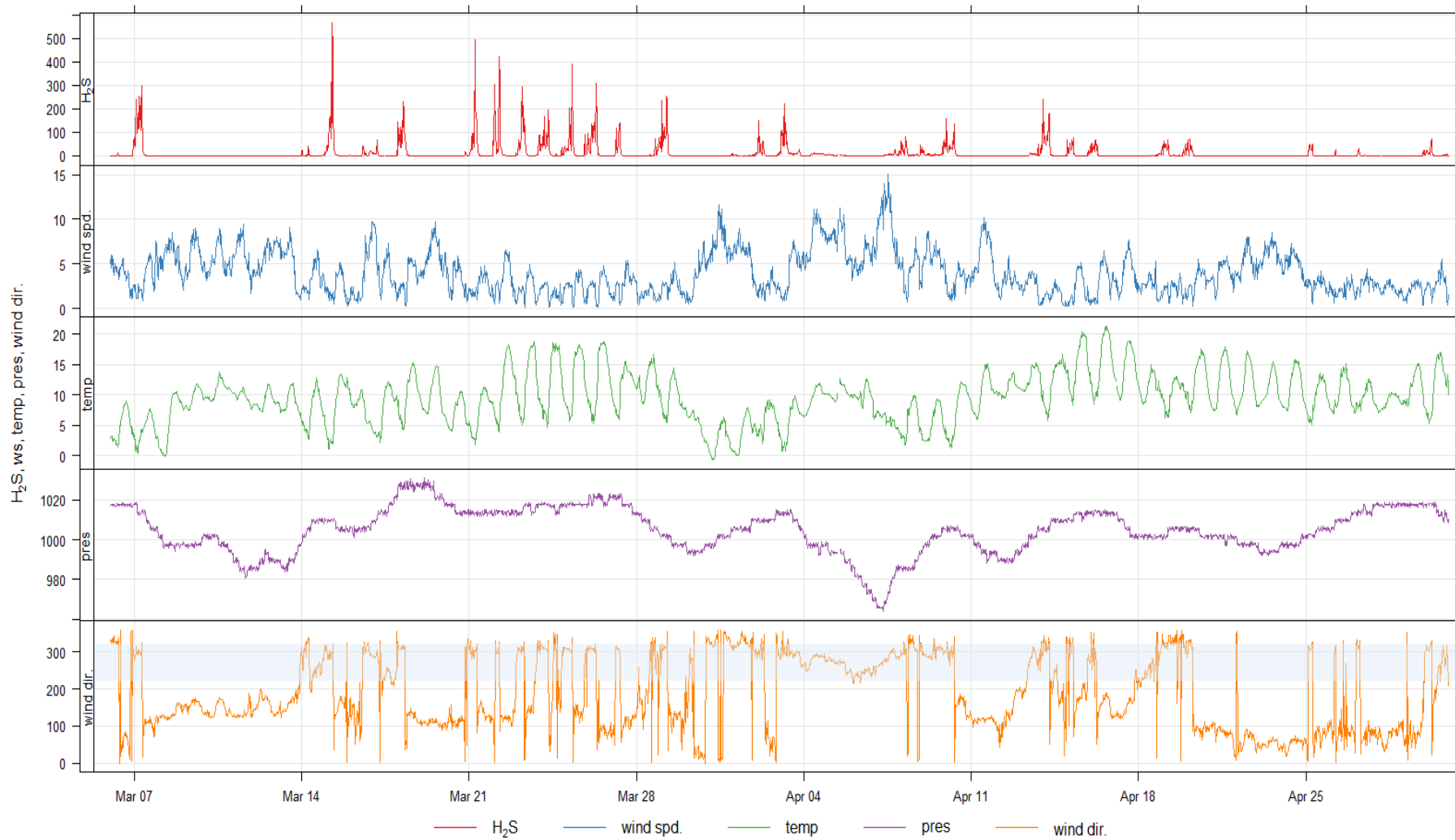


Figure 11: MMF9 30 – minute mean time series from 6 March – 30 April 2022



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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO

Health Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee
23 June 2022

Report Title: Newcastle under Lyme Sustainable Environment Strategy – Annual Report

Submitted by: Executive Director – Sustainable Environment

Portfolios: Environment & Recycling

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To provide the committee with the opportunity to scrutinise and comment upon the Sustainable Environment Strategy Annual Report and Action Plan.

Recommendation

That

1. **The committee comments on the Sustainable Environment Strategy Annual Report and Action Plan and identifies whether there are any areas for further scrutiny work.**

Reasons

To enable the committee to scrutinise the council's Sustainable Environment Strategy in accordance with its remit.

1. Background

- 1.1 The council adopted its Sustainable Environment Strategy in December 2020. Cabinet on 23 March 2022 considered the attached Annual Report and referred the report together with the Action Plan to scrutiny for comment and review.

2. Issues

- 2.1 The council is committed to the sustainable environmental future of the borough. The adopted Sustainable Environment Strategy sets out four Priority Outcomes. The Action Plan sets out progress against the Strategy and each Priority Outcome.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 That the committee comments on the Sustainable Environment Strategy Annual Report and Action Plan and identifies whether there are any areas for further scrutiny work.

4. Reasons for Proposed Solution

- 4.1 . To enable the committee to scrutinise the council's Sustainable Environment Strategy in accordance with its remit.

5. **Options Considered**

5.1 None

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 See attached report.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 See attached report.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 See attached report

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 See attached report.

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

10.1 See attached report

11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 The Strategy was a key decision and included on the Forward Plan prior to its adoption.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 There are several previous Council, Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee reports. This is the first report to this committee with its new remit.

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 See attached report.

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 See attached report.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S
REPORT TO**

Cabinet
23 March 2022

Report Title: Newcastle under Lyme Sustainable Environment Strategy – Annual Report.

Submitted by: Executive Director – Sustainable Environment and Operational Services

Portfolio/s: Environment and Recycling

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To provide Cabinet with a progress update towards achieving the aims of the Council's Sustainable Environment Strategy and linked initiatives and plans.

Recommendation

That:

1. **Cabinet notes the progress made in the various facets of the Council's Sustainable Environmental Strategy and other linked initiatives.**
2. **That Cabinet refers the progress update and 2022/2023 Action Plan to the Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee for scrutiny and comments.**

Reasons

To review progress and plans towards the aims of the Council's Sustainable Environment Strategy and linked initiatives including the Council's Nature Recovery plans, Urban Tree Planting Strategy, UN Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Emergency Plans.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council adopted its Sustainable Environment Strategy in December 2020. The Strategy is a landmark document that sets out the Council's commitment to the sustainable environmental future of the Borough and is an over-arching strategy, under which a range of other linked and related plans and initiatives sit.
- 1.2 There are 4 Priority Outcomes associated with the Strategy as follows:
 - ❖ Reduce the reliance on the use of fossil fuels.
 - ❖ Reduce carbon and other damaging emissions.
 - ❖ Minimise waste and increase recycling.
 - ❖ Offset residual carbon emissions.

2. Issues

- 2.1 The Sustainable Environment Strategy (SES) is being delivered through an action plan, which identifies a range of actions, which covers an initial 5 years period.

There are also a number of linked plans and initiatives that have been agreed and adopted by the Council as follows:

- ❖ UN Sustainable Development Goals
- ❖ Climate Emergency declaration
- ❖ Nature Recovery declaration
- ❖ Urban Tree Planting Strategy

- 2.2 An Annual Report, detailing progress, has been prepared that encompasses the above and is attached to this report as an appendix. An updated Action Plan for 2022/2023 is also appended to this report.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 Cabinet notes the progress made in the various facets of the Council's Sustainable Environmental Strategy and other linked initiatives.

- 3.2 That Cabinet refers the progress update to the Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee for scrutiny and comments.

4. Reasons for Proposed Solution

- 4.1 The Sustainable Environment Strategy sets out the Council's ambition to be an exemplar local authority in both caring for, and enhancing our environment. Adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change means changing the way we do things for the long-term benefit of the Borough.

- 4.2 To contribute to the Council's Sustainable Environment Strategy, linked plans and initiative with particular focus on its journey to net carbon zero.

5. Options Considered

- 5.1 The options considered are whether, or not, to note the report and refer the progress report to the relevant scrutiny committee for scrutiny and comment.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 has the following provisions:

- ❖ Carbon targets and carbon budgeting - The Act places the government under a legal duty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050
- ❖ The Committee on Climate Change - The Act also establishes the Committee on Climate Change, an independent, expert body to advise government on the appropriate level for the targets, budgets, and on matters relating to mitigation and adaptation. The Committee will submit annual reports to parliament on progress towards the targets and the government must respond to this report.

- 6.2 Councils Duty to reduce carbon emissions - There are currently no statutory requirements for local authorities to set or negotiate targets to reduce their own or area wide emissions.
- 6.3 In 2020/2021, the Council reduced carbon emissions associated with its operations by 21.5% or 593 tons. It will be noted that this reduction will in part have been achieved during the Covid pandemic. Through the One Council programme, the Council is working to ensure that some of the working practices utilised during the pandemic are built into the Councils core business model.
- 6.4 All Local Authorities also have a “biodiversity duty” under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 There are no adverse equality impact identified as a consequence of this report. Specific actions contained within the proposed Action Plan will need to consider any equality impacts on a project by project basis.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 8.1 There are no financial and resource implications arising directly from this report.
- 8.2 However, the Council has formally recognised a climate emergency and in doing so it acknowledges that there is a real need to act now and plan ahead in how to tackle the environmental threats posed by climate change. This need to act will require a balance to be found between the prioritisation of funding for projects and the duty to be accountable for the way in which public funds are used.
- 8.3 The Council recognises that it will need to make bold decisions where there is a good business case to deliver the right outcomes for our residents and businesses that consider both financial and environmental returns for that investment.
- 8.4 To make further progress on this agenda, the 2022/2023 approved Council budget includes the provision of £100,000 within the Budget Growth Fund to enable tree planting within urban greenspaces, preparation of a roadmap to achieving a net zero Council and progress schemes and initiatives contained in the SES Action Plan.
- 8.5 External funding will play an important part in allowing projects to come forward and the work detailed earlier in this report in respect of the Community Renewal Fund is an example which needs to be followed more widely.

9. **Major Risks**

- 9.1 There are overarching risks of inaction in respect of the Council’s response to the environmental threats caused by rising carbon emissions, habitat loss, plastic pollution and poor use of dwindling natural resources.
- 9.2 As a result, Councils around the UK and Governments around the world are responding to these threats and public calls for a robust and rapid reduction and mitigation measures and have declared Climate Emergencies as well as reigniting environmental strategies with the aim of accelerating action to achieve carbon neutrality, consider how to mitigate the effects of climate change and change how resources are used.
- 9.3 There are growing expectations that Councils take a leading and decisive role in this respect and there are reputational risks to the Council in not acting positively.

- 9.4 Any risks associated with specific projects contained within the proposed Action Plan will be assessed and considered on a project-by-project basis.

10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

- 10.1 The Sustainable Environment Strategy and linked initiatives will support the realisation of the aims of UN SDG 3, 4, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15.



11. Key Decision Information

- 11.1 Approval of the report is considered a key decision as it impacts on all wards in the Borough. It has been included in the Forward Plan.

12. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

- 12.1 There are several previous Council, Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee reports.

13. List of Appendices

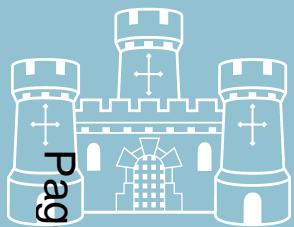
- 13.1 Appendix 1 – Sustainable Environment Strategy Progress Report

14. Background Papers

1. Urban Tree Planting Strategy
2. Sustainable Environment Strategy
3. Climate Emergency Motion
4. Natures Recovery Motion
5. UN Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

ANNUAL
REPORT
MARCH 2022



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NEWCASTLE
UNDER LYME
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Introduction by Councillor Trevor Johnson

Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling

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The Council adopted its Sustainable Environment Strategy in December 2020. The Strategy is a landmark document that sets out the Council's commitment to the sustainable environmental future of the borough.

A strategy was needed to protect the local environment and achieve wider sustainability goals for the Borough. The release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere from human activity is changing the world's climate and the planet is warming up. Rising global temperatures in the long-term will create more extreme and unpredictable weather changes, rising sea levels, severe flooding and reduced water availability, all of which pose significant risk to human health, wildlife and ecosystems.

The stated ambition for the Council is to become an exemplar authority, known for both preserving and protecting the local environment for the present and future and for enhancing the quality of life of residents.

The Strategy recognises that being more sustainable and mitigating the effects of climate change will require changing the way we do things, looking at our own services and ways of working and taking direct action wherever possible, as well as encouraging, supporting and enabling others to do the same.

The Strategy also recognises that the pace of change related to climate change and policy direction is fast as well as the development of technology and best techniques to support these changes and become more sustainable as a Borough. It will be necessary to keep the Council's plans and targets as well as progress made under review in the context of this fast developing agenda.

There are 4 Priority Outcomes associated with the Strategy as follows:

- ❖ Reduce the reliance on the use of fossil fuels.
- ❖ Reduce carbon and other damaging emissions.
- ❖ Minimise waste and increase recycling.
- ❖ Offset residual carbon emissions.

Since the Council adopted the SES a significant event in the global sustainability agenda has been the UK hosting the 26th Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP26) event in Glasgow last autumn. The COP26 summit brought parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

At the conclusion of the conference, achievements were made under the following themes:

Mitigation: secured near-global net zero commitments including commitments to move away from coal power, halt and reverse deforestation, reduce methane emissions and speed up the switch to electric vehicles.

Adaptation & Loss and Damage: Record amounts of adaptation finance have been pledged, including committing to doubling 2019 levels of adaptation finance by 2025

Finance: Reaching the climate finance goal by 2023 at the latest, stopping international support for the unabated fossil fuel energy, private financial institutions and central banks moving to realign trillions towards global net zero and developed countries committed significantly increased funding to vital funds such as the Least Developed Countries Fund

Collaboration: accelerate collaboration between governments, businesses and civil society to deliver on climate goals faster.

Sustainable Environment Strategy progress

The Sustainable Environment Strategy (SES) is being delivered through an action plan which identifies a range of actions which covers an initial 5 years period. The main focus is on actions which relate to the Councils own activities and estate. In addition there are a number of actions which benefit the wider Newcastle under Lyme Borough.

The Action Plan and ongoing progress is regularly monitored through an SES Steering Group, Chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling.

A summary of SES achievements secured to date includes:

- ✓ A range of sustainability policy principles prepared and being fed into the Newcastle Local Plan, including green energy production, electric vehicle charging points, low carbon developments and consideration of a carbon offset fund.
- ✓ Council's procurement process modified to include consideration of suppliers carbon reduction plans as a quality measure.
- ✓ Introduced a whole service change for the Councils Recycling and Waste service including separate food waste recycling and increased recycling rates and participation in the process
- ✓ Refresh of the Sustainability pages on the Councils web-site
- ✓ Green transport pilot for town centre scooters completed
- ✓ Changed to an all-electric heating solution for Clough Hall Park pavilion
- ✓ Promoted staff green travel options including travel cards, cycle loans and car sharing.

- ✓ Progressed consortium low emission taxi and public electric charger infrastructure bid for NBC owned car parks.
- ✓ Invested in route optimisation technology for the Councils recycling and waste fleet to maximise fuel efficiency.
- ✓ Invested in 3 fully electric vans for the Councils pest control and dog warden services.
- ✓ Installed energy usage data loggers in 6 council buildings to ensure energy costs are minimised.
- ✓ Completed a review of energy efficiency opportunities for Jubilee 2.
- ✓ Secured a bid to Community Renewal Fund including feasibility study for solar generation at keele, smart LED street lighting and replacement fossil fuel heating systems support.
- ✓ Developed a tree planting strategy and plans agreed for first phase of planting (see further details below)
- ✓ Switched to green tariff for electricity and plans in place to switch to green gas tariff in 2022 for all Council owned buildings.
- ✓ Completed first phase of solar thermal PV panels at Knutton Lane Depot and progressing with a further phase.
- ✓ In 2020/21 the Councils carbon emissions reduced by 21.5% (593 tons) on the previous year.

UN Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Emergency Declaration

On the 16 December 2020, the Council, passed a motion adopting the UN Sustainable Development/Global Goals. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the world's call to action on the most pressing challenges and opportunities facing humanity and the natural world.

Progress has been made in terms of embedding these goals, and the contribution the Council makes and can make towards their achievement as follows:

- ✓ Every report brought to Council and Cabinet now highlights how each report dovetails with the UN Sustainable Goals and each report now includes the symbol(s) of the goals that it looks to achieve and makes a contribution to.
- ✓ Work has also began in the mapping of which of the 17 SDG's are most relevant to the Borough, (using the LGA and UKSSD Sustainable Development Guide) and where the Council currently contributes to those goals with the intention of being able in the future to consider where the Council focuses its resources and influence to achieve a greater contribution.

Climate Emergency declaration

In April 2019, the Borough Council passed a motion declaring a climate emergency. The motion contained a number of elements and the following positive progress has been made against these and in particular in strategic development:

- ✓ At the last Cabinet meeting the formation and participation in a new Staffordshire Leaders Board was agreed and the Leader of the Council was appointed as the Borough Councils representative.
- ✓ The purpose of the new Board is to ensure all Staffordshire councils work ever more closely with each other This positions the Council to better exploit a wide range of opportunities from the Governments Levelling Up

agenda and the development of a County Deal, with both climate change and waste/recycling being two explicit areas drawn out for joint working during 2022.

- ✓ A County wide Climate Matters Staffordshire Forum has been formed which the Council which is attended and supported by the Portfolio Holder and senior officers. All Staffordshire Councils take part and the Chair is an independent local person. The purpose of the Forum is to encourage and collaborate with a range of partners to drive towards a carbon neutral county.
- ✓ A Staffordshire Climate Leaders Group has been formed, consisting of partners from a range of public, private, educational and wildlife sectors. The Leader of the Council takes the leadership role on this group on behalf of the Council.
- ✓ A Staffordshire Joint Sustainability Board has been established. Chaired by the Leader of the Council in his Staffordshire County Council Cabinet Member role, and attended by the Councils Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling, this Board is set up to produce a Staffordshire Joint Environmental Sustainability Strategy
- ✓ With input from all Staffordshire councils and a particular focus on large countywide sustainability projects that could not be achieved without this level of buy-in and collaboration.
- ✓ Achieving carbon neutrality was a central element of the motion and this was subsequently considered and scrutinised by the Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee, which made a series of recommendations in this respect.

Nature Recovery Declaration

In November 2021 the Council was the first in Staffordshire to adopt a Borough Nature Recovery Declaration in Full Council, acknowledging that we are experiencing a nature crisis with 41 per cent of wild species in decline nationally and 15 per cent facing extinction.

The Declaration also recognised that:

- Nature is in long term decline
- Nature provides us with vital support systems
- A thriving natural environment underpins a healthy, happy and prosperous society.
- The impact of climate change are driving natures decline
- Many areas of the boroughs work have an impact on nature and we have responsibilities to make decisions to protect and enhance nature.

To address the nature crisis the Council acknowledged that more space should be given to wildlife, existing wildlife spaces should be expanded, existing wildlife spaces should be improved as well as improving the connectivity between wildlife spaces.

A number of actions were agreed to support this work and progress has already been made with several of these as follows:

- ✓ Discussions are taking place with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust in respect of creating a Local Nature Recovery Action Plan that will sit under the umbrella of the Councils Sustainable Environment Strategy.
- ✓ The development of a Local Habitat Map that identifies existing habitats sites, priority areas for protection, improvement and expansion is being worked on as part of the emerging Borough Local Plan.

- ✓ Appointed the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling as the designated Cabinet Lead for tackling the nature crisis and the Executive Director of Operational Services as the lead officer for co-ordinating the Councils operations in relation to local nature recovery.
- ✓ Started to integrate the targets, objectives and outcomes of the declaration with the Sustainable Environment Strategy to make sure measures to tackle climate change compliment the principles of nature recovery.
- ✓ Investing in nature-based solutions has already started with the Urban Tree Planting Strategy, (see below) with large areas of urban Council owned land being designated as urban carbon capture areas and sites for native tree planting.
- ✓ A suitable on-line sustainability-training package has been identified that includes not only nature and biodiversity but also climate change and carbon reduction elements and will be rolled out to all Council staff and Elected Members.
- ✓ Through the network of local and Countywide sustainability groups and forums, nature recovery is already being recognised as a priority for both local and regional action.

On 7th July 2021 the Cabinet approved the Urban Tree Planting Strategy which set out its approach for the management and improvement of the urban forest of Newcastle-under-Lyme. It was resolved that:

- ✓ The proposed Urban Tree Planting Strategy be approved for immediate implementation and included in the Urban Forest Strategy when the review is completed.
- ✓ That Ward Members of urban wards in the Borough and local communities be asked to propose potential sites for tree planting in their wards.
- ✓ That opportunities to work together with local organisations and landowners be pursued.
- ✓ Investigations be made into opportunities to take part in the project to plant an Urban Tree Canopy as part of the celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.
- ✓ An Urban Tree Planting Action Plan be prepared to guide tree-planting projects and link in to the Council's Sustainable Environment Strategy.
- ✓ The Action Plan represents a commitment to undertake tree planting on urban greenspaces well into the future, which will in time form a lasting legacy for future generations.
- ✓ A dedicated web page has been set up on the Council's website with information about the benefits of tree planting, details of the proposed phase 2 sites and inviting residents to let the Council know views on tree planting and any other suggestions for further nature recovery improvements.
- ✓ Tree Planting has been carried out in phase one of the Action Plan at Newchapel Recreation Ground and Sandy Lane, to coincide with National Tree week.

- ✓ A new dedicated web-site has been set-up to provide information on the planting proposals, emphasise the environmental benefits of trees in the community and allow residents to submit views on proposed tree planting sites.
- ✓ A consultation exercise has been completed for the 5 further tree planting sites included in phase 2 of the Action Plan and plans are well underway to complete this planting work.
- ✓ A further list of sites for consideration in the autumn/winter period this year has been agreed
- ✓ Cabinet have removed the 2 ha. limit to allow larger sites to be considered.
- ✓ A commitment has been made that the planting site in phases 1, 2 and 3 and future phases are designated as Urban Carbon Capture Areas in the Open Space and Green Infrastructure Strategy and considered for an appropriate designation in the developing Local Plan.
- ✓ At the time of writing this report, 17 primary schools have indicated that they will be participating in the Queens Green Canopy 2022 "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee" project, and intend to plant their trees by March 2022.
- ✓ Work is ongoing with other schools, with a view to the remainder of planting with interested schools taking place in November/December 2022.

Sustainable Environment Strategy Action Plan 2022/2023

Themes	Action	By when?
Overarching	1. The Staffordshire Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation Report has been finalised and key policy recommendations will inform policies in the Local Plan to ensure that new development will seek to mitigate the impact on climate change.	At the adoption of the Local Plan
	2. The following policy principles are likely to be taken forward in the emerging Local Plan:-	
	3- Presumption in favour of wind energy development on unconstrained areas (which will be identified on the Policies Map), subject to specific criteria on design, siting, amenity impact etc.	At the adoption of the Local Plan
	4- Electric vehicle charging points should be included in all developments' parking proposals. Where use of existing parking facilities are being utilised, contributions towards electric vehicle infrastructure is likely to be required;	At the adoption of the Local Plan
	5- Requirement that all development should be adaptable to climate change and help reduce carbon emissions by including, wherever appropriate, decentralised and renewable and low carbon sources.	At the adoption of the Local Plan
	6- Requirement on proposals for major developments to submit a sustainability statement demonstrating consideration of energy efficiency measures and low carbon technologies;	At the adoption of the Local Plan
	7- Requirement for all development and energy proposals that would generate significant surplus or waste heat should take all practicable measures to utilise that heat to meet local energy needs;	At the adoption of the Local Plan
	8- Requirement to connect into the heat network or be designed to do so where this is planned or exists, unless it can be demonstrated that there are more effective alternatives for minimising carbon emissions or such connection is impracticable;	At the adoption of the Local Plan
	9- The Report also recommends consideration of a carbon offset fund. Should the Council choose to adopt this, the level of charge set would need to be tested in a Viability Report and additional resources may be required to manage this fund.	At the adoption of the Local Plan
	10. Continuin to engage with Keele University (possible Staffordshire University) to explore what they are doing in relation to reducing carbon / becoming carbon neutral and to examine if the Council can learn anything from the work being undertaken.	2022/2023
	11. To explore if there is any national best practice examples and/or guidance to support the delivery of such work.	2022/2023
	12. Commission a base line study and roadmap plan to reach carbon neutrality for the Councils operations by 2030	2022/23
	13. Create dedicated Environmental Sustainability Officer post for intial 12 month period.	2022/2023

Reduce our reliance on Fossil Fuels	14. An Air Quality Final Business case will be considered by Cabinet for submitting to which will include a package of measures to be implemented with respect to Air Quality improvements.	2022/2023
	15. Staffordshire County Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) 2020-2030 establishes a programme of improvements for pedestrians and cyclists to include better access and improved cycle routes for the residents of the Borough.	2020-2030
	16. Promote the Council's agile working policy and Green Travel Plan, encouraging Car Sharing, Cycle Loans, and Annual Bus Travel Card for its employees to reduce CO2 from travel to work.	Ongoing
	17. A consortium bid, funded by Low Emission Taxi Infrastructure Scheme, has approved eight rapid electric vehicle charging points to be installed within the Borough. To complete the installation of electrical vehicle charging points in car parks managed by the Borough for customer usage.	2022
	18. Staffordshire County Council have developed an EV strategy for the County. The Council will use this as a basis for its borough-wide strategy. Continue to investigate further opportunities for on street parking charging points.	2022/2023
	19. To consider future amendments of policy and further consultation and adoption to the Taxi / PHV policy	2025
	20. To assess the suitability and applicability of financial support schemes from the Office of Low Emissions Vehicles grants for new vehicles / grant for second hand (loan schemes to support purchase of New and Used vehicles)	2025
	21. To assess schemes established by Local Authorities such as Birmingham / Coventry / Nottingham with respect to electrical vehicles and its associated infrastructure improvement and to incorporate learning for the Council.	2025
Reduce Emissions	22. Build on vehicle route optimisation work in recycling, waste and fleet service and extend it to other parts of the Council's operations to reduce vehicle mileage and emissions.	Ongoing
	23. To continue to provide driver CPC training and offer ECO driving aimed at Driver behaviour and well-being.	Ongoing
	24. Based on the data captured by Wi Bees Data Loggers, for utilities consumption, the Council will seek to effect behaviour changes and optimise energy usage.	2023
	25. Monitor and utilise the data from the new "e-telligent" packages of building management systems.	2022/2023

	26. To appoint an energy specialist in- house or to engage an external specialist Consultant with the remit of reducing carbon emissions across the Council's portfolio.	2022/2023
	27. To Council has appointed external consultants to assess the feasibility of deploying low carbon technologies, across the Councils landholdings and buildings.	ongoing
	28. Continue to work collaboratively with Keele University to explore new energy efficient schemes such as district network heating.	2022/2023
	29. The Council has made preliminary assessment of the type of street lighting for which the Council is responsible for, 382 lights of which only 4 are currently LED. To develop a proposal/business case to install LED to Council's owned street lighting.	2022/2023
Minimise Waste, Recycle More	30. To review what neighbouring authorities are delivering as part of their carbon reduction/carbon neutrality programme, examine if there might be benefits from a combined public sector L.A. approach.	2022/2023
	31. To engage with the Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce to understand the messages/guidance they are providing to the business sector on CO2 neutral energy tariffs.	2022/2023
	32. To explore what local medium to large size private sector organisations are doing in relation to reducing carbon / becoming carbon neutral (examine any learning from the work being undertaken).	2022/2023
Offset	33. Continue the planting of trees on Council owned land as part of the Urban Tree Planting Strategy and declare planted sites Urban Carbon Capture Areas.	2022/2023
	34. Explore the feasibility of installing a 30kw array of solar thermal-PV hybrid at south facing roofs of NULBC central Depot. Battery Solutions for the Depot. To store excess energy from the solar panels.	2022/23 2023
	35. Implement Community Renewal Fund (CRF) Bid projects for sustainable energy solutions. Including LED street lighting, community building energy efficiency and feasibility of Keele solar green energy generation.	2022/23
	36. Social Housing & Decarbonisation Fund	2022
	37. Prepare a Nature Recovery Action Plan in conjunction with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	2022/23
	38. J2 Tree Planting Scheme - to plant a tree for every new Member signed up at J2.	2022/23
	39. Progress Carbon Literacy Project	2022/2023
	40. Explore Long Life/Long Term Energy Storage opportunities	Ongoing

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Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Monday 15 March 2022
District/Borough Digest

Under the Health Scrutiny Code of Joint Working with District and Borough Councils, Authorities have undertaken to keep relevant Partners informed of their consideration of health matters having regard to the general working principle of co-operation and the need to ensure a co-ordinated Staffordshire approach. Therefore, the following is a summary of the business transacted at the meeting of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 15 March 2022 - links to Agenda and reports pack:

[Agenda for Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 15th March 2022, 10:00am - Staffordshire County Council](#)

For further detail of items considered view the webcast of the meeting following the above link.

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 15 March 2022

The Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following matters:

Walleys Quarry Landfill Site Health Implications Update

UK Health Security Agency UKHSA presented a report relating to the monthly health risk assessment of the site. The Committee considered data from January 2022 which showed further spikes in H2S levels, indicating that emissions remain uncontrolled. Residents in the immediate area continued to report foul odour and suffer from a range of symptoms. The Committee were concerned that elevated levels of hydrogen sulphide (H2S) from the landfill site continued to have detrimental impact on residents' health and mental well-being and that there was not a clear plan to resolve the problem. Committee resolved to write to Government to express concerns that the Environment Agency had not attended the meeting to respond to questions, and to request Government consider a decisive and urgent solution to the problems at Walley's Quarry Landfill Site. They agreed to receive a further report if no progress had been made in two months.

Transformation Programme Update

The Clinical Commissioning Group provided a presentation and update report relating a series of involvement activities, held in summer/autumn 2021, related to the system-wide transformation programme. Committee considered the process and the involvement activity being undertaken and planned. A report would be considered when the involvement activity was complete. A verbal update was also provided relating to the Cannock Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) an update report would be presented to 11 April 2022 meeting.

Performance Overview

The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) presented a report and dashboard to give an overview of CCG performance against key constitutional standards and targets. The report updated committee on referral to treatment times, diagnostic test waiting times, cancer waits, accident and emergency provider and general practice. The Committee understood that challenges and effects of Covid-19 had impacted on performance against national standards, and this was reflected in the dashboard. A particular challenge had been the high level of infections and staff absence across the winter months of late 2021 and early 2022. Committee noted the report and indicated it would continue to monitor performance, access to GP surgeries and it would receive a report on the backlog of elective surgeries a future committee.

Covid-19 Update

The Covid Defence Lead provided an update which detailed the current position in relation to management of Covid-19. Committee understood that the 'Living with Covid' paper announced on 21 February 2022, had made two significant changes – (1) the legal duty to isolate following a positive Covid test was replaced with guidance to limit contact from 24 Feb and (2) the intention to cease pre-public testing from 1 April 2022.

Committee understood that Covid-19 was endemic in the environment now. Committee thanked the Covid Lead for her regular updates over the duration of the pandemic and agreed to remove Covid updates from future agendas but to invite the Covid Lead to advise of any emerging situation.

Their next meeting will be held on Monday 11 April 2022 at 10.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford.

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Monday 11 April 2022
District/Borough Digest

Under the Health Scrutiny Code of Joint Working with District and Borough Councils, Authorities have undertaken to keep relevant Partners informed of their consideration of health matters having regard to the general working principle of co-operation and the need to ensure a co-ordinated Staffordshire approach. Therefore, the following is a summary of the business transacted at the meeting of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 11 April 2022 - links to Agenda and reports pack:

[Agenda for Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday 11th April 2022, 10:00am - Staffordshire County Council](#)

For further detail of items considered view the webcast of the meeting following the above link.

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 11 April 2022

The Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following matters:

Cannock Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) Update

Committee was advised that the CCG was looking to provide a step-in provider to provide services at the Cannock MIU and that they were working towards re-opening the service in June 2022.

Care Home Update

Care homes have faced a number of challenges during the Covid pandemic, and the Council has provided a range of support. Longer term the Council has a range of commissioning initiatives underway in order to achieve its strategic objectives. This report provided Overview and Scrutiny with a further update on the care home sector following the last update in January 2021. Committee considered the ongoing challenges and support to care homes, and longer-term commissioning initiatives. Changes since the last meeting included the Discretionary Fee Review, care home Covid controls being relaxed in case of outbreaks and Government guidance update on PCR and LFT tests.

NHS Approach to Climate Change

The NHS has ambitious targets to become net carbon zero by 2045 in support the UK Government commitment to be net carbon zero by 2050. This will require the NHS to adopt a wide-ranging programme of change across several areas which are in the report. The report also captures the work that has been done to date, the work currently in progress and the work that will need to be done through collaboration across partners over the coming years. The NHS will not

be able to deliver all of these measures in isolation and will require the support of, and ability to work with, a wide range of partners including Local Authorities at both upper and lower tier level. The Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care System (ICS) is required to produce an ICS Green Plan by 31st March 2022. The launch webinar event will take place in May 2022.

Spotlight Review of Sexual Harassment in Schools

Members of the Safeguarding, Health and Care and Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committees formed a spotlight review group to consider the sexual harassment in Schools. Ofsted commissioned a rapid review into the "Everyone's Invited" phenomenon, June 2020 where thousands of testimonies of victims of rape and sexual violence were posted online for all to see, a proportion were from children and young people where schools were named- these have now been anonymised. The Ofsted report was published on 10 June 2021. The most significant finding – all schools should assume that it is happening in their school and take appropriate steps.

In response to the public concern and the Ofsted Report, three of the O&S committees of Staffordshire County Council (SCC) set up the Spotlight Review, to engage with a wide range of witnesses and consider how well schools and agencies were responding. The Spotlight Review Report has been considered by all three overview and scrutiny committees which have endorsed the recommendations for them to be presented to the Cabinet Member in June 2022.

Work programme

The final stages of the Ockenden Review Report had been published. The Chairman had met with the Chief Executive Designate ICS and was assured that an initial review of maternity services against the recommendations in the Ockenden report was satisfactory. The Committee will consider the Ockenden review outcomes and update on maternity services in Staffordshire on the work programme in July or September 2022.

Their next meeting will be held on Monday 30 May 2022 at 10.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford.

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Monday 30 May 2022
District/Borough Digest

Under the Health Scrutiny Code of Joint Working with District and Borough Councils, Authorities have undertaken to keep relevant Partners informed of their consideration of health matters having regard to the general working principle of co-operation and the need to ensure a co-ordinated Staffordshire approach. Therefore, the following is a summary of the business transacted at the meeting of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 30 May 2022 - links to Agenda and reports pack:

[Agenda for Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday 30th May 2022, 10:00am - Staffordshire County Council](#)

For further detail of items considered view the webcast of the meeting following the above link.

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 30 May 2022

The Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following matters:

Elective Recovery

Committee received a briefing containing actions that are being taken in respect of elective recovery and endeavours to reduce waiting times for patients waiting for an elective procedure across the three main acute Trust providers for the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICS.

Changes to the Healthy Communities Services from April 2023

Committee received a presentation about proposals for the integrated lifestyle services, the contract for the Everyone Health specialist provider ends in March 2023. The contract includes weight management, physical activity, stop smoking, social isolation, falls prevention, and NHS health checks

Work programme

Committee considered the draft work programme and carried out work programme planning for 2022-23.

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Their next meeting will be held on Monday 11 July 2022 at 10.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford.

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO

Health Wellbeing and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
23 June 2022

Report Title: Planning for Integrated Care Hubs

Submitted by: Chief Executive

Portfolios: Community Safety and Wellbeing

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To appoint 4 Councillors to a Joint Scrutiny Working Group to engage in proposals from the Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust for Integrated Care Hubs in this Borough and Staffordshire Moorlands district.

Recommendation

That four Councillors be appointed onto a Joint Scrutiny Working Group to undertake scrutiny work on the proposals from Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust for Integrated Care Hubs.

Reasons

To respond to an invitation from Staffordshire County Council's Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to participate in joint scrutiny work.

1. **Background**

1.1 Staffordshire County Council has a statutory role to undertake health scrutiny and does this through its Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (H&COSC). On 31 January 2022 the Committee received a presentation from the Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust (MPFT) on proposals to develop Integrated Care Hubs to provide services to residents of North Staffordshire. There would be four hubs including one at Bradwell Hospital. The H&COSC has set up a Joint Scrutiny Working Group and invites this Council to appoint four Members onto the Working Group.

2. **Issues**

2.1 The proposals by MPFT to develop Integrated Care Hubs were presented to the H&COSC on 31 January 2022; in summary Care Hubs will be a single point of access to services with one referral form. There will be flexible spaces within the Hubs which can be used for a range of uses.

2.2 The background to this topic can be found in the link below to the item from the meeting of the H&COSC meeting of 31 January 2022:

<https://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/mgChooseDocPack.aspx?ID=13463>

2.3 Following the H&COSC on 31 January, an informal meeting was held between the Chairs of the H&COSC, this Committee and the relevant Committee of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. At this meeting it was agreed to set up a Working Group of Councillors, supported by officers, from the three local authorities.

2.4 It was agreed that there would be a maximum of eight Councillors (four from each District) appointed onto the Working Group. The Working Group will be a sub group of the Staffordshire Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny committee and chaired by the H&COSC Vice Chair, Councillor Richard Cox.

2.5 At least one representative from the Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust will be actively supporting the deliberations of the Working Group at each of its meetings.

2.6 Once the Working Group has been established, an initial meeting will be arranged (this will be a virtual meeting) to agree the Terms of Reference and timescales.

3. **Proposal**

3.1 Four Councillors be appointed onto a Joint Scrutiny Working Group to undertake scrutiny work on the proposals from Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust for Integrated Care Hubs.

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 To respond to the invitation from the H&COSC to participate in joint scrutiny work.

5. **Options Considered**

5.1 The council could decide not to participate which means it will have less involvement in arrangements that affect health services in the Borough.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 The Head of Legal and Governance is content that the joint scrutiny working group can be lawfully constituted as proposed.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 No issues arising

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 The financial impacts are officer time which are within existing budgets.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 N/A.

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 None.

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 None.

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 None.

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Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel Report of the Chairman of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel

To All Member Authorities

In accordance with agreed practice, I am reporting on matters dealt with by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel at its meeting on 25 April 2022.

The main items considered were:

Confirmation Hearing - Chief Executive

The Panels were required to hold a Confirmation Hearing following receipt of formal notification by the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner of his wish to appoint his preferred candidate for the post of Chief Executive.

The Panel received a presentation by the Commissioner which explained the process followed by him to recruit a new Chief Executive for the Commissioner's Office. He introduced Louise Clayton as his preferred candidate. Ms Clayton briefly summarised her career, work experience and achievements to date.

The Panel questioned Ms Clayton on various issues including her experience of managing change, delivering results, working with partners, agencies and the public and measuring performance.

Following consideration, the Panel recommended that the Commissioner proceed with the appointment of Ms Clayton as the Chief Executive Officer for Staffordshire.

Decisions published by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC). No decisions had been published on the Commissioners website since the last meeting.

Questions to the PFCC from Members of the Public. No questions were submitted in time for the meeting.

Police and Crime Plan update

The Commissioner introduced his Police and Crime update report and summarised some of the progress made in addressing his main priorities which were designed to 'Keep Staffordshire Safe'. The Commissioner reminded the Panel that the Police and Crime Plan provided the strategic direction for the force. The Commissioners priorities were:

- A flexible and responsive service
- Prevent harm and protect people
- Support victims and witnesses
- Reduce offending and reoffending
- A more effective criminal justice system

The Commissioner raised the issue of two recent HMICFRS inspection reports which had shown failings in the service. The first inspection had looked at Child protection arrangements and the second was an interim Peels inspection report which had highlighted two areas of concern. These were, effective investigations and appropriate ongoing support for victims, and the area of identifying and assessing the vulnerabilities of those who contact Staffordshire Police. The Commissioner expressed his concern and stated that this was 'not where the service want to be' and there were plans to address the issues raised.

Information on how the plans were being actioned would come to the panel as part of his Annual report in June 2022. In response to the panel's questions on how these action plans would be monitored, the Commissioner informed members that some of the actions had date requirements and some areas had previously been identified as needing improvement and so work had started to improve these. The Commissioner stated that he was comfortable that the actions needed to address the problems would not result in diverting resources away from core priorities. The Panel were reminded that the Commissioner held regular public performance meetings with the Chief Constable, and these could be observed or watched via the webcast. The agenda for the Commissioners performance meetings with the Chief Constable would be circulated to members of the Panel before each meeting for information but could also be found at [Public Meetings - Staffordshire Commissioner \(staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk\)](https://staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk)

Following the Commissioner's presentation and questions from the Panel, the following information was shared with the Panel. This was in addition to that provided in the report:

- The Chief Constables new, more localised model of policing should be in place by the end of June 2022. It was hoped that this would help to provide focus on local issues and enable the police to respond in a more timely and appropriate manner.
- The Commissioners Independent scrutiny panels and his Audit panel were now fully recruited and had started work. He hoped that these would provide good oversight and independence of specific services such as stop and search and use of force. They would also be looking at strip and search guidance and repeat episodes of anti-social behaviour, where more needed to be done together with partners. The Panels would be supported by the Commissioner's office and members were being trained appropriately dependent on their needs.
- Funding grants were now available at a local level to support anti social behaviour projects and community safety.
- Bidding for additional Safer Streets funding would continue with a new round of opportunities available soon.

- Drug treatment and addiction was a particularly important aspect to long term reoffending and would be considered by the Community Safety Forum.
- Working with the Criminal Justice system, particularly the Probation service and the NHS would continue. It was reported that the use of Alcohol or drug treatment orders was being looked at to help quicken access to services.
- There was also research taking place to look at what works in reducing reoffending in various age groups, particularly helping mature offenders into employment. PSHE co-ordinators were also working in schools to help develop the PSHE curriculum to meet the needs of young people.
- The number of children going missing was a concern. The numbers going missing from either their home or a care setting would be provided to the panel.
- There was an Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Delivery Group whose aim was to look at repeat incidents and help to tackle them at a local level. It was explained that this may lead to additional work short term but should lead to longer term gain.
- A working group had been established by the Commissioner to uniform the requirements for a 'Community Trigger' which currently was different in each local authority area.
- County Councillors were the appropriate contact point for replacement or road signs.
- Work with the NHS on prisoner mental health was continuing.
- The working of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was being reviewed with regard to the way information was shared between partners. Information on this piece of work would be shared with the appropriate panel/scrutiny committee.
- The potential use of Naloxone nasal spray to treat overdose victims would be reported back to the panel.
- The Chief Constable's new delivery model was more traditional than the current system with more local hubs. It was reported that this should not cost more but should deliver a more focused neighbourhood focused policing.
- The Chief Constable was keen to learn of the public's experience of policing and this should highlight any areas where officers were not confident in the way they respond to situations.
- The location of justice centres was not considered to be an issue, but there was more work taking place to establish why people didn't attend court or withdraw 'dropped out' from prosecutions at very short notice which resulted in wasted time and resources.
- Community Safety Strategic Partnerships are a statutory duty. Portfolio holders would normally be the lead members and questions could be channelled through them.

- The Commissioner’s new Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Strategic Board would meet three times a year. Again, the lead member would normally be the portfolio holder.
- There was no extra financial support from the Home Office or Central Government to deal with the recent and ant future public protests surrounding the HS2 developments.

The Deputy Commissioner briefly updated the panel on road safety issues and reported that sadly there had been 12 deaths so far this year compared to 18 for the whole of 2021. There were seven priority road user groups who appeared to be more at risk of accidents. These included: cyclists; newly qualified drivers; and more mature drivers. Work was ongoing to share information and educate drivers e.g. through schools and colleges and websites. Following a question on grants to support the work of the Safer Roads Partnerships, it was confirmed that there wasn’t any available funding at the moment through that partnership but there may be opportunities to bid through the Community Grants scheme.

The Panel received the report and asked for the following information:

- Information on the how the action plans to address the failings identified in the HMICFRS inspection reports be included in the Commissioners Annual Report (June 2022 panel meeting).
- The agenda for the Commissioners performance meetings with the Chief Constable be circulated to members of the Panel before the next meeting.
- The number of children going from either their home or a care setting.
- Is Naloxone nasal spray used to treat overdose victims currently in Staffordshire and if not will it be considered.

Questions to the PFCC by Panel Members - Members of the Panel questioned/sought the views of the Commissioner on the following issues and received the responses indicated:

Question	Response
At the last meeting it was reported that liaison with the Fire Service and Housing Associations throughout the County needed to be developed and would be looked at. Had this been done?	The Commissioner would provide information to the Panel.

The member for Stoke on Trent thanked the Fire and Rescue service for their response to both the fires at the Leopard Public House earlier this year and the recent fire in Trentham.	This would be passed to the Fire Service.
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Webcast can be found at [Browse meetings - Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel - Staffordshire County Council](#)

For more information on these meetings or on the Police, Fire and Crime Panel in general please contact Mandy Pattinson e mail mandy.pattinson@staffordshire.gov.uk

Details of Panel meetings are issued to contact officers in each of the District/Borough Councils in the County and Stoke-on-Trent City Council for posting on their own web sites.

Councillor Tony Holmes, Chairman for the Meeting
Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

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HEALTH, WELLBEING AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2021/22

Chair: Councillor Ian Wilkes

Vice-Chair: Councillor Julie Cooper

Members: Burgess, John Cooper, Gardner, Holland, Kearon, Moffat, Panter, Proctor, Wright

Portfolio Holders covering the Committee's remit:

Councillor Gill Heesom - Cabinet Member – Community Safety and Well Being

Councillor Jill Waring - Cabinet Member – Leisure, Culture and Heritage



The following services fall within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee:

Health and Wellbeing	Leisure Facilities (Leisure Centres etc.)
Anti-Social Behaviour	Museum and Art Gallery
CCTV	Community Recreation
Homelessness	Community Centres
Civil Contingencies / Emergency Planning	Parks and Gardens – Recreation and Leisure
Community Safety (Police and Crime Panel and Safer and Stronger Board (Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership)	Britain in Bloom
Domestic Violence Reduction	
Business Crime Reduction	

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**

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

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES
Monday 10 th September 2018	Newcastle Town Centre	To consider the Councils responsibilities, strategies, initiatives and involvement with partner agencies and including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Purple Flag Scheme • Update on the Review of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) • 'Make in Count' Scheme • Homelessness
	Emergency Planning	Scrutiny of the Boroughs preparations for the impact of Winter on the Provision of, and demand for, services. NB The remit for this Committee includes Civil Contingencies/Emergency Planning.
	Britain in Bloom	Evaluation report on the Boroughs involvement and participation in the 2018 Scheme.
	Update on Mental Health Challenge	
	Work Programme	To discuss the work programme and progress of scrutiny activity and to consider any amendment/additions to the Programme.
Monday 3 rd December 2018	Leisure Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Recreation and Leisure Strategy • Evaluation of impact and effectiveness of Educational Programmes

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kidsgrove Sports Centre – Community Group Business Plan
	SPACE Scheme	Evaluation report on effectiveness of 2018 Scheme.
	Parkinson’s Disease Feedback	Support and advice service for people with diabetes and Parkinson’s Disease. From Councillors Panter and Maxfield on their review.
	Work Programme	To discuss the work programme and progress of scrutiny activity and to consider any amendment/additions to the Programme.
	CCTV Report on options to enhance the current CCTV provision within the Borough	
	Britain in Bloom (from 10 th September meeting)	Evaluation report on the Borough’s involvement and participation in the 2018 scheme.
Monday 4 th March 2019	Consultation on the Future of Local Health Services in Northern Staffordshire	NSCCG invited to attend.
	Work being done to address the issue of monkey dust	
	Opportunities for adult learning at Brampton Museum	
	Feedback to officers on the Active Lives surveys	
Wednesday 19 th June 2019	Safeguarding	
	Work Programme	Review of the Impact of the Committee’s Work. To discuss the work programme and potential topics that Committee members would like to scrutinise over the forthcoming year.

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Monday 9 th September 2019	Dementia	Dementia friendly activities in Newcastle-under-Lyme.
Monday 2 nd December 2019	Leisure Provision	Consideration of the marketing of J2.
	SPACE Scheme Evaluation	
	Domestic Violence	An examination of the incidence of domestic violence and the impact of local initiatives. Representatives from the Commissioner's Officer and Staffordshire County Council/Stoke-on-Trent City Council invited to attend.
Monday 2 nd March 2020		Investigation of ways to encourage greater use of the parks and green spaces to encourage physical and mental wellbeing.
Monday 1 st June 2020	Emergency Planning	Specifically in relation to climate change and the impact of flooding.
Monday 14 th September 2020	Partnership working to support the town centre re-opening Homelessness, vulnerable people and rough sleepers Domestic Violence Parks and Green Spaces Scrutiny Review	To consider the work of the Borough Council and partners in making residents and visitors feel secure in the town centre; social distancing measures etc. Lessons learned in respect of changes made to the service during the pandemic Update on the service post lockdown Progress update
Monday 7 th December 2020	Covid 19 Update including impact on mental health/Town centre opening/rough sleepers and domestic violence Plans for a no-deal brexit	
Monday 1 st March 2021	Domestic Abuse update report	Requested at previous meeting

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	Tackling Faith and Race Hate project Parks and Green Spaces Scrutiny Review update	Requested at previous meeting Update on progress
7 th June 2021	Anti-Social Behaviour update Parks and Open Space Scrutiny – report Meeting with CCG - notes	Requested at a previous meeting. Final report following the conclusion of the Scrutiny Review Regular update
13 th September 2021	Walley’s Quarry health impacts Police and Crime Panel – notes from recent meetings County digest Meeting with CCG - notes)) regular items)
29 November 2021	Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner in attendance Walley’s Quarry – health impacts Police and Crime Panel – notes from recent meetings County digest Meeting with CCG - notes	Vision and priorities, working together Requested by Committee)) regular items)
7 th March 2022	Newcastle Housing Advice Service How services have managed with winter pressures	Review and update on how the service is performing now it is in-house Requested by Committee

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	Update on the SPACE programme Walley's Quarry – health impacts Police and Crime Panel – notes from recent meetings County digest Meeting with CCG - notes	Requested by the Committee)) regular items)
23 rd June 2022	Sustainable Environment Strategy Annual Report Walley's Quarry – health impacts Police and Crime Panel – notes from recent meetings County digest	Now in this committee's remit)) regular items))
<p>Suggestions for potential future items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Feedback/Monitoring reports from bodies on which the Borough Council has member representation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee -District and Borough Digest – summary of work of Committee • Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel – summary of Panel discussions (ongoing) 2. Review of SPACE provision (December 2019 Committee) 3. NHS Provision in North Staffordshire (consultation exercise anticipated in Autumn 2018) 4. Mental Health Challenge (ongoing) 5. Dementia (considered at September 2019 meetings, ongoing) 6. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) (report considered at 19th June 2019 meeting) 7. Safeguarding (report considered at 19th June 2019 meeting) 8. Domestic Violence (December 2019 committee) 9. Counter Terrorism 10. Purple Flag – 19th June 2019 11. An examination of the incidence of domestic violence and the impact of local initiatives – December 2019 		

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12. Emergency planning specifically in relation to climate change and the impact of flooding.
13. Examination of ways to encourage greater use of the parks and green spaces to encourage physical and mental wellbeing – March 2020
14. To receive a report of air quality (reported to 25th November 2019 Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee)
15. Plans for the delivery of a no deal Brexit (County Council examining this)
16. Report to a future meeting on lessons learned in respect of changes made to the vulnerability and rough sleeping services during the Coronavirus pandemic (from meeting held on 1st June 2020).
17. Review of campaigns/comms on homelessness
18. J2/museum – future plans and impact on health and wellbeing

Task/Finish Groups:

1. Use of parks and green spaces to promote physical and mental health and wellbeing – completed June 2021
2. Domestic Abuse services

8 December 2021

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