

Public Document Pack

Date of meeting Monday, 5th September, 2022
Time 7.00 pm
Venue Garden & Astley Rooms - Castle House, Barracks Road,
Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 1BL
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 Committee held on 23 June 2022.
- 4 UPDATE FROM CABINET**
- 5 NEW POLICING MODEL AND IMPACT ON THE BOROUGH**
Commander and DCI John Owen to give a brief overview and take questions from Members.
- 6 UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S NEW RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICE** (Pages 9 - 16)
This item includes a supplementary report.
- 7 WALLEYS QUARRY ODOUR ISSUES** (Pages 17 - 26)
- 8 MINUTES OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE HEALTH AND CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** (Pages 27 - 30)
To receive the digests and any feedback from members of this committee who attended the meetings of the Staffordshire Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
This item includes supplementary reports.
- 9 MEETING WITH INTEGRATED CARE BOARD** (Pages 31 - 32)
- 10 STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE FIRE AND CRIME PANEL** (Pages 33 - 36)

11 WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 37 - 40)

12 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.

13 URGENT BUSINESS

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

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 28 NOVEMBER 2022

Members: Councillors Adcock (Vice-Chair), Barker, Brown, Crisp, Dymond, S Jones, Northcott, Reece, Richards, Wilkes (Chair) and 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:	Beeston	D Jones
	Bryan	Moffat
	Burnett	Parker
	Edginton-Plunkett	J Tagg
	Fox-Hewitt	S White
	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 & Environment Scrutiny Committee - 23/06/22

HEALTH, WELLBEING & ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 23rd June, 2022
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

Present: Councillor Ian Wilkes (Chair)

Councillors: Rupert Adcock Nicholas Crisp Philip Reece
Lilian Barker Sylvia Dymond Lesley Richards
Jacqueline Brown Paul Northcott Ruth Wright

Apologies: Councillor(s) Simon Jones

Substitutes: Councillor Mark Holland (In place of Councillor Simon Jones)

Officers: David Adams Executive Director of
Sustainable Development
Andrew Bird Head of Sustainable
Environment
Denise French Democratic Services Team
Leader

Also in attendance: Councillor Gill Heesom Portfolio Holder - Community
Safety and Wellbeing
Councillor Trevor Johnson Portfolio Holder - Environment
and Recycling

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Northcott declared that he was a Cabinet Support Member for Public Health and Integrated Care on Staffordshire County Council.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2022 be agreed as a correct record.

3. **UPDATE FROM CABINET**

There was nothing to update from Cabinet.
Councillor Heesom, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing, requested that Members complete the current consultation from the Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner.

4. **WALLEY'S QUARRY ODOUR ISSUES**

The committee received an update on the odour issues at Walleys Quarry. The committee had previously been updated on the health impacts but its remit now included environment.

The report outlined the current position since the council had served an Abatement Notice on 13 October 2021 which the operator had appealed. The current timetable was set out in the report with a hearing scheduled for 24 October 2022.

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

A multi-agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group had 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. A new sub group was to be set up involving Councillors to provide political oversight. This council would be represented by the Leader of the Council. Members asked whether information discussed at the sub group would be shared with scrutiny and in response, the committee was advised that some information may need to remain confidential but other relevant information could be shared as part of a regular update.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

[Click here to watch the debate](#)

5. NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY - ANNUAL REPORT

The committee considered the Annual Report of the Sustainable Environment Strategy.

The Strategy had been adopted in December 2020 and contained 4 priority outcomes:

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

Delivery of the Strategy was through an Action Plan which set out individual actions and timescales against which progress could be measured.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions or raise issues as follows:

- Were there conflicts between council departments due to competing priorities and how were these resolved? Members were advised there could be conflicts arising from pressures of funding or land use. The council had structures in place to manage pressures including an officer working group, member strategy group and through oversight by the scrutiny committee.
- How would residents be consulted? The committee was advised that community involvement was through various means including community based groups such as the Staffordshire branch of Climate Matters. There

was information on the website including a dedicated webpage. Ward Councillors would be kept updated so they could liaise with their constituents.

- What monitoring was carried out of newly planted trees to ensure they would thrive and grow? There were various ways to help trees thrive including planting small trees in close proximity to each other to suppress weeds and ongoing monitoring through Street Scene staff while out in the localities.
- Who was responsible for planting on highway verges? In general this was the County Council as the highway authority. It was also noted that some verges were the responsibility of Aspire Housing and they had been responsible for a daisy planting scheme.

Resolved: that the update be noted.

[Click here to watch the debate](#)

6. **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 15 March, 11 April and 30 May 2022.

Resolved: that the updates be noted.

7. **PLANNING FOR INTEGRATED CARE HUBS**

The committee considered a report on proposals by the Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust to introduce Integrated Care Hubs including a Hub based at Bradwell Hospital. The Hubs would provide a single point of access to a range of services.

A Joint Scrutiny Working Group would be set up, chaired by a Staffordshire County Councillor, and 4 Borough Councillors would be invited to participate in the Working Group.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

8. **STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE FIRE AND CRIME PANEL**

The committee considered the report from the recent meeting of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel held on 25 April 2022.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

9. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The committee considered the Work Programme. Members proposed items for the next meeting on 5 September including inviting the new Police Commander to discuss the new policing model, proposals by Tri-Services to set up a hub to support mental health and a further update on Walley's Quarry. Members also suggested that an update be made to a future meeting on the Air Quality Local Plan proposals relating to the A53.

Resolved: that

Health, Wellbeing & Environment Scrutiny Committee - 23/06/22

- (a) the next meeting include an invitation to the new Police Commander, a presentation on the proposals by Tri-Services to set up a hub to support mental health and a further update on Walley's Quarry.
- (b) An item be placed on the Work Programme for November or March to consider the Air Quality proposals for the A53.

[Click here to watch the debate](#)

10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

11. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is Monday 5 September 2022 at 7.00pm.

**Councillor Ian Wilkes
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 8.11 pm

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO HEALTH WELLBEING & ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY

05 September 2022

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

Submitted by: Head of Sustainable Environment.

Portfolios: Environment and Recycling

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

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

Recommendation

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

Reasons

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

1. Background

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

2. Issues

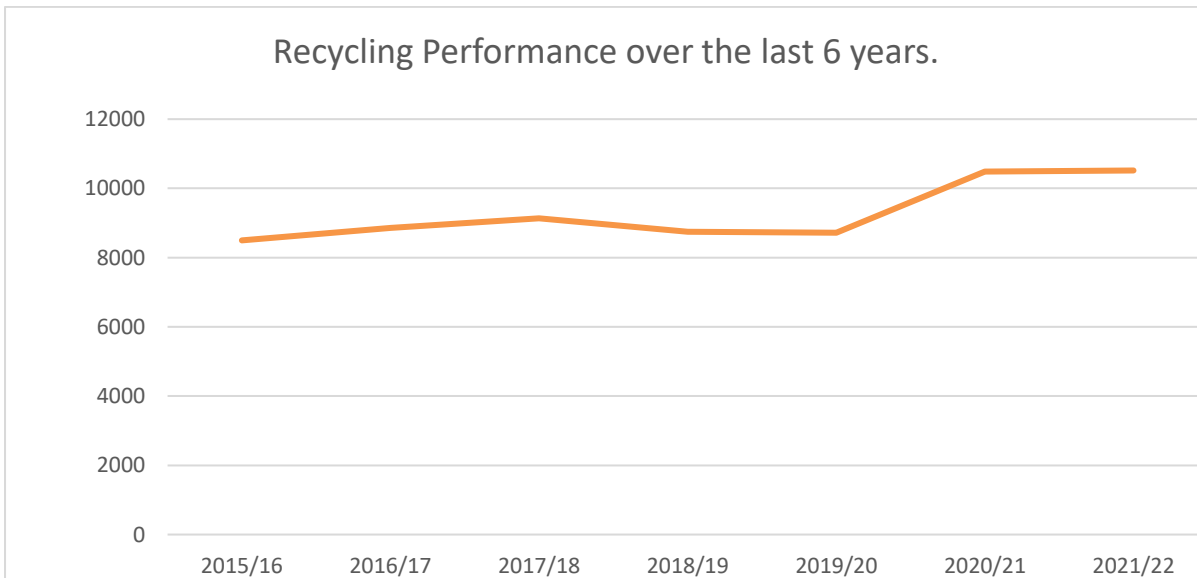
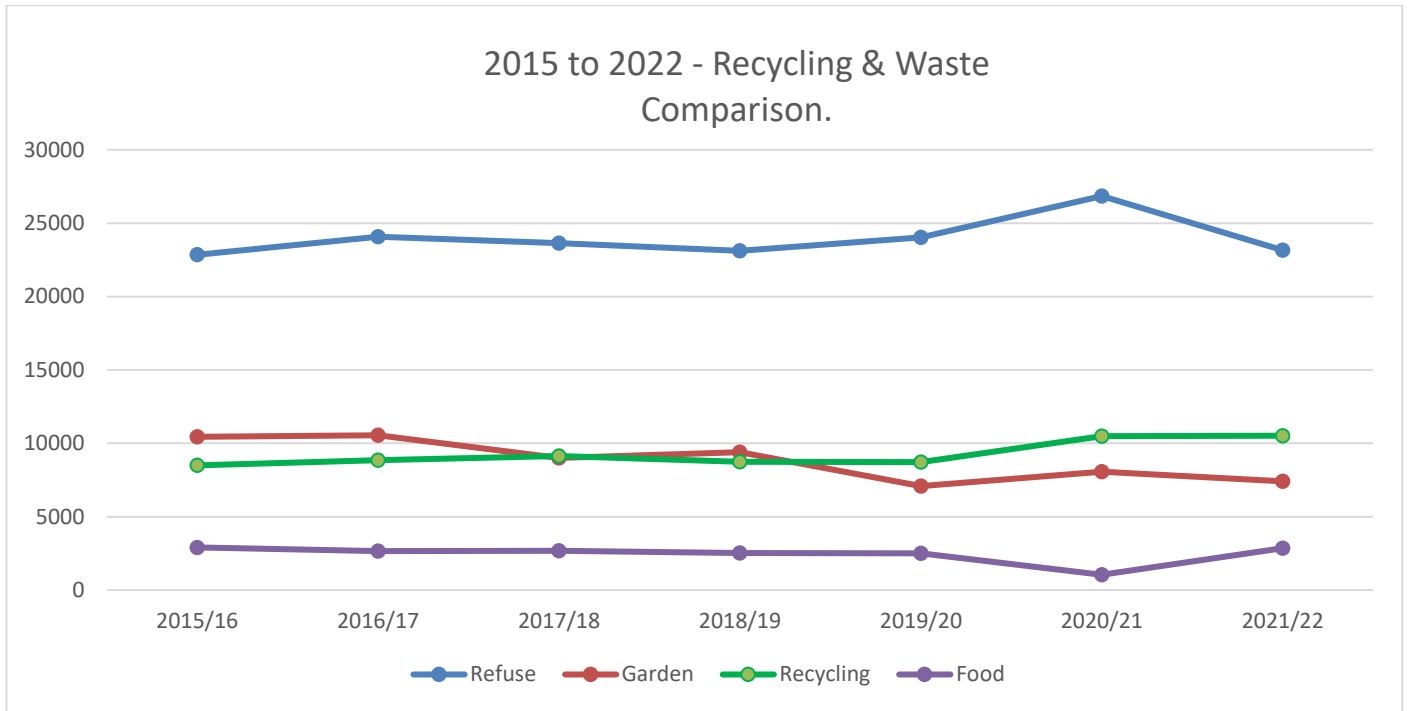
- 2.1** As well as resourcing issues, the COVID pandemic saw total waste arising's increase by over 25%, a result of people being at home, clearing things out, gardening, and buying more food and drink. This put substantial added pressure onto the collection service; however, the aim was to maintain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

3. The Service Two Years On

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

3.1 Performance

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



3.2 Collection Operations

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

3.3 Material Re-processing

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

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

3.4 Digital Transformation

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

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

4.1 Short Term

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.3 Office for Environmental Protection (OEP)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Legal and Statutory Implications

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

6. Equality Impact Assessment

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

7. **Financial and Resource Implications**

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

8. **Major Risks**

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

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

9. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

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



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

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

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

10. **List of Appendices**

None

11. **Background Papers**

None

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S
REPORT TO**

Health Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee
05 September 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 Walleys 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. The committee's remit was recently amended to include environment issues. 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 is going to Cabinet on 6 September 2022 is attached to enable this committee to be updated on the current position and raise any questions. Any verbal update will be made at the meeting.

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, 7 March 2022 and 23 June 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

6 September 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 to:

- 1. 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 and keep under review opportunities to take further action.

1. Background

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

2. Statutory Nuisance

- 2.1 Following extensive work, officers determined that the odours from the Walleys Quarry site amount to a Statutory Nuisance and, on 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.
- 2.5 A key element of the legal process is the disclosure process, through which each party provides the other with documents upon which they intend to rely during the legal proceedings. Witness Statements and reports prepared by respective experts have now been exchanged.
- 2.7 A pre-trial review will take place on 20 September with the final hearing scheduled for 24 October - this is expected to take up to four weeks.

3. Complaint Data

- 3.1 Below is a schedule of complaints received by the Council and by the Environment Agency during 2022, on a weekly basis. 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 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 – 29/5/22	20	81
June 2022 30/5/22 – 5/6/22	27	169
6/6/22 – 12/6/22	42	234
13/6/22 – 19/6/22	25	263
20/6/22 – 26/6/22	28	208
26/6/22 – 2/7/22	9	54
July 2022 3/7/22 – 9/7/22	4	34
10/7/22 – 16/7/22	14	72
17/7/22 – 23/7/22	21	52
24/7/22 – 30/7/22	12	93
August 2022 31/7/22 – 6/8/22	22	124
7/8/22 – 13/8/22	32	133

4. Air Quality Monitoring Stations

- 4.1 The Council, Staffordshire County Council, and the Environment Agency are jointly funding a campaign of air quality monitoring which has been extended to run through 2022 utilising four static air monitoring stations. Data from these stations is reviewed to provide information in relation to two standards relating to Hydrogen Sulphide (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
30/5 – 5/6	0.3	0	1.2	7.4
6/6 – 12/6	0.3	0.6	2.1	3.6
13/6 – 19/6	0	0.6	0.6	11
20/6 – 26/6	0	0.9	0.3	15.5
26/6 – 2/7	0	0	0	0
3/7 – 9/7	0	0	0	0
10/7 – 16/7	0	0	0	0.9
17/7 – 23/7	0	0	0.3	1.5
24/7 – 30/7	0	0	0.3	1.2
31/7 – 6/8	0	0	0	1.5
7/8 – 13/8	0	0	0	1.8

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

Environment Agency Enforcement Action

- 4.4 The Environment Agency has continued to provide weekly updates on their regulatory activity on the Walleys Quarry Landfill Citizens Space website. These updates reflect regular EA officer presence at the site to review progress with the Contain Capture Destroy strategy.
- 4.5 The permanent capping of Phase 1 of the site has now been completed, with this being an important aspect of the “contain” element of the strategy.

- 4.6 Additional wells to facilitate gas capture have been installed on the site and the average gas collection value for the last few months has been steady at 2900 - 3000 m³ /hr. The additional capture of gas should lead to lower emissions of landfill gas to ambient air and reduce the negative experience of odour in the community.

5. Proposal

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 and to keep under review opportunities to further action.

7. Options Considered

- 7.1 To provide regular updates to Council

8. Legal and Statutory Implications

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

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

- If the council succeeds in securing an abatement notice following any appeal process, it is then a criminal offence to breach the terms of the abatement notice. Because the site is regulated by the Environment Agency under an Environmental Permit, the council would need to obtain the consent of the Secretary of State before it is able to prosecute any offence of breaching an abatement notice.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

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

10. Financial and Resource Implications

- 10.1 There are none directly arising from this report.

11. Major Risks

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

12. Unsustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)



13. Key Decision Information

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

14. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

- 14.1 This matter has been variously considered previously by Economy, Environment & Place Scrutiny Committee, Council and Cabinet on 21 April 2021, 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, 23rd February 2022, 23rd March 2022, 20th April 2022, 7th June 2022, and 19th July 2022

15. List of Appendices

- 15.1 None

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Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Monday 11 July 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 July 2022 - links to Agenda and reports pack:

[Agenda for Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday 11th July 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 July 2022

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

Integrated Care System (ICS) and Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Committee received an update on the establishment of the ICS which included: ICB Board appointments, Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) strategy development, delivery portfolios, Place working, provider collaboratives, clinical professional leadership and 'Working with People and Communities Strategy'. Committee noted the process and highlighted the importance of communication, the need for residents to understand where the linkages are, and also the need to focus on the outcomes for residents.

Items were added to the Committee Work Programme relating to the Dentistry Service and the Working with People and Communities Strategy. Committee requested further information about targets across the system on patient flow through hospitals and links to the Working with People and Communities Strategy and how to register for the ICS information roadshow.

Primary Care Access

Committee received a report which provided context and key drivers to the current situation regarding general practice access (GP access) in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. They considered the update on progress, noted completed actions and achievements and the next steps which were outlined in the seven-point action plan relating to communications, access improvement programme (Accelerator Programme), record keeping, digital solutions, quality,

variation, and resilience, training and development, and workload initiatives. A further update will be considered in the Autumn.

Transformation Programme - Maternity Services

Committee received an update on maternity services transformation, the temporary closure of free-standing midwife-led birthing services and an update on progress against recommendations of the Donna Ockenden report about failings at Shropshire and Telford Hospital. Members welcomed the plans for communication, recruiting and retention of midwives. Further data regarding current numbers of midwives in Staffordshire would be circulated.

Healthwatch report

The Committee received a report on the structure, outline focus and approach, and progress of the Staffordshire Healthwatch (SHW) service. Support Staffordshire became the new service provider with effect from 1 April 2022. Committee noted that the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committees role was two-fold, both to scrutinise the work of the Healthwatch contract, and as a partner in terms of communication and collaboration. Staffordshire Healthwatch agreed to share performance metrics and structure for performance management approach when finalised.

The Families Health & Wellbeing (0-19) Service

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People provided a report and presentation relating to the Families' Health & Wellbeing (0-19) Service from 1st April 2024 in private session.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 1 August 2022 at 10.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford.

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Monday 1 August 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 1 August 2022 - links to Agenda and reports pack:

[Agenda for Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday 1st August 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 1 August 2022

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

Inpatient services in south east Staffordshire for adults and older adults experiencing severe mental illness or dementia

The Committee received a report and presentation – ‘Finding a long-term solution for the inpatient mental health services previously provided at the George Bryan Centre’ which provided background, context and details of the business case and process to be followed. Integrated Care Board (ICB) commissioners and Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust (MPFT) providers were in attendance to respond to members questions.

Members questioning was robust, and the responses of the professional advisors provided detailed analysis and clarity of the reasoning and process outlined in the report. ICB confirmed that no decision had been made at this stage of the process.

The Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested that comments and further information be taken into consideration in the next steps, to strengthen and clarify matters in the business case for Inpatient services when next considered by the ICB.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 19 September 2022 at 10.00 am, County Buildings, Stafford.

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Notes of the quarterly meeting held with Chair and Vice Chair of HW&E scrutiny committee and Tracey Shewan, Director of Communications and Corporate Services, Integrated Care Board.

Present: Councillors Ian Wilkes and Rupert Adcock, Denise French, Tracey Shewan ICB

Covid update

Tracey gave an update on the current situation with Covid: there had been a recent surge in cases across the UK with the current case numbers at 266.3 per 100,000 population. The current hospital bed occupancy for patients with Covid at Royal Stoke was 214 with 2 patients requiring ventilation. Staff absences due to Covid had now started to fall and was at 7% compared to the usual rate of 4%. The current Covid strain was referred to as a strain of Omicron, rather than a new name.

ONS data showed a downturn in cases across all age groups except for the 45-60 age group where cases were level.

The hospital remained busy with challenges around ambulances being stuck there due to patient flow through the hospital.

Recruitment

Recruitment was good for the ambulance service. In the West Midlands new starters would begin in an Ambulance Technician role. There was ongoing recruitment to student paramedic roles. There were difficulties in recruiting to various other roles including nurses, medical roles, midwifery and GPs. There were also challenges in recruiting to social care which added to the pressure on the hospital system.

Schemes to retire and return had been introduced for staff who had retired at 55 but wished to return to work in the NHS.

Walley's Quarry

Tracey advised that no issues had been highlighted with her at the moment regarding health issues relating to the quarry.

Vaccination Programme

The current focus for Covid vaccinations was on children and areas of deprivation although there were no wards in Newcastle under Lyme Borough requiring focus.

It was hoped that both flu and Covid vaccinations could be administered at the same time. It was intended to make the vaccines as accessible as possible and consideration was being given to vaccines being administered at pharmacies; a clinical lead was required to be at every vaccine centre. People would be invited to book their jabs. A report would be submitted to the County Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the vaccine programme in due course.

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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 27 June 2022.

The main items considered were:

Appointment of Chairman - Councillor Bernard Peters was appointed Chairman of the Panel for the ensuring year.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman - Councillor Richard Cox was appointed Vice Chairman of the Panel for the ensuring year.

Decisions published by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

(PFCC) The following decisions had been published by the Commissioner since the last Panel meeting:

1. Fire and Rescue - 001 Purchase of Fire applications – enhanced rescue pumps.
2. Police and Crime – 001 Additional capital vehicle funding.

The decision to purchase additional vehicles was not questioned but members asked if there had been an increase in cost due to inflation and if so had this meant that funding had been diverted from other budgets to pay for them? In response, the Commissioner explained that the capital reserve was reasonably strong and had covered the cost. There would be an MTFS update report to the Panel in October which would go into more detail on budgets and reserves.

Questions to the PFCC from Members of the Public - The Panel considered the questions ask by members of the public and the Commissioners written response. Neither of the members of the public were able to attend the meeting.

Commissioners Annual Report - Concern was raised firstly that the final version of the Annual report had not been received by the panel until the morning of the meeting and secondly, on the Panels ability to monitor the recent inspection report developments/ progress when the information was not published on the Commissioners web site to enable them to see progress. It was acknowledged that Chief Constables performance and action plans were normally on the website, but this had not been available to view for a number of weeks.

The Commissioner apologised for the lateness of the report. A draft had been emailed to members prior to the meeting but was not on the panels

public website. He explained that performance information would normally be available on his web site, and he would investigate the issue.

The Annual report was presented by the Commissioner who explained the progress made against his strategic plans. The recent HMICFRS inspections which had highlighted some failings in the system, had been included in the report and performance against improvements was being measured and was being made public through the Performance meetings held with the Chief Constable. [Public Meetings - Staffordshire Commissioner \(staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk/public-meetings)

The Commissioner highlighted the following from the report:

- The operating models and transformation programme would be monitored, and results evidenced. Update reports and the next Annual report would show the progress.
- Additional funds had been secured for Safer Streets and Safer Women at Night Funds.
- Clear commitment had been made through funding for Community Safety Partnerships; Victim Support Services; and services to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour; and Hate Crime Services.
- All commissioning arrangements were being reviewed.

The Commissioner thanked the Fire and Rescue and Police Services, his staff and his Deputy for their support over the past months and helping to provide services and to prepare strategies and documents such as the Annual report.

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

- The Panel wanted to see performance against other Police authorities and Key Performance Indicators available on the Commissioners web site. The Chairman informed the Panel that unfortunately this was not currently available, and this problem needed to be addressed.
- It was hoped that the new Local Policing Model, which went live on the day of this meeting, should help to increase crime prevention as officers would have less distance to travel to attend incidents. It was acknowledged that it may take up to 12 months to gather data to demonstrate effectiveness.
- Following a question on how the effectiveness of the extra funding for Safer streets would be measured, the Commissioner explained that he expected to see an increase in the night economy; an improved feeling of safety and less street crime. The Government collected data on how the funding had been spent and set targets to demonstrate how effective it had been.

- Road Safety was an important issue which affected all areas of the county. The Deputy Commissioner gave a brief update on activities under way to improve car and road safety. Helen Fisher was invited to attend the next meeting to brief the Panel on what work was taking place.
- It was felt that the performance of the Contact Centre remains a priority but didn't seem to be improving. In response, the Commissioner stated that it remained a top priority, but it was taking time to train officers; a new Chief Superintendent experienced in contact services had been appointed; the service had undergone a recent peer review; and other force areas had visited to assist with best practise among other initiatives. Improvement needed to be seen and would be reported to the Chief Constable Performance meetings and would be included in all performance reports to this Panel.
- Thanks were expressed to the Speed Watch team, for all the work they do.
- Communicating with the Commissioner's office via email had been an issue for one member and needed to be addressed.
- The panel felt that the statistics and data in the report were interesting, but they were not set in any context, so it was difficult to know if they were impressive compared to other forces or set against targets. This was comment was acknowledged.

Members of the Panel felt strongly that the public needed to be able to see the effects of the any changes made and information needed to be available on the web site.

The Panel agreed to respond formally to the Annual report including the feedback provided during the meeting, particularly relating to the Commissioners public web pages and information available to the public. The Deputy Commissioner was also invited to the next meeting to give an update on the Safer Roads scheme.

Home Office Grant 2021/22 - The Panel received the annual report which provided information on the Home Office grant allocated to the Host authority which was intended to meet the costs of the administrative support and management services of the panel. The Grant allocation for 2022/23 had not yet been received.

Annual Report on the Handling of Complaints against the Commissioner 2021/22 - The Panel received the annual report which provided information on the number of complaints referred to the panel which relate to the personal conduct of the Commissioner and/or his Deputy.

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
Would strikes by Barristers and or Court staff have an effect of the service?	The Commissioner felt that it would probably increase the backlog of cases waiting to be dealt with.
The Fire and Rescue service carry out inspections of high-rise flats. How was this being monitored to ensure they are taking place.	The results of a recent HMICFRS inspection report was due to be published within the next few weeks and this was one of the things looked at. This information would be included in the Commissioners Performance meetings with the Chief Fire Officer and would be provided to the Panel for information.

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 Bernard Peters, Chairman
Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

HEALTH, WELLBEING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2022/26

Chair: Councillor Ian Wilkes

Vice-Chair: Councillor Rupert Adcock

Members: Lilian Barker, Jacqueline Brown, Nicholas Crisp, Sylvia Dymond, Simon Jones, Paul Northcott, Philip Reece,
Lesley Richards, Ruth 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

Councillor Trevor Johnson – Environment and Recycling



This committee scrutinises policies, strategies and initiatives that are intended to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for the people who work and live in the borough. It scrutinises things such as leisure, open space and cultural provision, crime and antisocial behaviour, homelessness, health and other behaviours or environmental factors that affect health and well-being.

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
23 rd June 2022	Sustainable Environment Strategy Annual Report	Now in this committee's remit

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**

	Walley's Quarry – health impacts Police and Crime Panel Staffordshire Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee digest Integrated Care Board)) regular items))))
5 September 2022	Police Update – Commander and DCI John Owen Walley's Quarry update Recycling and Waste Services Update Police and Crime Panel Staffordshire Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee digest Integrated Care Board Air Quality Ministerial Direction	Regular update))) Regular items) Raised at Council 6 July 2022
28 November 2022	Tri-Services	
6 March 2023		
14 June 2023		
7 September 2023		
27 November 2023		
26 February 2024		
3 June 2024		
16 September 2024		

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**

25 November 2024		
3 March 2025		
12 June 2025		
15 September 2025		
24 November 2025		
9 March 2026		
25 June 2026		
Suggestions for potential future items: 1.		
Task/Finish Groups: 1. Joint Scrutiny Working Group – Integrated Care Hubs		

8 August 2022

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