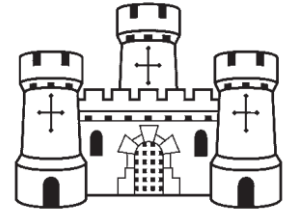


# Public Document Pack

**Date of meeting** Monday, 3rd June, 2024  
**Time** 7.00 pm  
**Venue** Astley Room - Castle  
**Contact** Geoff Durham - 742222



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

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

## Health, Wellbeing & Environment Scrutiny Committee

### AGENDA

#### OPEN AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (Pages 3 - 8)  
To consider the minutes of the last meeting of the committee.
- 4 DISTRICT AND BOROUGH HEALTH SCRUTINY ACTIVITY** (Pages 9 - 14)  
To receive feedback from members of this committee who attended the meetings of Staffordshire Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 5 WALLEYS QUARRY ODOUR ISSUES** (Pages 15 - 32)
- 6 J2 SERVICES TO REDUCE CHILD EXCESS WEIGHT** (Pages 33 - 36)
- 7 CHIEF FIRE OFFICER UPDATE** (Pages 37 - 44)  
An update will be provided by the Chief Fire Officer on the three-person crewing trial as discussed with this committee in September 2023.
- 8 WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 45 - 46)
- 9 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.
- 10 URGENT BUSINESS**  
To consider any business which is urgent within the meaning of Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

## 11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Members:** Councillors Adcock (Chair), Barker MBE, Brown, Crisp, Dymond, Northcott, Reece, Richards, Whieldon, Wilkes (Vice-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:	Bryan	Lewis
	Burnett-Faulkner	Parker
	Edginton-Plunkett	Stubbs
	Fox-Hewitt	J Tagg
	Holland	S White
	D Jones	

**If you are unable to attend this meeting and wish to appoint a Substitute to attend on your place you need to identify a Substitute member from the list above who is able to attend on your behalf**

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

**NOTE:** IF THE FIRE ALARM SOUNDS, 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 - 26/02/24*

## HEALTH, WELLBEING & ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 26th February, 2024  
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

**Present:** Councillor Ian Wilkes (Chair)

Councillors:	Adcock	Dymond	Richards
	Barker MBE	S Jones	Wright
	Brown	Northcott	
	Crisp	Reece	

Officers:	Nesta Barker	Service Director - Regulatory Services
	Andrew Bird	Service Director - Sustainable Environment
	Joanne Halliday	Service Director - Commercial Delivery
	Craig Jordan	Service Director - Planning

Also in attendance:	Councillor David Hutchison	Portfolio Holder - Sustainable Environment
	Councillor Craig Skelding	Portfolio Holder -Leisure, Culture and Heritage
	Carl Inskip-Ward	Chesterton Community Sports College School Sport Manager

1. **APOLOGIES**

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Northcott declared a non-pecuniary interest relevant to item 5 as Staffordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Public Health and Integrated Care Safeguarding.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 be agreed as accurate record.

4. **UPDATE FROM CABINET ON ITEMS RAISED BY THE COMMITTEE**

There were no updates required from Cabinet members.

**5. WALLEYS QUARRY ODOUR ISSUES**

The Service Director for Regulatory Services introduced the three reports included in the agenda pack respectively addressed to Cabinet, Full Council and this Committee.

A recent decision taken by Full Council enabled the Committee to take the necessary steps to deliver the work specified by the Council of which the creation of a Task and Finish Working Group rebranded as Committee of Inquiry and tasked to address three strands of inquiry reflecting the debate at Full Council:

- what was the impact of the ongoing odour issue;
- what needed to be done next, and by whom, to bring about resolution;
- what, if any, opportunities had been missed to resolve this issue sooner.

The Service Director for Regulatory Services went through the details provided in the report to the Committee.

Cllr Adcock expressed his support to the recommendations.

- Resolved:**
1. That a Task & Finish group be established to examine the ongoing odour issues associated with Walleys Quarry with the terms of reference and format as set out in this report and that the Chair seek permission from the other scrutiny chairs to open up membership from across all three scrutiny committees for this task and finish group;
  2. That the election of a chair and the determination of arrangements for the conduct of the inquiry, including timing, inputs, and final report preparation be delegated to a Scoping Meeting of the Task and Finish group.
  3. That a report to Cabinet and Council setting out the inquiry findings and recommendations be submitted by the Committee.

Members enquired about the practical consequences and timeframes of a closure of the site as requested by Full Council.

The Service Director for Regulatory Services clarified that a suspension notice would require steps to be taken to remove the risks of severe pollution. The notice however would only have effect as a temporary measure and the site would be re-opened once the steps had been taken. The closure notice would be a permanent measure and initiate the full closure of the site. The current permissions enabled waste to be deposited by the operator until the end of 2026, with the restoration of the site to be completed by 2042

[Watch the debate here](#)

**6. YOUTH HEALTH & WELLBEING AND PLAY PROVISION**

Chesterton Community Sports College's School Sport Manager Carl Inskip-Ward provided a presentation on the organisation of school games and junior sport competitions, as well as the management of the Sports Centre and primary swimming.

Members commented and responses were provided as follows:

### **Health, Wellbeing & Environment Scrutiny Committee - 26/02/24**

- Cllr Barker enquired about the swimming pool. – The community was allowed to hire the facilities however the accessibility was to be improved before this could be used as a public swimming pool as it was not currently DDA compliant.
- Cllr Richards asked about the 30 minutes daily of physical activity required by the Government vs the 60 minutes recommended by Sports England. – The 30 minutes were a minimum requirement and schools were free to increase it.
- Cllr Richards also wondered if any funding was coming from Sports England or the Government. – No funding was received at the moment.
- Cllr Adcock asked what was the situation now compared to pre-pandemic regarding for example swimming lessons and sports competitions. – Some schools had offered ways for children to stay active during the pandemic such as virtual competitions and activities to do at home. While fitness level had nonetheless gone down the situation had definitely improved since sport activities had resumed.
- Cllr Reece asked if Mr Inskip-Ward was getting any administrative support for his work. – There was no extra funding available meaning all aspects referred to in the presentation were managed by one person.
- Cllr Brown wished to know what age groups were included in the 30 minutes physical activity requirement and if there were transports arrangements. – The requirement did not apply to under 5's. Most schools had mini buses or would use their school sports money.
- Cllr Barker asked if primary schools contributed to swimming lessons. – Indeed they did and had to report back every year to justify the funding received.
- Cllr Brown asked if the contact details for Mr Inskip-Ward could be circulated to members to allow them to follow up with any further queries. It was agreed to do this.

[Watch the debate here](#)

#### **7. REVIEW OF THE 850 CELEBRATION YEAR**

The Service Director for Commercial Delivery provided members with information on the achievements of the 850 Celebration year.

Members commented and responses were provided as follows:

- Cllr Reece enquired about the relaunch of the Civic Society and blue plaques. – There was now a national scheme with set criteria of what was suitable for blue plaques and an open event would shortly be organised to gather interests.
- Cllr Adcock expressed his satisfaction over to the legacy of the celebration and the pride felt by residents.

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Heritage commended the report, thanking officers as well as the teams involved in the celebrations.

**Resolved:** That the achievements of the 850 Celebrations be reviewed and any comments be fed back to the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Heritage.

[Watch the debate here](#)

## **8. BIODIVERSITY AND TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment presented the Biodiversity and Tree Management Plan and accompanying report.

Members commented and responses were provided as follows:

- Cllr Brown asked about the new arboriculturist. – A new arboriculturist had indeed had just joined and would be supported by the team already in situ. The Council was in a good position considering the national skill gap.
- Cllr Reece asked if there was sufficient funding to meet the needs of the strategy. – Indeed there was at the moment. The plan was intended as a fluid document under continuous review, with other resources to be investigated going forward. A software was used to keep track of trees which all had their own reference number.
- Cllr Reece asked about trees maintained by other organisations. – The Council did not have any influence in ensuring works were carried out however this could be taken to the Sustainability Board with the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Environment.
- Cllr Dymond asked how often trees were looked at in the borough. – This was usually every two years but would depend on the inspection regime and the level of risks associated.
- Cllr Crisp asked if there were any maps available. – There were maps but not in a format that could be easily handed out to councillors. This could be looked into as part of the evolving process.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted, and any comments and / or recommendations be provided to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Environment.

[Watch the debate here](#)

## **9. DISTRICT AND BOROUGH HEALTH SCRUTINY ACTIVITY**

Members looked at the report received from the County Council Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and commented as follows:

- The Chair said that dentistry provisions were being discussed at County level and draft minutes of the January SCC Health and Care Scrutiny Committee meeting where the matter was on the agenda would be available to members in March.
- Cllr Richards referred to the earlier presentation on school games and expressed the wish for childhood obesity and leisure centres to also be discussed as such.

- Cllr Reece asked about the Health and Social Care Act and wondered about specific issues. The Chair shared his wish to see this on the work programme and it was suggested this could be raised with the County Council.
- Cllr Brown asked about housing provisions. – This had been addressed by the Housing Task and Finish Working Group and a report had been submitted to the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee in December 2023. It was requested that the report be shared with members.

**Resolved:** That the District and Borough Health Scrutiny Activity report be noted and shared with members when available.

[Watch the debate here](#)

**10. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Service Director for Planning went through the work programme and confirmed that the item on leisure centres and childhood obesity could be brought back to a future meeting. The issue of NHS dentistry provisions could be considered in light of the minutes of the County Council Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The next Committee meeting scheduled in June should feature the following items:

- an update from the Chief Fire Officer;
- Walleys Quarry as a recurring item.

Reports to future committee meetings to include in addition to the matters raised above:

- the A53/Bus Gate – Final Business Case;
- Kidsgrove Care Solutions – supporting people with learning disabilities.

**Resolved:** That the work programme be noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

**11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**12. URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved:** That the next meeting be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024.

**Councillor Ian Wilkes  
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 8.32 pm

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## **Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Monday 18 March 2024**

### **District and Borough Health Scrutiny Activity**

#### **Recommendation**

I recommend that:

1. The report be received, and consideration be given to any matters arising from the Health Scrutiny activity being undertaken by the Staffordshire District and Borough Councils, as necessary.

#### **Summary**

1. The Committee receives updates at each meeting to consider any matters arising from the Health Scrutiny activity being undertaken by the Staffordshire District and Borough Councils.

#### **Background**

2. The Health and Social Care Act 2001 confers on local authorities with social services functions powers to undertake scrutiny of health matters. The County Council currently have responsibility for social services functions but, to manage health scrutiny more effectively, they have agreed with the eight District/Borough Councils in the County to operate joint working arrangements.
3. Each District/Borough Council has a committee in which holds the remit for health and wellbeing scrutiny matters and matters that have a specifically local theme. The Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue to deal with matters that impact on the whole or large parts of the County and that require wider debate across Staffordshire.
4. District and Borough Councils each have a representative from the County Council Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a member of the relevant committee with remit for health scrutiny matters. The County Councillors will update the District and Borough Councils on matters considered by the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A summary of matters considered by this committee is circulated to District and Borough Councils for information.
5. It is anticipated that the District and Borough Councillors who are members of this committee will present the update of matters considered at the District

and Borough committees to the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6. The following is a summary of the health scrutiny activity which has been undertaken at the District/Borough Council level since the last meeting of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 November 2022.

### **Cannock Chase District Council**

The Health, Wellbeing and The Community Scrutiny Committee met on 5 December 2023

Date next meeting: 18 March 2024.

### **East Staffordshire Borough Council**

The Scrutiny Health and Well Being Committee met on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Date next meeting: 19 March 2024.

### **Lichfield District Council**

Lichfield District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 19 December 2023.

Date of next meeting: 30 January 2024.

### **Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council**

Newcastle Borough Council's Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee met on the 26 February, 2024.

The Committee received reports and considered the following matters:

- Walley's Quarry – update on Odour Issues
- Youth Health and Wellbeing and Play Provision
- A review of the 850 Celebration Year
- Biodiversity and Tree Management Plan

As regards future issues the Committee agreed to add the following matters to its Work Programme:

- Clarity on A53 Bus Gate Provision
- Kidsgrove Care solutions

- Overview of housing provision
- Leisure Centres tackling childhood obesity
- Avontier Care Centre – provision for adults/social care

## **South Staffordshire District Council**

South Staffordshire Councils Wellbeing Select Committee last met on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The following matters were considered.

### **Health Inequalities Funding**

A presentation was delivered by the Corporate Director Place & Communities and the Assistant Director Community Services (South Staffordshire Council) on Health Inequalities Funding and how this could be utilised to challenges within South Staffordshire.

District/Boroughs Councils within Staffordshire, via the Health Inequalities Directors' Group (HIDG), have been given access to funding to tackle health inequalities. The funding is via remaining Covid Outbreak Management Funding (COMF), held by Staffordshire County Council (SCC) and will be split across three approved funding streams.

- Health Care & Hardship
- Strengthening Existing Health and Wellbeing Programmes
- Housing & Health Hot Spot Areas

Should South Staffordshire Councils application be successful the funding will be open access to council teams, the voluntary and community sector and local businesses, who can apply to deliver programmes that meet the required criteria and help to reduce health inequalities within the district.

### **Healthwatch Staffordshire**

Healthwatch Staffordshire carried out a presentation updating on their work across South Staffordshire focussing on the recent round of deep dives and the key priorities for Healthwatch during 2024/25.

### **Work Programme**

The Assistant Director Community Services gave an overview of the committees work programme for the remainder of 23/24 and requested Members come forward with any additional local Health and Wellbeing issues that can be referred to the committee.

**Date of next meeting Tuesday 13 February 2024**

- Health Inequalities funding update
- Falls Prevention
- CQC

## **Stafford Borough Council**

Stafford Borough Council's Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee met on 16 January 2024. Councillor Edgeller presented the County Digest update. We had a presentation from Homes Plus which generated a question and answer session. Homes Plus own 80% of the social housing stock in the Borough and are a key partner who has a direct impact on the health and wellbeing of the Borough's residents.

The next meeting will be 31 March 2024 and will include:

- Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee update
- Performance Update for Q3
- Presentation - Disabled Facilities Grants
- Presentation - Recycling
- Presentation - Community Wellbeing Partnership

## **Staffordshire Moorlands District Council**

The Council's Health and Wellbeing Committee met on 6 December 2023.

Members received a presentation on Better Health Staffordshire and the Chair provided an update on the meeting of the Health & Care O&S Committee 13 Nov 2023, in terms of the performance of the West Midlands Ambulance Service.

The following items were suggested by members as future items for the work programme:

- Support and funding for locally based voluntary groups
- Further work on Dementia and request Approach Dementia Support to make a presentation to the Panel.

The Committee is next due to meet on 13 March 2024.

## **Tamworth Borough Council**

The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee met on 28 November 2023

Date next meeting: 23 January 2024.

### **Link to Strategic Plan**

7. Scrutiny work programmes are aligned to the ambitions and delivery of the principles, priorities, and outcomes of the Staffordshire Corporate Plan.

### **Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity**

8. The update reports provide overview of scrutiny activity across Borough and Districts, shares good practice, and highlights emerging concerns which inform work programmes for Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committees across Staffordshire.

### **List of Background Documents/Appendices:**

<b>Council</b>	<b>District/ Borough Representative on CC</b>	<b>County Council Representative on DC/BC</b>
<b>Cannock Chase</b>	Cllr David Williams	Cllr Phil Hewitt
<b>East Staffordshire</b>	Cllr Monica Holton	Cllr Philip Atkins
<b>Lichfield</b>	Cllr Leona Leung	Cllr Janice Sylvester-Hall
<b>Newcastle</b>	Cllr Ian Wilkes	Cllr Ian Wilkes
<b>South Staffordshire</b>	Cllr Val Chapman	Cllr Kath Perry
<b>Stafford BC</b>	Cllr Ann Edgeller	Cllr Ann Edgeller
<b>Staffordshire Moorlands</b>	Cllr John Jones	Cllr Keith Flunder
<b>Tamworth</b>	Cllr Chris Bain	Cllr Jason Jones

### **Contact Details**

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**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**23 April 2024**

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

**Submitted by:**            **Interim Chief Executive**

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

**Ward(s) affected:**        **All**

<p><b><u>Purpose of the Report</u></b></p> <p>To update Cabinet on the latest position regarding the problematic odours in the Borough associated with Walleys Quarry.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b><u>Key Decision Yes</u></b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b><u>No</u></b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p><b>Cabinet is recommended to:</b></p> <p>1.     <b>Note the contents of this update report.</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Reasons</u></b></p> <p>To ensure Cabinet is kept updated on the ongoing work regarding the problem odours associated with Walleys Quarry landfill.</p>	

**1.     Background**

- 1.1     For a number of years, parts of the borough have suffered from 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 (EA) 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     Following extensive work, officers determined that the odours from the Walleys Quarry site amounted to a Statutory Nuisance and, on 13 August 2021, served an Abatement Notice on Walleys Quarry Ltd. (WQL). Following an appeal by Walleys Quarry Ltd, and a successful mediation process, His Honour District Judge Grego approved the

settlement that the parties had reached and issued a court order upholding the Abatement Notice and dismissing WQL's appeal on 6 October 2022.

- 1.4 The Council continues to assess the prevalence of odours off site. If there are further instances of statutory nuisance identified which amount to a breach of the Abatement Notice, the Council's Enforcement Policy will guide the process to be followed [Reference: [Environmental Health enforcement policy – Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council \(newcastle-staffs.gov.uk\)](https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk)]. This would determine what action the Council would take, and whether that would be formal or informal. Enforcement is usually considered sequentially but should the circumstances or nature of the breach be such, escalation direct to prosecution is possible. The Council would need to obtain the consent of the Secretary of State before it is able to prosecute an offence of breaching an abatement notice, as the site is permitted by the Environment Agency.
- 1.5 Officers maintain an ongoing dialogue with Walleys Quarry Ltd, and with other agencies involved with the issue. Cabinet has received monthly updates on the issues relating to the odours, and Council has also been regularly updated.

## 2. Complaint Data

- 2.1 Below is a schedule of complaints received by the Council and by the Environment Agency over the last 3 months, on a weekly basis. Historical complaint data is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

	Complaints to NuLBC	Complaints to Environment Agency
<b>January 2024</b>		
01/01/24 - 07/01/24	236	627
08/01/24 - 14/01/24	76	268
15/01/24 - 21/01/24	270	824
22/01/24 - 28/01/24	86	261
<b>February 2024</b>	133	416
29/01/24 - 04/02/24		
05/02/24 - 11/02/24	382	905
12/02/24 - 18/02/24	186	527
19/02/24 - 25/02/24	397	1264
26/02/24 - 03/03/24	333	990
<b>March 2024</b>	217	694
04/03/24 - 10/03/24		
11/03/24 – 17/03/24	102	374
18/03/24- 24/03/24	118	330
25/03/24-31/03/24	81	254
<b>April 2024</b>		
01/04/24-07/04/24	56	220
08/04/24- 14/04/24	17	75

- 2.2 Officers highlight any odour events where 10 or more odour complaints have been recorded. There have been 20 odour events in the month of March:



- 01 March – 07 March 2024 (7 consecutive days)
- 11 March 2024
- 13 March 2024
- 15 March -16 March 2024 (2 consecutive days)
- 18 March - 21 March 2024 (4 consecutive days)
- 24 March - 27 March 2024 (4 consecutive days)
- 30 March

The highest number of complaints reported to NULBC was on Tuesday 5 March 2024 at 79 complaints.

- 2.3** The overall trend is for “spikes” in complaints when odours are prevalent.

### **NULBC Odour Assessments**

- 2.4** Officers have undertaken odour assessments. The monitoring has been reactive to odour complaints and proactive where low odour dispersion is predicted.

The type of monitoring includes spot assessments (instantaneous assessments) and assessments made over a 5-minute period where the odour intensity is recorded every 10 seconds.

3 odour assessments were undertaken on Wednesday 20 March 2024. All 3 assessments detected landfill related odour. 2 detected distinct odour (intensity rating 3) and 1 detected strong odour (intensity rating 4).

In addition, 15 spot assessments were undertaken of which 6 detected landfill related odour. 4 detected distinct odour (intensity rating 3) and 1 detected strong odour (intensity rating 4).

### **NULBC Mobile Air Quality Monitoring (using Jerome monitor)**

- 2.5** Officers have monitored the levels of hydrogen sulphide within the community using the mobile Jerome monitor. The highest level of hydrogen sulphide recorded in the community was 9.77ppb at Cemetery Road at 22:13 on 20 March 2024.

### **NULBC Actions**

- 2.6** It is disappointing to report that over this winter period there has been a continued deterioration in the odour conditions from Walleys Quarry as shown in the data reported. However, it can be seen that the data for April to date, is showing an improvement in complaint numbers and also air quality levels.
- 2.7** Officer monitoring and assessments will continue to be undertaken in April.
- 2.8** At this stage, now the rectified air quality data had been published alongside other data sources, the officer assessment is that the recent odours amount to a breach of the Abatement Notice.
- 2.9** On 8 April 2024 WQL were notified in writing that a breach of the Abatement Notice had occurred.
- 2.10** The report to Council on 10 April 2024 explains the legal options and challenges in terms of actioning a breach of the Abatement Notice. Council agreed the following:

1. Note the contents of this update report.
2. Note the breach of the Council's Abatement Notice.
3. Note that the Council has issued a letter to Walleys Quarry Ltd notifying them of the breach of the Abatement Notice.
4. Note that the Council will continue dialogue with Partners via the Strategic Coordinating Group regarding any further enforcement activities to seek to alleviate the suffering of the community.
5. Note that the Council's legal team have been instructed to prepare appropriate legal proceedings in line with the above.
6. Note the £300k Walleys Quarry Reserve to undertake the above and if additional funds are required, a separate report will be brought to Council in due course.

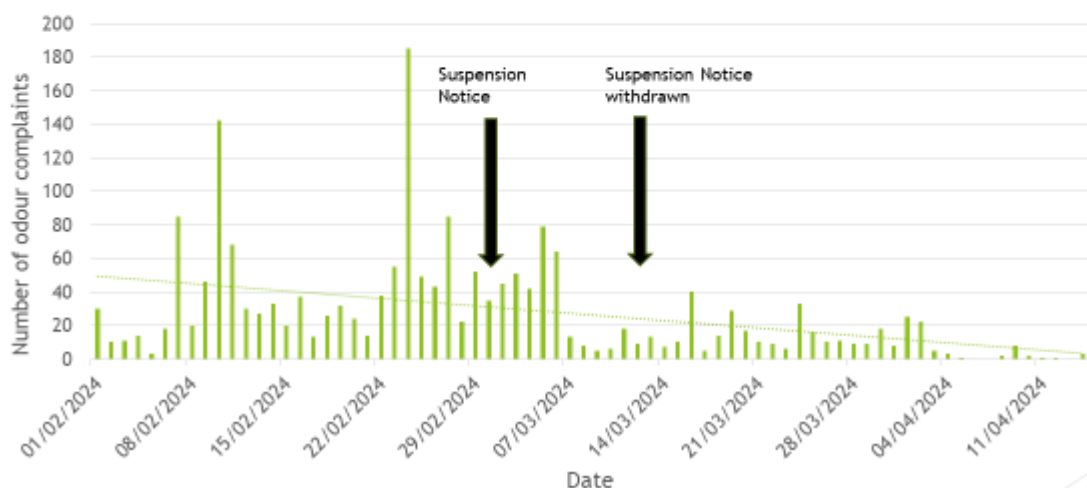
**2.11** Critically, under the law, whilst odours may exist off site at levels which could be considered a breach of the notice, that breach would be unenforceable (or a defence against creating a statutory nuisance) if the operator can show that Best Practical Means (BPM) are routinely deployed in the management of the site. Whilst the existence or not of BPM can be debated, it would be a court which would determine whether BPM was in place at the time of the breach. That said, prior to entering into any formal legal action it is necessary for the Council to formulate a view with regard to this matter, this is ongoing.

**2.12** At the core of next steps are two issues – whether the action taken by the Environment Agency as the primary enforcement agency for this site have been successful in remedying the issues; and whether a defence of BPM exists. Where either of these are assessed to be in place it would not be in the public interest for the Council to pursue this matter further.

**2.13** It should be noted that during the same period as the breach works have been completed on site to comply with the Suspension Notice. Data since the works have been completed does show an improvement, however it is too early to say whether this is coincidental, due to the works or weather.

**2.14** The graph below of NULBC Complaints shows the detailed complaint numbers in relation to the EA suspension notice.

## Odour Complaints reported to NULBC February, March & April



- 2.15** In terms of the salient points identified in the correspondence from WQL, they confirm they are operating and managing the landfill to BPM, in fact they go slightly further in saying  
“The measures deployed, representative of BPM and delivered willingly by WQL ahead of any published guidance or best practice will ensure that the capping, containment and extraction systems, methodologies and practices employed at the facility remain exemplary.”

WQL also confirm that through their investigations “Thus far, no one area has been identified as having impacted odour at the WQ boundary and its immediate environs. We will be continuing our investigations, including but not limited to, GUP performance and expert analysis.”

- 2.16** Walleys Quarry Ltd have responded to the media enquiries and a spokesperson from WQL has said:

"Walleys Quarry Ltd would urge Newcastle Borough Council to reconsider any proposed legal action. We instead ask them to discuss their concerns with us as part of our ongoing collaborative efforts to see the best outcomes for the community. We refute these allegations and should the council proceed, we will of course consider our response under the advice of our legal team”.

“WQL has made demonstrable, substantial and sustained progress in our capping programme as well as with efforts to minimise emissions from the site as we continue to use Best Practicable Means with the eventual objective of ceasing landfill operations and completing restoration onsite”.

## Scrutiny

- 2.17** With regard to Scrutiny, a report outlining a proposed approach to convening a ‘Committee of Inquiry’ was presented at Health, Wellbeing & Environment Scrutiny Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024, this can be found at [WQ Scrutiny post Council.pdf \(newcastle-staffs.gov.uk\)](#) the recommendations were endorsed. The Committee of Inquiry members have been selected and the scoping meeting has been held. A further meeting is planned for 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024.

## Air Quality & Health

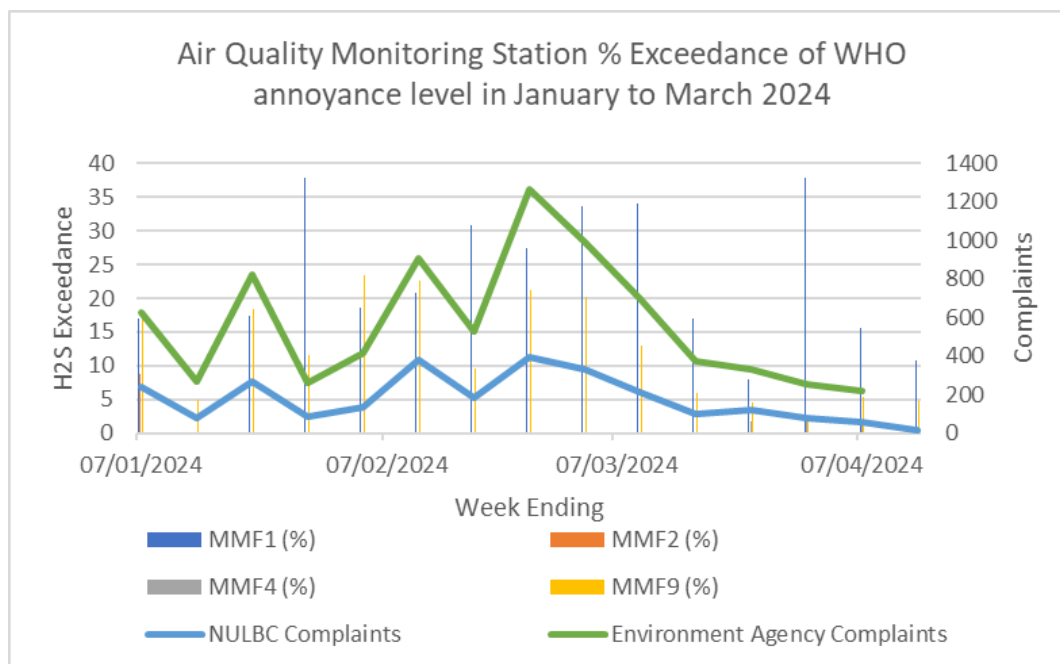
- 2.18** The Council, Staffordshire County Council, and the Environment Agency have jointly funded a campaign of air quality monitoring utilising three static air monitoring stations. The Environment Agency manage and operate these air quality monitoring stations. Data from these stations has been routinely published weekly by the Environment Agency.
- 2.19** Hydrogen sulphide levels have previously been reported and reviewed as part of this report and a full data set provided in Appendices. On 5 October, the Environment Agency provided an update, alerting the community to a problem with the reliability of the Hydrogen Sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) monitoring data collected at the monitoring stations. This update is available at the following link [Latest News | Engage Environment Agency \(engagementhq.com\)](#)
- 2.20** On 19 October 2023, the EA calibrated the H<sub>2</sub>S analysers in MMF1 and MMF2. The EA have sufficient confidence in the raw data recorded for the week commencing 16 October 2023 to allow the EA to restart publishing data from MMF1 and MMF2.

**2.21** The latest H2S data is set out in the table below, defining the proportion of the time periods where H2S levels were above the WHO Odour Annoyance guideline of 7ug/m<sup>3</sup>.

Time Period	MMF1 (%)	MMF 2 (%)	MMF(4) (%)	MMF 9 (%)
02 October – 08 October 2023				0
09 October – 15 October 2023				9.4
16 October – 22 October 2023	0.9	0		7.8
23 October – 29 October 2023	13.7	3.0		10.4
30 October – 5 November 2023	7.8	0.6		NR
6 November – 12 November 2023	8.9	1.5		5.6
13 November – 19 November 2023	6.9	0.6		3
20 November – 26 November 2023	3.3	2.9		14.33
27 November – 3 December 2023	14.9	7.4		26.2
4 December – 10 December 2023	21.4	3.0		10.2
11 December – 17 December 2023	13.4	2.68		8.33
18 December – 24 December 2023	0	0		0.6
25 December- 31 December 2023	23.21	0.3		1.9
01 January – 07 January 2024	16.9	8.7		17.7
08 January – 14 January 2024	0			5.0
15 January – 21 January 2024	17.4			18.4
22 January – 28 January 2024	37.8			11.6
29 January – 04 February 2024	18.6			23.4
05 February – 11 February 2024	20.8			22.6
12 February – 18 February 2024	30.8			9.6
19 February – 25 February 2024	27.4			21.1
26 February – 03 March 2024	33.7			20.1
04 March – 10 March 2024	34			13
11 March – 17 March 2024	17.0			6.0
18 March – 24 March 2024	8		1.8	4.5
25 March – 31 March 2024	37.8		1.8	2.1
01 April - 07 April 2024	15.6		1.2	5.4
08 April – 14 April 2024	10.7		0	4.8

NR= not reported

**2.22** The complaint data and weekly % exceedance of the WHO annoyance level have been combined and is shown on the graph below.



**2.23** On 22 March 2024 the EA updated:  
 ‘There has been an improvement in the raw monitoring data for the week commencing 11 March 2024. This follows completion of the steps specified in the Suspension Notice we issued on 01 March 2024. Exceedance of the World Health Organisation (WHO) odour annoyance guideline level decreased to 17 % (from 34% the previous week) at MMF 1, and 6 % at MMF 9 (from 13.0% the previous week). The levels of hydrogen sulphide detected also fell’.

### MMF2 update

**2.24** The EA were required to remove Mobile Monitoring Facility (MMF) 2 from Silverdale Pumping Station as the landowner planned to carry out construction works at the site. MMF 2 was removed on 8 January 2024, along with the electrical connection. The EA have recently updated ‘as the construction works have now been delayed until 2024, the landowner has agreed to allow us to use the site again’.

‘To make progress as quickly as possible we have put MMF 4 on the site. MMF 4 will carry out the same air quality monitoring using the same parameters as MMF 2’.

The EA confirmed MMF 4 is now operational and will begin publishing data for MMF 4 with effect from 25 March 2025.

### H2S Data Adjustment Method

**2.25** On 10 April 2024 the EA provided the following an update in ‘Latest News’:

‘In November 2023 we explained that we had developed a data adjustment method that could allow us to adjust historic hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) data, and that an independent peer review group, led by Defra’s Chief Scientific Adviser was assessing this method’.

‘In February 2024 we informed you that we expected the group’s findings to be published shortly. We understand that the report has been undergoing quality assurance. Unfortunately, no firm date has been given for its publication’.

‘We recognise that members of the community may be feeling frustrated by the delay. Once the report is formally approved and published, we expect to outline next steps’.

including the possibility of adjusting historic data, and anticipate offering another virtual public meeting’.

### **Environment Agency Regulatory and Enforcement Action**

- 2.26 The Environment Agency has continued to provide updates on their regulatory activity on the Walleys Quarry Landfill and can be accessed here: <https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/hub-page/walleys-quarry-landfill>
- 2.27 These updates reflect regular EA officer presence at the site to review progress with the Contain Capture Destroy strategy. The Compliance Assessment Reports (published on the [EA website](#)) provide further details of the site visits undertaken.
- 2.28 There have been no further Compliance Assessment Reports published by the EA.

### **Key Performance Data**

- 2.29 Through the settlement agreement both Walleys Quarry Ltd and the Council have developed key performance indicators in relation to relevant data from each organisation. These key performance indicators are shown in Appendix 2 and 3.
- 2.30 The data from the Council covers the period from January 2024 to March 2024, and provides complaint numbers and officer assessments.
- 2.31 The data from Walleys Quarry Limited provides data on waste acceptance, odour management, landfill operations, landfill gas management, leachate management and information relating to the EA regulator as the primary regulator of the site. The KPI data and explanatory notes for March will be uploaded as Appendix 3 when available.

## **3. Proposal**

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

- Note the contents of this update report.

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

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

## **5. Options Considered**

- 5.1 To provide regular updates to Cabinet.

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

- 6.1 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 or a nuisance. The Council is responsible for undertaking inspections and responding to complaints to determine whether 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).
- 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 the abatement notice.
- The Act provides powers in respect of a breach. If a person on whom an abatement notice is served, without reasonable excuse, contravenes or fails to comply with any requirement or prohibition imposed by the notice, they shall be guilty of an offence. If this is on industrial, trade or business premises shall be liable on conviction to an unlimited fine. It is a defence that the best practicable means were used to prevent, or to counteract the effects of, the nuisance.

## **7. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 7.1** 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 minimising this impact as soon as possible.

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

- 8.1** Dedicated officer resource has been allocated to continue the Council's work regarding Walleys Quarry Landfill.
- 8.2** From April 2024 there is a £300k reserve for works associated with Walleys Quarry Landfill site. Should further funding be required, up to £300k can be made available through the transfer of useable reserves (£100k from the Borough Growth Fund and £200k from the Budget and Borrowing Support Fund). These funds can be transferred without Council approval
- 8.3** Should proceedings regarding the breach of the Council's Abatement Notice exceed £600k, a further report will be presented to Council in order to seek approval to utilise funds from the General Fund Reserve.



## 9. Major Risks

9.1 A GRACE risk assessment has been completed including the following main risks:

- Failure to achieve a reduction in odour levels;
- Community dissatisfaction at odour levels;
- The ability to take enforcement action against abatement notice;
- Failure to evidence a breach of the abatement notice;
- Secretary of State refuses permission to undertake prosecution proceedings.

9.2 Controls have been identified and implemented in order to control these risks; the main controls include:

- Provisions in settlement agreement ensures greater transparency for public;
- Provisions in settlement agreement ensures regular meetings with Walleys Quarry which enable issues to be discussed;
- Dedicated officer resource for Walleys Quarry work has been secured;
- Continued air quality monitoring provision;
- Robust procedure for investigating complaints with experienced officers;
- Specialist expert advice maintained;
- Multi-Agency partnership working continues.

## 10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)



## 11. Key Decision Information

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

## 12. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

12.1 This matter has been variously considered previously by Economy, Environment & Place Scrutiny Committee, Council and Cabinet on 21 April 2021, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021, 17<sup>th</sup> November, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024.



**13. List of Appendices**

- 13.1** Appendix 1. Historical Complaint data
- 13.2** Appendix 2. NUL Key Performance Data
- 13.3** Appendix 3. WQL Key Performance Data

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## Appendix 1 – Historic Complaint Numbers

Week Ending	Complaints to NuLBC	Complaints to Environment Agency	Week Ending	Complaints to NuLBC	Complaints to Environment Agency
<b>2022</b>			25-Sep	14	79
09-Jan	73	352	02-Oct	13	58
16-Jan	258	1045	09-Oct	42	102
23-Jan	134	651	16-Oct	52	165
30-Jan	25	139	23-Oct	73	186
06-Feb	16	64	30-Oct	30	82
13-Feb	31	120	06-Nov	27	116
20-Feb	49	166	13-Nov	23	86
27-Feb	40	264	20-Nov	60	113
06-Mar	118	571	27-Nov	2	70
13-Mar	72	285	04-Dec	19	47
20-Mar	224	1126	11-Dec	43	163
27-Mar	412	1848	18-Dec	22	114
03-Apr	243	1072	25-Dec	12	45
10-Apr	132	895	<b>2023</b>		
17-Apr	156	752	01-Jan	11	39
24-Apr	65	310	08-Jan	12	32
01-May	49	213	15-Jan	13	25
08-May	39	193	22-Jan	47	118
15-May	35	160	29-Jan	51	149
21-May	43	134	05-Feb	13	66
29-May	20	81	12-Feb	26	115
05-Jun	27	169	19-Feb	7	39
12-Jun	42	234	26-Feb	3	15
19-Jun	25	263	05-Mar	7	13
26-Jun	28	208	12-Mar	12	74
02-Jul	9	54	19-Mar	23	63
09-Jul	4	34	26-Mar	19	56
16-Jul	14	72	02-Apr	51	103
23-Jul	21	52	09-Apr	45	152
30-Jul	12	93	16-Apr	11	64
06-Aug	22	124	23-Apr	48	101
13-Aug	32	133	30-Apr	148	278
21-Aug	11	79	07-May	50	150
28-Aug	12	89	14-May	53	164
04-Sep	10	30	21-May	147	320
11-Sep	9	64	28-May	90	210
18-Sep	13	83	04-Jun	24	43

Week Ending	Complaints to NuLBC	Complaints to Environment Agency
11-Jun	19	75
18-Jun	76	154
25-Jun	80	170
02-Jul	40	99
09-Jul	18	46
16-Jul	20	54
23-Jul	15	73
30-Jul	28	97
06-Aug	21	67
13-Aug	7	30
20-Aug	10	44
27-Aug	8	38
03-Sep	11	59
10-Sept	26	71
17-Sept	12	72
24-Sept	8	31
01-Oct	8	26
08-Oct	8	37
15-Oct	29	64
22-Oct	22	81
29-Oct	26	115
05-Nov	5	15
12-Nov	40	123
19-Nov	35	119
26-Nov	36	135
3-Dec	115	265
10-Dec	83	151
17-Dec	48	180
24-Dec	28	79
31-Dec	44	129
<b>2024</b>		
07-Jan	236	627
14-Jan	76	268
21-Jan	270	824
28-Jan	86	261
04-Feb	133	416
11-Feb	382	905
18-Feb	186	527
25-Feb	397	1264
03-Mar	333	990
10-Mar	218	694
17-Mar	103	374

24-Mar	120	330
31-Mar	81	254
7-Apr	56	220

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**Appendix 2 – NUL Key Performance Indicators**

NULBC		Information	Measurement	MMF	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024
KPI 1	COMPLAINTS	Complaints reported to NULBC	Number		736  Number of unique properties reporting complaints = 319  Rating 0 = 1 complaints Rating 1 = 1 complaints Rating 2 = 8 complaints Rating 3 = 72 complaints Rating 4 = 111 complaints (15.1%) Rating 5 = 208 complaints (28.3%) Rating 6 = 335 complaints (45.5%)  % of complaints reporting odour entering the property = 574 (78%) % of complaints reporting health effects = 516 (70.1%)	1232  Number of unique properties reporting complaints = 484  Rating 0 = 0 complaints Rating 1 = 1 complaints Rating 2 = 25 complaints Rating 3 = 99 complaints Rating 4 = 169 complaints (13.7%) Rating 5 = 335 complaints (27.2%) Rating 6 = 603 complaints (48.9%)  % of complaints reporting odour entering the property = 1004 (81.5%) % of complaints reporting health effects = 908 (73.7%)	653  Number of unique properties reporting complaints = 230  Rating 0 = 3 complaints Rating 1 = 0 complaints Rating 2 = 4 complaints Rating 3 = 80 complaints Rating 4 = 102 complaints (15.6%) Rating 5 = 177 complaints (27.1%) Rating 6 = 287 complaints (44%)  % of complaints reporting odour entering the property = 520 (79.6%) % of complaints reporting health effects = 516 (79.0%)
KPI 2		Complaints reported (daytime 07:00-23:00)	Number		625	989	546
KPI 3		Complaints reported (night-time 23:00-07:00)	Number		111	243	107
KPI 4		Highest number of complaints during the period	Date (number of complaints)		18/01/24 (142 complaints)	24/02/24 (185 complaints)	05/03/24 (79 complaints)

KPI 5	AIR QUALITY	Percentage exceedance Odour Annoyance Guideline (Hydrogen Sulphide 30-minute average)	%	MMF1	21	24	27
				MMF2	9*	NR	NR
				MMF 4	NR	NR	2**
				MMF9	14	19.3	6.5
KPI 6		Monthly Average H <sub>2</sub> S	ug/m3 over the month	MMF1	5.2	6.3	7.4
				MMF2	3.1*	NR	NR
				MMF 4	NR	NR	1.4
				MMF9	8.2	15	8.1
KPI 7	H <sub>2</sub> S PEAK LEVEL	Level measured over a 5-minute period Date & Time	ug/m3	MMF1	156.12 ug/m3 (02/01/24 @06:30)	500.26 ug/m3 (27/02/24 @05:55)	293.10 ug/m3 (05/03/24 04:25)
				MMF2	142.43 ug/m3 (07/01/24 @07:55)	NR	NR
				MMF 4	NR	NR	37.31 ug/m3 (18/03/24 05:35)
				MMF9	456.34 ug/m3 (04/01/24 @20:10)	796.02 ug/m3 (24/02/24 @22:05)	576.20 ug/m3 (06/03/24 02:50)
KPI 8	OFFICER ASSESSMENTS	Odour Rating - Officer odour assessment (5 minute)	Max Odour Rating		35 assessments 29 assessments detected landfill related odour of which 17 assessments had a maximum rating of 4 (03/01/24, 05/01/24, 06/01/24, 07/01/24, 12/01/24, 18/01/24)	9 assessments 9 assessments detected landfill related odour of which 8 assessments had a maximum rating of 4 and above (07/02/24, 24/02/24)	3 assessments 3 assessments detected landfill related odour of which 1 assessment had a maximum rating of 4 (20/03/24)

\*Data from 01 January to 08 January 2024

\*\* Data 16 March to 31 March 2024



## NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

### CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO HEALTH, WELBEING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024

**Report Title:** J2 services to reduce child excess weight

**Submitted by:** Service Director – Commercial Services

**Portfolios:** Portfolio Holder -Leisure, Culture and Heritage

**Ward(s) affected:** All

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
To provide the Scrutiny Committee with information on the County Better Health Staffordshire programme and the contribution that J2 services make to supporting the child excess weight objective.			
<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>			
To review the information provided and make any recommendations to the Portfolio Holder - Leisure, Culture and Heritage.			
<b><u>Reasons</u></b>			
Scrutiny Committee have asked to review this.			

#### 1. **Background**

- 1.1 The County Council has a Better Health Partnership which seeks to address excess weight. It should be noted that this is the preferred term rather than obesity. The County identifies causal impacts on weight under the headings of Food, Environment and Exercise.
- 1.2 The Borough Council runs a range of services at J2 Leisure Centre in Newcastle, including provision of swimming pools, gym, wellness centre and studios.
- 1.3 The Council was successful in securing funding from the County Council in the form of a Health Inequalities Grant. This funding has been used to establish a 12 month programme of health-related exercise based at J2 and in the community.

## 2. Issues

2.1 There are a wide range of issues related to excess weight but exercise can have a positive impact on people's lives. In terms of child excess weight the County Council has identified the following:

- The proportion of reception age children living with excess weight in Newcastle borough is higher than the national average and the highest of its statistical neighbours.
- Levels of Year 6 excess weight in the borough remain similar to national levels but have increased in recent years in line with national trends and could increase over future years as recent Reception age cohorts reach Year 6.
- Healthy weight challenge for children mainly focussed in Kidsgrove & Ravenscliffe, Audley, Bradwell, Clayton, Cros Heath, Silverdale, Westlands and Wolstanton. Challenges and opportunities exist however across the borough and shift over time.

2.2 J2 hosts a range of sessions in the swimming pools from lane swimming through to learn to swim lessons. In term time, schools can bring their classes to J2 in the weekdays to school swimming lessons - there are currently 15 schools using this service who bring an average of 40 swimmers for 36 weeks a year. Outside of school hours, the Council offers a range of parent paid swimming lessons, there are currently 976 children learning to swim at J2. Family and public swimming sessions are also available throughout the week and are popular at weekends and school holidays.

2.3 The gym at J2 is open to children aged 12 years and above. There are specifically three children's dance sessions; upto 4 years, ages 5-8 years and ages 9-12 years.

2.4 The Borough Council has utilised part of the Health Inequalities Grant funding to develop a new scheme called "Activelife – referral programme". Referrals will be for a junior programme aged 12-16 years then an adult programme for over 16 years. Those on the junior programme will be able to access the specific junior classes, gym, swimming pool and climbing wall with a buddy of their choice whether it be a carer, parent or friend free of charge for twelve weeks.

## 3. Recommendation

3.1 To review the information provided and make any recommendations to the Portfolio Holder - Leisure, Culture and Heritage.

## 4. Reasons

4.1 J2 provides an excellent opportunity for the Council to support young people with their exercise journey.

## 5. Options Considered

5.1 There are no options proposed in this report as Scrutiny Committee Members are asked to review and make any recommendations to the Portfolio Holder.

## 6. Legal and Statutory Implications

6.1 There is no legal or statutory duty placed on the Council to offer exercise services to young people.

## 7. Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 There are no EIA implications arising from this report.

## 8. Financial and Resource Implications

8.1 There are no implications arising from this report, however should the Scrutiny Committee propose alteration to the services provided at J2 then the financial and resourcing implications will need to be assessed.

## 9. Major Risks & Mitigation

9.1 Any risks would need to be considered from proposals made by the Committee.

## 10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

10.1 The services provided at J2 support the following sustainable development goals:



## 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.

# Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service

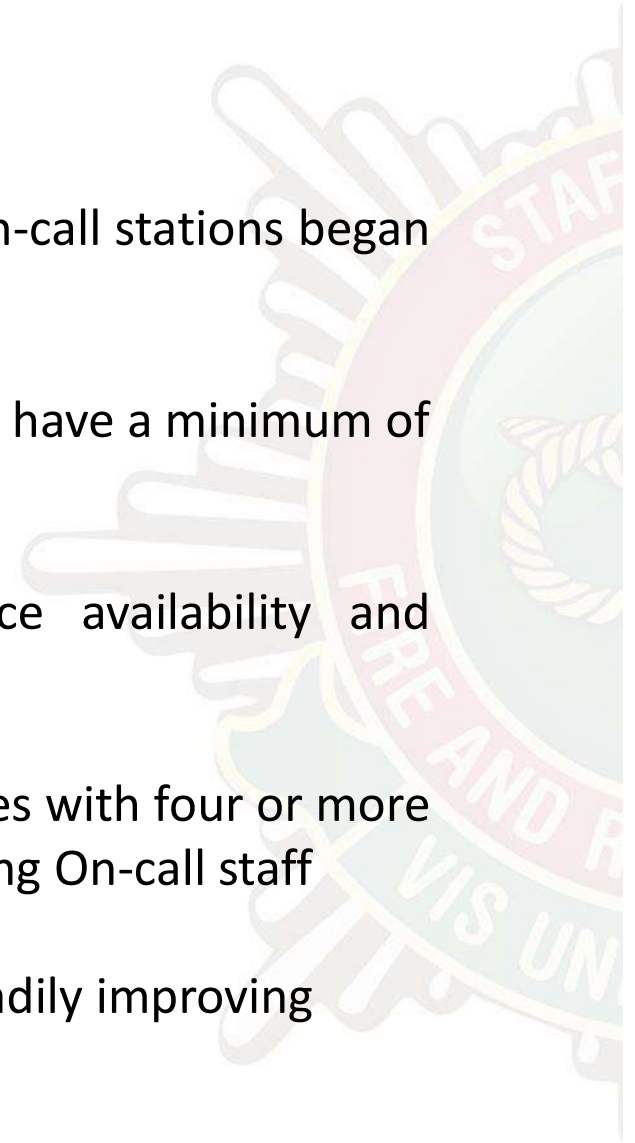
## Update to the Health Wellbeing and Environmental Scrutiny Committee Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024



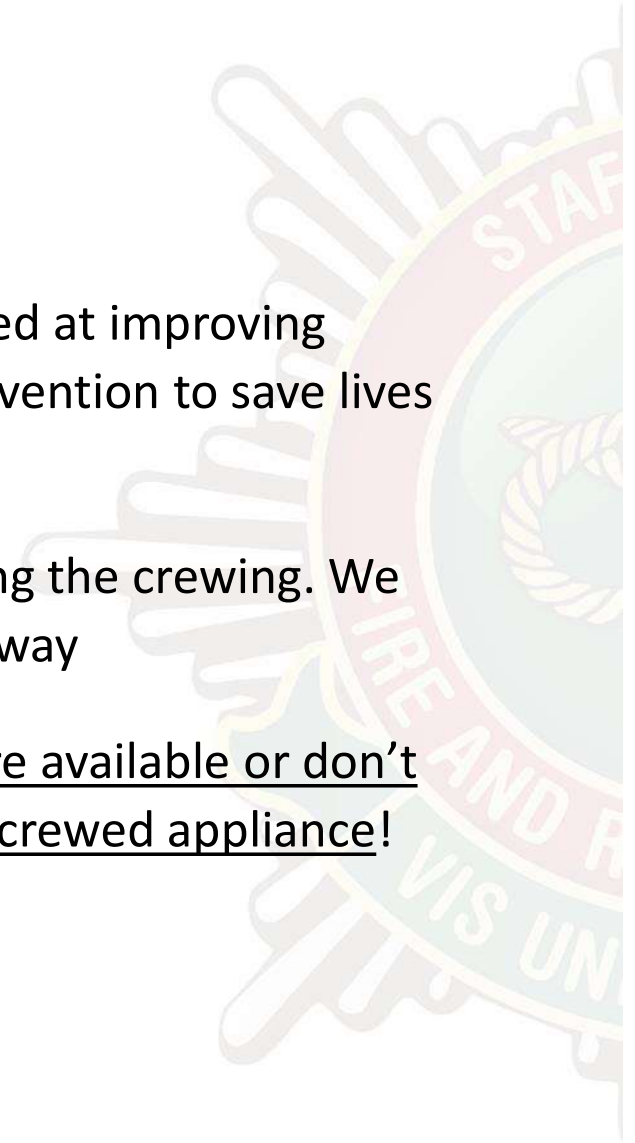
# Introduction

- The trial of mobilising Three Person Crews from on-call stations began on 1st June 2023, as a 6-month initiative
- This is different from our full-time firefighters who have a minimum of Four-Persons in their crew
- The trial's objective was to improve appliance availability and response times to emergencies
- The service still strives to crew all on-call appliances with four or more crew members and is actively recruiting and training On-call staff
- Overall on-call availability across the service is steadily improving



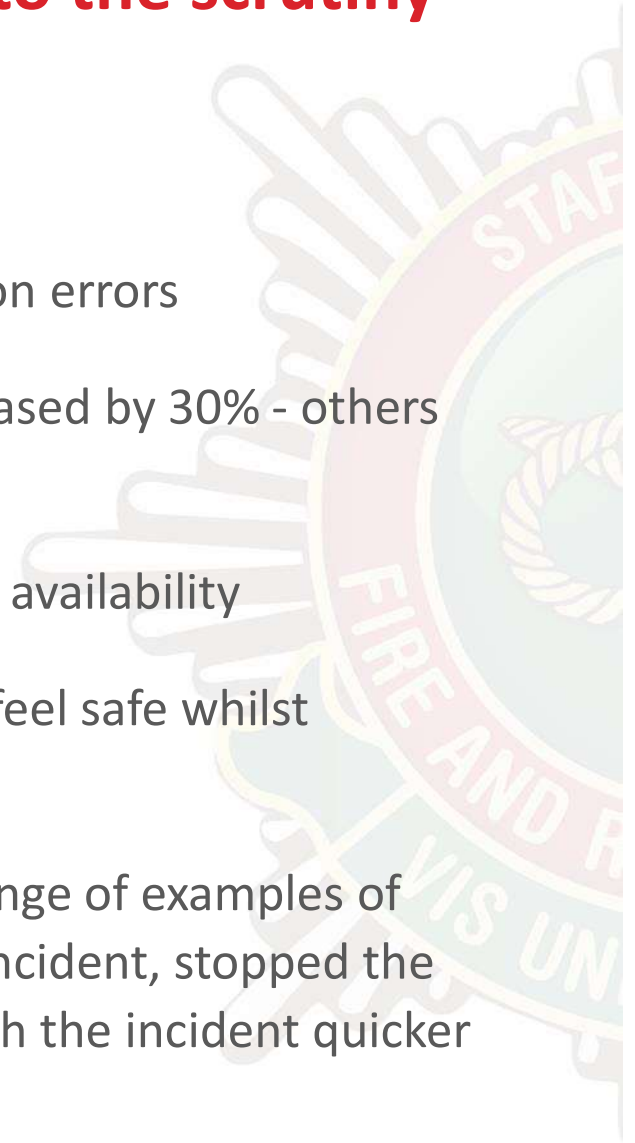
# Context of the trial

- The trial is a change from traditional practices aimed at improving response times and allowing for a more rapid intervention to save lives and property at emergency incidents
- The service is not in any way shape or form reducing the crewing. We are using available resources in the most effective way
- It's a binary choice – use the crews of three who are available or don't use them at all and mobilise the next nearest fully crewed appliance!



## **On 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 we reported to the scrutiny Committee the following:**

- Attended 172 incidents as of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023
- No safety concerns reported but some mobilisation errors
- Some stations availability for incidents have increased by 30% - others much less so because they have better crewing
- An average increase of 12.5% in On-call appliance availability
- Our crews tell us through the feedback that they feel safe whilst dealing with these incidents
- They also tell us what went well and we have a range of examples of how they have attended earlier to deal with the incident, stopped the need for other appliances attending and dealt with the incident quicker



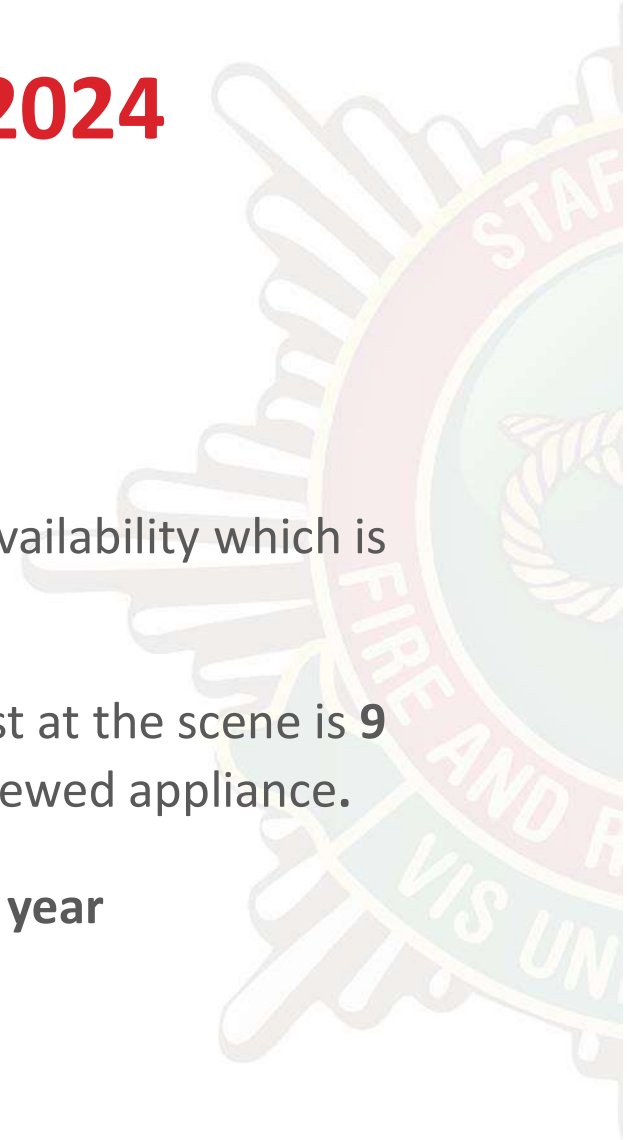


# Developments of the trial

- Feedback was received from circa 100 On-call staff during Three Person Crewing focus groups conducted during November 2023 at Leek, Newcastle, Lichfield and Codsall Fire Stations.
- We have received positive feedback from crews regarding feeling safe and achieving quicker response times at incidents. The overwhelming response from the crews was a recognition that the Three-person crewing trial enhances public safety.
- In December, the Service Delivery Board voted to extend the trial for a further 12 months so that it gets a more rigorous test involving more of our on-call teams.

## Performance as of 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024

- Attended 437 emergency incidents
- No safety concerns identified
- An average increase of 11% in On-call appliance availability which is variable across each on-call team.
- On average a Three-person crew which arrives first at the scene is **9 minutes 45 seconds quicker** than the next fully crewed appliance.
- Increased headcount of **23 On-Call firefighters** in year



# Next Steps

- Further work continues which comes as a result of listening to our on-call crews around adding additional incident types to the list that Three Person Crews be allowed to respond to such as Motorway incidents and prison incidents as a Multi pump attendance.
- Additional equipment will be provided to assist make crews even more effective at incidents and more training sessions will take place at local levels.
- The Service has agreed that it will ensure it consults the public further on the issue of how it crews its appliances in the next iteration of the Community Risk Management Plan which is being developed through the summer period of 2024.

***Thank you***



## HEALTH, WELLBEING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



### Work Programme 2024/25

**Chair**

Cllr R. Adcock

**Vice-Chair**

Cllr I. Wilkes

**Members**

Cllrs L. Barker, J. Brown, N. Crisp, S. Dymond, S. Jones, P. Northcott, P. Reece, L. Richards, R. Wright

**Scrutiny Champion**

Craig Jordan

**Portfolio Holders within the Committee's remit**

Cllr Gill Heesom – Community Safety and Well Being

Cllr Craig Skelding – Leisure, Culture and Heritage

Cllr David Hutchison – Sustainable Environment

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.

This Work Programme is set and reviewed at quarterly meetings of the Scrutiny Management Group. The Chair and Vice Chair also meet regularly with the Portfolio Holders to discuss this Work Programme. There is an opportunity for committee Members to discuss the Work Programme at each committee meeting. Part D of the Council's [Constitution](#) governs the scrutiny process.

For more information on the Committee or its work Programme please contact the Democratic Services:

✚ Geoff Durham at [geoff.durham@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:geoff.durham@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk) or on (01782) 742222

✚ Alexandra Bond at [alexandra.bond@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:alexandra.bond@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk) or on (01782) 742211

**Planned Items**

<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walleys Quarry Odours Update</li> <li>• Youth Obesity - J2 Play Provisions</li> <li>• Chief Fire Officer Update</li> </ul>	Officer: Nesta Barker Officer Jo Halliday Contact: Glynn Luznyj
16 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walleys Quarry Odours Update</li> <li>• Mobile Multi-Functional Team (MMF) - Scope and Purpose</li> <li>• Animal Welfare Strategy</li> </ul>	Officer: Nesta Barker  Officer: Roget Tait

<b>Task/Finish Groups</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Scrutiny Working Group – Integrated Care Hubs</li> </ul>
<b>Special Meeting</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A53/Bus Gate – Final Business Case – joint meeting with E&amp;P Scrutiny when appropriate</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Items Requested</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS Dentistry Provisions</li> </ul>

**Previous Items**

<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>NOTES</b>

Last updated on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024