

Public Document Pack

Date of meeting Monday, 3rd March, 2025
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 NEWCASTLE FIRE STATION UPDATE & PERFORMANCE** (Pages 9 - 16)
- 5 DISTRICT AND BOROUGH HEALTH SCRUTINY ACTIVITY** (Pages 17 - 22)
To receive feedback from members who attended the meetings of Staffordshire County Council Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 6 WALLEYS QUARRY - ODOUR ISSUES** (Pages 23 - 48)
- 7 PARKS SHORT LIFE WORKING GROUP UPDATE** (Verbal Report)
- 8 NEWCASTLE TOWN CENTRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP** (Pages 49 - 56)
- 9 NAVIGATION HOUSE** (Pages 57 - 64)
- 10 WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 65 - 68)
- 11 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
Any member of the public wishing to submit a question must serve two clear days' notice, in writing, of any such question to the Borough Council.
- 12 URGENT BUSINESS**

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

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members: Councillors 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 Quorums :- Where the total membership of a committee is 12 Members or less, the quorum will be 3 members....Where the total membership is more than 12 Members, the quorum will be one quarter of the total membership.

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	D Jones
	Burnett-Faulkner	Lewis
	Edginton-Plunkett	Parker
	Fox-Hewitt	Stubbs
	Holland	J Tagg

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 - 25/11/24

HEALTH, WELLBEING & ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 25th November, 2024
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

Present:	Councillor Rupert Adcock (Chair)		
Councillors:	Barker MBE Brown Crisp Dymond	Northcott Reece Richards Whieldon	Wilkes Wright
Officers:	Nesta Barker Andrew Bird Craig Jordan	Service Director - Regulatory Services Service Director - Sustainable Environment Service Director - Planning	
Also in attendance:	Councillor Gill Heesom Councillor David Hutchison	Portfolio Holder - Community Safety and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder - Sustainable Environment	

1. **APOLOGIES**

All members were present.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Northcott declared being in charge of the Public Health and Integrated Care Cabinet portfolio at the County Council.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Cllr Northcott commented that his declaration of interest as stated above hadn't been recorded at the last meeting of the Committee.

This would be investigated by officers.

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th September 2024 be agreed as a true and accurate record subject to item 2 being re-checked and reflecting information shared by members.

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

Resolved: That the update report received from Staffordshire County Council be noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

5. WALLEYS QUARRY ODOUR ISSUE

The Service Director for Regulatory Services presented the report on Walleys Quarry including complaints figures compared to air quality data.

Members raised questions and responses were provided as follows.

Cllr Whieldon asked about the origin of the terms “best practical means” used in paragraph 2.5.

The Service Director for Regulatory Services advised that these were defined in the legislation i.e. the Environment Protection Act and were a defence against causing statutory nuisances.

Cllr Whieldon expressed her concerns about the subjectivity of the expression which could be abused by lawyers.

The Service Director for Regulatory Services responded that ultimately it would be up to the Courts to decide but it was something to be mindful of in terms of operational practices and how it compared to national and international guidelines regarding what was reasonable at a landfill site.

Cllr Brown reported reading that the highest levels of complaints in the last four years were recorded this October and asked if there was a correlation with explanations provided by the operator.

The Service Director for Regulatory Services advised that there had been improvements on the site over the past four years such as capping however the gas emissions, odour events and high levels of hydrogen sulphites were still recorded and as such the Council considered there had been a breach of the abatement notice. While the site conditions had changed, the outcomes were still the same.

Cllr Whieldon expressed doubts over the consistency of the government in relation to paragraphs 2.7, 2.11 and 2.12.

The Chair referred to the complaints data recorded by the Environment Agency in paragraph 2.1 and asked if there was a correlation between these and the figures recorded by the Council as well as if non-residents visiting Newcastle were able to complain given the requirement to live in the borough to create an account and log on to the website.

The Service Director for Regulatory Services responded that more people would usually report to the Environment Agency as principal regulator however there was a category of people who would only complain to the Council the same way some others would only do so with the former. About non-residents who were unable to register there were two ways for them to raise complaints, the first one being through their own local Council and the second one being by using the customer service portal messaging system.

The Chair suggested that the various ways to contact the Council and the Environment Agency about the odours be advertised again considering the likelihood of further incidents throughout the winter.

Cllr Richards asked why people needed to create an account and log on to formally complain, as these could discourage them from doing it.

The Service Director for Regulatory Services advised that it was important to be able to verify people's address and that once registered the account would track former complaints and make things easier for residents rather than the other way around.

Cllr Whieldon wished to thank the officer for clarifying the way non residents could register complaints which she would advertise going forward.

Resolved: That the contents of the update report be received.

[Watch the debate here](#)

6. **OPTIONS FOR SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PARKS**

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment presented the report on scrutiny review options in relation to the Council's parks and open spaces provisions as requested by the Committee at the last meeting.

Members raised questions and responses were provided as follows.

Cllr Brown welcomed the report and the opportunity for a task and finish working group which she would want to join. She asked if there were any plans for the Parade Pavilion that had been left unused and was ground for antisocial behaviour as well as if some support towards the Parade Park could be considered given the substantial investment from Silverdale Parish Council.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment advised that there were currently no money for the Parade Pavilion but the suggestion would be discussed with the portfolio holder. The Parade Park as for itself could be included in the list of neighbourhood parks to look into as part of the Plan.

Cllr Wright enquired about parks that had been awarded green flag status.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment responded that Lime Valleys, Queen's Gardens and Bradwell were among them.

A full list was confirmed as follows: Wolstanton Park, Brampton Park, Queen's Gardens, Lyme Valley Parkway, Bradwell Crematorium and Keele Cemetery.

Cllr Whieldon congratulated the team as well as the Council for protecting the green and open spaces and parklands so that development can come after that. She noted that there were, however very few litter bins and wondered if an audit could be undertaken.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment replied that the bins were under constant review. The bin emptying and availability assessment was carried out by street scene services. Adding new litter bins had a cost in terms of equipment and maintenance and the review was notably looking into moving existing bins locations as required. The opportunity of combining dog waste and regular bins was also being considered.

Cllr Whieldon reiterated the need for the number of bins to be also reviewed.

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Cllr Reece wondered if thought could be given to retaining old dog bins alongside putting up multi-use ones.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment responded this would depend on design considerations.

Cllr Reece enquired about buildings in his wards that were well used and financially viable despite being eyesores and if there were any plans to upgrade them.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment said there were currently no capital funding towards that purpose at the moment but sports clubs were well positioned to apply for grants and the Council could help facilitate things.

Cllr Dymond asked about refurbishment at Clough Hall Park and whether there were any plans to re-open the closed area that the Borough would look into perhaps opening a café or if this would need to be a community led initiative.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment advised that the Council wouldn't be running a café and this would need to be a community solution with local ownership which the Council could do its best to support.

Cllr Barker expressed her enthusiasm at the idea of involving communities and businesses to look for fundings for which she successfully provided assistance over the years.

Cllr Richards asked about recycling in the parks.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment responded that while people were getting good at separating things at home it was exceptionally difficult to get them to recycle on the go. A deposit return scheme had however been initiated by the Government in 2018 as part of its Resource and Waste Strategy, and would likely be the answer when launched in 2027.

The Chair concluded the discussion which had been about maintenance of the parks by bringing members attention to the need to determine what would be the focus of the Task & Finish Working Group to be set up, which should be as specific and manageable as possible. Section 2 of the report was providing suggestions.

Cllr Richards suggested that the review of current play areas provisions would be important especially regarding tackling child obesity, which the Chair supported.

Cllr Reece commented on enhanced biodiversity in which local schools and colleges could be involved.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment responded that the Grassland Strategy would address these could be brought back to scrutiny. Suggestions could be made by members based on the report.

Cllr Brown wished to endorse the idea of making suggestions based on the review of parks made by officers and the need for proper funding.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment commented that play areas in particular required a substantial maintenance budget along with regular reviews to ensure the equipment was and remained fit for purpose.

Based on officers' recommendations the Chair proposed that a task and finish working group be set to review play park provision and options for the future including potential funding arrangements as per paragraph 2.4 of the report.

Cllr Richards seconded the proposal and all agreed.

Members who wished to volunteer and join the group were invited to liaise with the Service Director for Sustainable Environment.

- Resolved:**
1. That the report be received.
 2. That a task and finish working group be set up to review play park provision and options for the future including funding arrangements.

[Watch the debate here](#)

7. **TREE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment presented the report on the Tree Management Risk Strategy as agreed at a former meeting of the Committee when the Tree Planting Strategy was adopted.

Members raised questions and responses were provided as follows.

Cllr Reece enquired about the tree that fell over the weekend in Medley and the priority level associated with works that were to be undertaken.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment advised that the tree had been identified as to be felled and was in the red zone. The local community had expressed an interest in re-using the tree for sculpting.

Cllr Reece wondered if there was a way to determine where the responsibilities lied in terms of works to be carried out in relation to specific trees.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment responded that these were shared between the Highways, Borough, housing associations and health services depending on who owned the trees. The County Council was currently looking into pulling together their own tree strategy, which is what any organisation should do for the trees in their possession.

Cllr Reece asked if the Management Strategy would record TPOs (Tree Preservation Orders) on private land.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment replied that it would only address trees on the Council land although those trees would still fall under the Council's responsibility under a different system.

Cllr Whieldon and Cllr Brown commended the report.

- Resolved:**
1. That the contents of the report be noted.
 2. That the Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee ask Cabinet to adopt the Tree Risk Management Strategy as set out in the report.

Health, Wellbeing & Environment Scrutiny Committee - 25/11/24

[Watch the debate here](#)

8. WORK PROGRAMME

Cllr Reece reiterated his interest for allotment waiting lists and availability.

Resolved: That the work programme be noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There had been no questions received from members of the public.

10. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved: That the next meeting be held on 3rd March 2025.

**Councillor Rupert Adcock
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 8.06 pm

Newcastle-under-Lyme Health, Wellbeing & Environment Scrutiny Committee

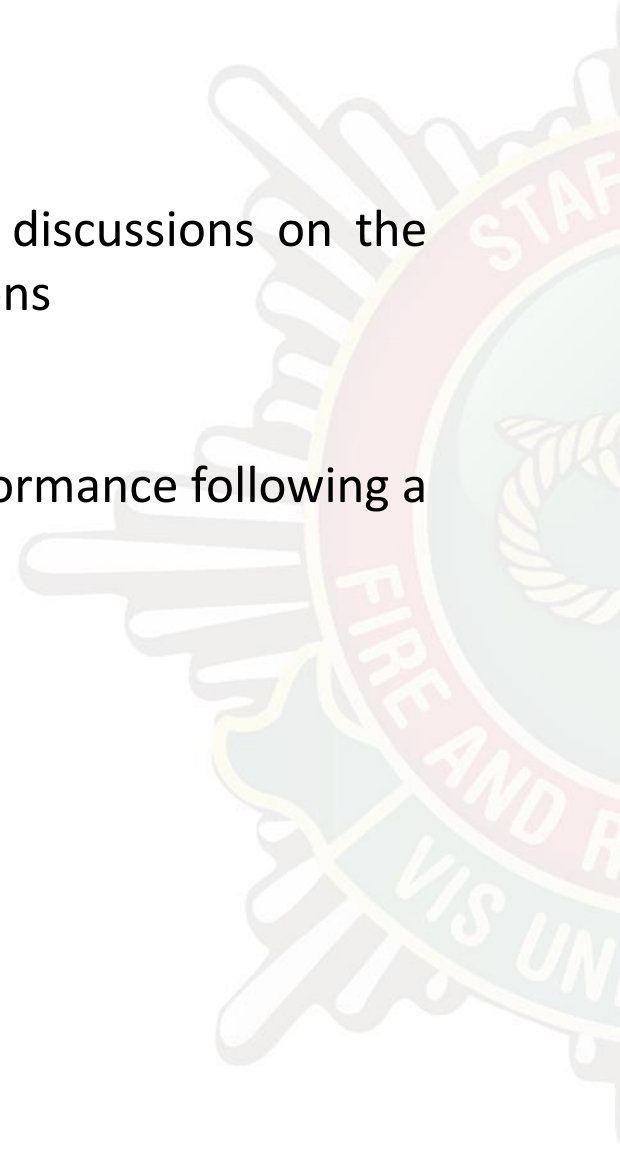
Monday 3rd March 2025

- DCFO Glynn Luznyj
- SM Mark Tattum

Introduction

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1. Report back to the committee following previous discussions on the mobilisations of Three Person Crews from on-call stations
2. Present an overview of Newcastle Fire Station's performance following a visit from Elected Members



Three Person Crew update

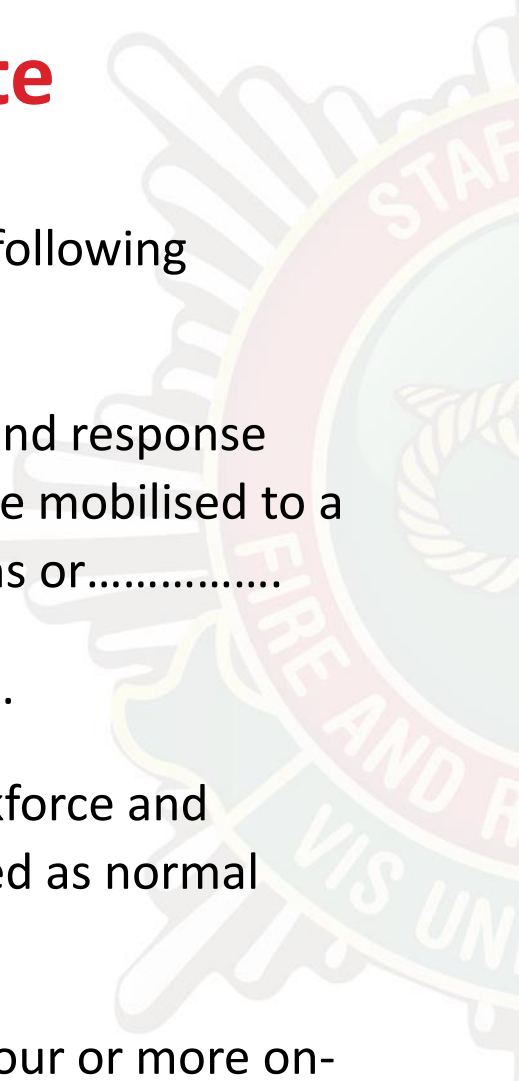
Commenced as a trial across the service on 1st June 2023 following feedback from the service's on-call Firefighters.

The trial's objective was to improve appliance availability and response times to emergencies by allowing a three person crew to be mobilised to a pre-determined type of incidents to make earlier interventions or.....

.....to provide quicker support to crews first in attendance.

The trial was evaluated and policy modified following workforce and public consultation in December 2024 before being adopted as normal practice.

The service still strives to crew all on-call appliances with four or more on-call firefighters and recruitment and availability are both improving.



Performance of Three Person Crews as of 20th February 2025

- Attended 729 emergency incidents
- The crews have arrived first on the scene on over 200 occasions
- Attended 497 standby's to provide fire cover
- Top three incident types:
 - I. Fires
 - II. Road Traffic Collisions
 - III. Automatic Fire Alarms activating
- An average increase of 11% in On-call appliance availability has been evidenced.



Newcastle Fire Station

Community Risk Management plan.

Prevention and Early Intervention

- Safe and Wells 2024 – 1411 completed.
- Schools Programme.
- PORIS/Compliance checks programme.
- Hydrant maintenance programme.

Protecting Staffordshire and its people

- Training for our risks – Tall Buildings/water rescue.
- Operational incidents – 1410 incidents in 2024

Public Confidence

Our Culture

HMICFRS - working on the already positive culture at our Station.

- Hive/Say so
- Developing our future leaders.

Service Reform

- 3 Riders
- On call availability.



Home From Hospital



- Established December 2023
- 2000 Mobilisation.
- 5 per day - 7 days a week
- Settle in service.
- Referral – Partner agencies
- Safe and well
- Security – Key Safes
- Furniture movements – safer homes
- Ensuring those in need in our community are protected.
- Freeing up beds
- Providing a friendly face, a chat and a cuppa!



Thank you



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Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Monday 03 March 2025

District and Borough Health Scrutiny Activity

Recommendation

I recommend that:

- a. 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

Cannock Chase Council's Health, Wellbeing and The Community Scrutiny Committee met on 16 December 2024.

The Chair confirmed that an invite had been extended to Peter Axon, the Chief Executive of the Integrated Care Board/Integrated Care Partnership to attend a future meeting to discuss the situation concerning the Minor Injuries Unit located at Cannock Chase Hospital.

The Committee also discussed the Quarter 2 progress report, received a presentation on the Street scene and Natural Environment and received an update on the work being undertaken by the Review of the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy Working Group.

Date of next meeting: 31 March 2025.

East Staffordshire Borough Council

The Scrutiny Health and Wellbeing Committee met on 7 October 2024.

Date next meeting: 27 January 2025.

Lichfield District Council

Lichfield District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 2 December 2024

Date of next meeting: 28 January 2025.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council's Health, Wellbeing & Environment Scrutiny Committee met on 25th November 2024 where members received and considered the following reports:

- Walleys Quarry update
- Scrutiny Review of the Borough's parks and open spaces
- Tree Risk Management Strategy.

Date of next meeting: 3rd March 2025.

South Staffordshire District Council

South Staffordshire Councils Wellbeing Select Committee last met on Tuesday 3rd December 2024. The following matters were considered.

Welfare Support

The Assistant Director Welfare Services gave Members an overview of the work of the team including, the reasons why residents enter financial hardship, the support available from the council and its partners and what has been achieved over the past twelve months.

- Made 94 awards of Discretionary Housing Payments, totalling £48,480 to support those who are struggling with rent costs.
- Supported 122 residents with payments of £19,625 onto their Council Tax accounts.
- Facilitated food parcels for 64 residents and signposted to other support.
- Supported local businesses to enable retraining for 79 of their employees.
- Enabled 179 residents to gain a qualification.
- Through our advice and support, 144 residents have reported reduced structural barriers into employment and skills provision.
- Provided the tools and support that has enabled 71, Economically Inactive residents to engage in job searching, with 36 moving into employment.

Relate

Officers from Relate Birmingham & Black Country attended to update Members on the Choose to Change programme with the core purpose focusing on the responsibility for ending abuse sitting with those who perpetrate it and shifting the burden away from those experiencing harm. The team's work is currently focused on supporting survivors to act and change their lives

Community Safety Partnership Action

The Council's Community Wellbeing and Partnership Officer and the Police Commander for South Staffordshire Police provided a twelve-month performance update against the South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership Action Plan 2023-2026.

- Overall crime has decreased by 9%
- Burglary Residential Dwellings – 8% decrease
- Burglary Business and Commercial: - 25% decrease
- Vehicle Crime – Theft from Motor Vehicle - 17% decrease
- Vehicle Crime – Theft of Motor Vehicle – 11% increase
- Domestic Abuse - 13% decrease
- Serious Violence – 11% decrease
- Violence against women and girls offences have decreased by 8%.
- Incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour - 20% decrease
- Criminal Justice outcome rate is 22%. The force ambition is 16%

Date of next meeting Tuesday 4th March 2025.

Stafford Borough Council

Stafford Borough Council's Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee met on 15 January 2025 and received presentations regarding Health Inequalities Projects and Homelessness Strategy. The Scrutiny Committee next meets on 20 March 2025.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

The Council's Health and Wellbeing Committee met on 20 November 2024.

Consideration was given to the following items:

- The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2024
- A proposed Local Strategic Partnership
- Feedback from members who attended the Urgent Treatment Centres Public Engagement Events in Leek
- Feedback from the Chair on the Staffordshire County Council Health & Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Including the performance of the West Midlands Ambulance Service)

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 5 March 2025.

Tamworth Borough Council

The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee met on 27 November 2024

Date next meeting: 11 February 2025.

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:

Council	District/ Borough Representative on CC	County Council Representative on DC/BC
Cannock Chase	Cllr Fred Prestwood	Cllr Phil Hewitt
East Staffordshire	Cllr Alison Legg	Cllr Philip Atkins
Lichfield	Cllr Leona Leung	Cllr Janice Silvester-Hall
Newcastle	Cllr Ian Wilkes	Cllr Ian Wilkes
South Staffordshire	Cllr Val Chapman	Cllr Kath Perry
Stafford BC	Cllr Ann Edgeller	Cllr Ann Edgeller
Staffordshire Moorlands	Cllr John Jones	Cllr Charlotte Atkins
Tamworth	Cllr Chris Bain	Cllr Jason Jones

Contact Details

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S

REPORT TO CABINET

04 February 2025

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

Submitted by: **Chief Executive**

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

Ward(s) affected: **All**

<p><u>Purpose of the Report</u></p> <p>To update Cabinet on the latest position regarding the problematic odours in the Borough associated with Walleys Quarry.</p>	<p><u>Key Decision</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>Cabinet is recommended to:</p> <p>1. Note the contents of this update report.</p>	
<p><u>Reasons</u></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. 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 needs 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. Such consent has been obtained.
- 1.5 Members and Officers have attended Liaison Meetings to maintain contact 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 for the last 3 months, reported on a weekly basis. Historical complaint data is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

	Complaints to NuLBC	Complaints to Environment Agency
November 2024		
28/10/24 - 03/11/24	46	163
04/11/24 - 10/11/24	41	153
11/11/24 - 17/11/24	251	793
18/11/24 - 24/11/24	252	842
25/11/24 - 01/12/24	518	1478
December 2024		
02/12/24 - 08/12/24	261	760
09/12/24 - 15/12/24	182	518
16/12/24 - 22/12/24	220	797
23/12/24 - 29/12/24	418	1644
January 2025		
30/12/24 - 05/01/25	303	1315
06/01/25 - 12/01/25	894	3878
13/01/25 - 19/01/25	283	803
20/01/25 - 26/01/25	109	470
27/01/25 - 02/02/25	65*	

*Figure may alter due to backdated complaints received

- 2.2 The number of odour events (where 10 or more complaints have been reported) was 24 in the month of January compared to 26 odour events reported in the month of December:
- Wednesday 01 January – Friday 17 January 2025
 - Monday 20 January – Thursday 23 January 2025
 - Saturday 25 January 2025
 - Wednesday 29 January – Thursday 30 January 2025

- 2.3** There were 17 consecutive days where the community reported 10 or more odour complaints from 1 January to 17 January.
- 2.4** The highest number of odour complaints was reported on 10 January with 379 complaints with a monthly total 1616 complaints. The second highest number of complaints was reported on 11 January at 185 complaints.
- 2.5** The total number of odour complaints in January exceeded those reported in November and December 2024. Complaints at above 1600 have not been seen since July 2021.

NULBC Odour Assessments

- 2.6** 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.

In January, 3 odour assessments (5-minute) were undertaken on 10 January, 17 January and 23 January, all of which recorded an intensity rating of 5 (very strong).

In January, 59 spot assessments were undertaken of which 40 detected landfill related odour ranging from an intensity rating of 2 (slight/weak) to 5 (very strong).

NULBC Mobile Air Quality Monitoring (using Jerome monitor)

- 2.7** Officers have monitored the levels of hydrogen sulphide within the community using the mobile Jerome monitor. The highest level of hydrogen sulphide [H₂S] recorded in the community was 67.91ppb on 20 January 2025 at 08:33.

NULBC Actions

- 2.8** 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 any formal legal action it is necessary for the Council to formulate a view with regard to this matter, this is ongoing.
- 2.9** 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.
- 2.10** On 29 July 2024, the Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP, Secretary of State Environment, Food and Rural Affairs responded to the Leader's request for permission to prosecute Walleys Quarry Ltd. under statutory nuisance legislation, confirming that he would grant consent for the prosecution to proceed.

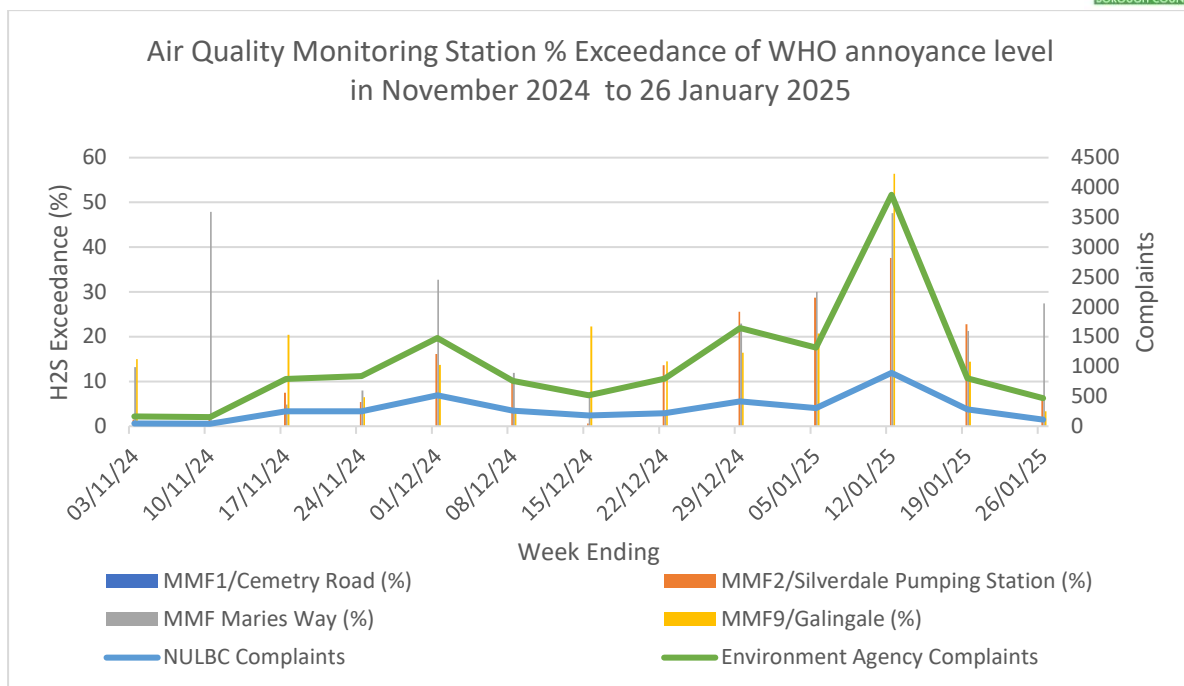
- 2.11** As reported in the previous Cabinet report the EA served a closure notice on Walleys Quarry Ltd on 28 November 2024. Walleys Quarry Limited subsequently submitted an appeal against the closure notice on 6 December.
- 2.12** The Council sought legal advice and subsequently submitted a written representation as an ‘interested party’ to the Planning Inspectorate on 13 January 2025.
- 2.13** The Council requested that the Planning Inspectorate considered the Council as a ‘principal party’ in the inquiry. If the Planning Inspectorate agrees to the request this potentially enables the Council to be a main party in the inquiry in the same way as the EA and WQL.
- 2.14** Cabinet will be informed of the decision by the Planning Inspectorate in due course.

Air Quality

- 2.15** 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 (EA).
- 2.16** 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/m³. Historic data is available in Appendix 2.

Time Period	MMF Maries Way (%)	MMF Silverdale Pumping Station (%)	MMF Galinagle View (%)
04 November - 10 November 2024	47.9	2.1	0.3
11 November - 17 November 2024	4.8	7.49	20.4
18 November - 24 November 2024	8.0	5.4	6.5
25 November - 1 December 2024	32.7	16.1	13.7
2 December - 8 December 2024	11.9	10.3	3.9
9 December - 15 December 2024	7.1	0.6	22.3
16 December - 22 December 2024	3.3	13.6	14.5
23 December - 29 December 2024	22.9	25.6	16.4
30 December - 05 January 2025	30.0	28.7	20.7
06 January - 12 January 2025	47.6	37.6	56.4
13 January - 19 January 2025	21.3	22.8	14.4
20 January - 26 January 2025	27.4	6.3	3.3

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



Environment Agency Regulatory and Enforcement Action

- 2.18** The Environment Agency has continued to provide updates on its regulatory activity on the Walleys Quarry Landfill and can be accessed here: <https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/hub-page/walleys-quarry-landfill>
- 2.19** The following Compliance and Assessment Reports have been published on the EA website since the previous Cabinet report(s):

Date of Report	Date issued	CAR reference	Assessment	Compliance Score
02/10/24	29/10/24	DP3734DC/0524572	Procedure Review – announced site inspection	31
15/10/24	30/10/24	DP3734DC/0524588	Site inspection - unannounced	4
24/10/24	30/10/24	DP3734DC/0524854	Site inspection - unannounced	0
31/10/24	14/11/24	DP3734DC/0526931	Site inspection - announced	0
07/11/24	07/11/24	DP3734DC/0525992	Report/data review Decommissioning Leachate Well LS7 methodology	0
13/11/24	06/12/24	DP3734DC/0528654	Site inspection - unannounced	0
27/11/24	11/12/24	DP3734DC/0531324	Site inspection - unannounced	4
03/12/24	03/12/24	DP3734DC/0498087	Procedure review Landfill Gas Management Plan revision 3.10	0
09/12/24	09/12/24	DP3734DC/0530957	Report/data review Leachate Pumping trials – recovery test report	0

Non-Compliance identified in Compliance and Assessment Reports

2.20 Compliance Assessment Report dated 2 October 2024 – 31 CCS points

Non-compliances

C2 General Management – Management System & Operating Procedures - Permit Condition 2.4.1

You have been scored a category 2 non-compliance (31 CCS points), because you have not operated the activities, namely disposal of waste, using the techniques and in the manner described in the documentation specified in Schedule 1, table S1, as you have failed to:

1. Refuse to accept malodorous waste;
2. Remove areas of leachate ponding, which had increased in size since 16 September 2024;
3. Repair and/or replace the malfunctioning leachate pump;
4. Notify and agree with the Environment Agency proposed remedial action in relation to the leachate pump and a timetable for completion as the repair had not been completed within 2 working days.

These are remedial measures for non-conformances which are specified in the Approved OMP, which is a specified operating techniques document, and the Environment Agency has not agreed a different operating techniques document in writing.

This is a non-compliance which could have a significant effect on quality of life if not addressed promptly and adequately. You have identified waste and leachate as potential odour sources but failed to take the measures that you have identified to remediate odour non-conformances and mitigate odour pollution. Fugitive odorous emissions to air are likely to cause offence to local residents' sense of smell and impair or interfere with amenities or other legitimate uses of the environment. There are people living and working within 975 metres of the site perimeter, with some individuals as close as 125 metres.

Action DP3734DC/0524572: Remove any areas of leachate ponding.

Deadline: 08 November 2024.

Compliance Assessment Report dated 15 October 2024

Non-compliances B1 Infrastructure – Engineering for prevention & control of pollution - Permit Condition 2.5.6.

You have been scored a category 3 non-compliance (4 CCS points), because permanent capping works (Phase 2b) did not take place in accordance with the approved construction proposals, specifically sections 3.3.2, 3.4.1, 3.4.2 and 4.6.1 of the CQA Plan. The change to the approved construction proposal, namely the presence of unsuitable materials in the subgrade which have the potential to damage the overlying geosynthetic materials, is likely to have an adverse impact on the performance of the geomembrane layer. In any event, the Environment Agency did not agree any change to the approved construction proposals. The agreed construction standards have been designed to control landfill gas emissions effectively. This is a non-compliance which could have a minor effect on quality of life if it were not addressed promptly and adequately, due to an increased risk of odorous gas emissions escaping beyond the site boundary causing offence to residents' sense of smell, and along with those who work nearby.

Action DP3734DC/0524588: Construct landfill infrastructure in accordance with approved construction proposals.

As construction had already taken place at the time of the inspection, it is not possible for the Environment Agency to require retrospective action. However, the following information should be provided to the Environment Agency to confirm that appropriate action has been taken to address the non-conformances with the CQA plan identified on 15 October 2024, and to prevent future recurrence:

- a. details of checks and approval by the CQA Inspector in respect of the subgrade suitability and authorised deployment of the overlying geosynthetics prior to 15 October 2024.
- b. if no such approval was given, why AJS was allowed to deploy geosynthetic materials contrary to the requirements of the CQA Plan; and
- c. the measures that will be put in place to prevent work which does not meet the requirements of the CQA plan from going ahead; and
- d. copies of the CQA Inspector's daily logs, surface (regulating layer) release forms and geotextile and geomembrane 'pro-forma' information from the date of the installation of the subgrade in the northern extent of Phase 2b capping works, up to and including 15 October 2024

Deadline: 15 November 2024

2.21 Compliance Assessment Report dated 15 October 2024 – 4 CCS points

Non-compliances

B1 Infrastructure – Engineering for prevention & control of pollution - Permit Condition 2.5.6.

You have been scored a category 3 non-compliance (4 CCS points), because permanent capping works (Phase 2b) did not take place in accordance with the approved construction proposals, specifically sections 3.3.2, 3.4.1, 3.4.2 and 4.6.1 of the CQA Plan.

The change to the approved construction proposal, namely the presence of unsuitable materials in the subgrade which have the potential to damage the overlying geosynthetic materials, is likely to have an adverse impact on the performance of the geomembrane layer. In any event, the Environment Agency did not agree any change to the approved construction proposals.

The agreed construction standards have been designed to control landfill gas emissions effectively. This is a non-compliance which could have a minor effect on quality of life if it were not addressed promptly and adequately, due to an increased risk of odorous gas emissions escaping beyond the site boundary causing offence to residents' sense of smell, and along with those who work nearby.

Action DP3734DC/0524588: Construct landfill infrastructure in accordance with approved construction proposals.

As construction had already taken place at the time of the inspection, it is not possible for the Environment Agency to require retrospective action. However, the following information should be provided to the Environment Agency to confirm that appropriate action has been taken to address the non-conformances with the CQA plan identified on 15 October 2024, and to prevent future recurrence:

- a. details of checks and approval by the CQA Inspector in respect of the subgrade suitability and authorised deployment of the overlying geosynthetics prior to 15 October 2024.
- b. if no such approval was given, why AJS was allowed to deploy geosynthetic materials contrary to the requirements of the CQA Plan; and

c. the measures that will be put in place to prevent work which does not meet the requirements of the CQA plan from going ahead; and
d. copies of the CQA Inspector's daily logs, surface (regulating layer) release forms and geotextile and geomembrane 'pro-forma' information from the date of the installation of the subgrade in the northern extent of Phase 2b capping works, up to and including 15 October 2024

Deadline: 15 November 2024

2.22 Compliance Assessment Report dated 27 November 2024 – 4 CCS

Non-compliances

You have been scored a category 3 non-compliance (4 CCS points), because placement of geomembrane restoration soils on the permanent capping works (Phase 2b) did not take place in accordance with the approved construction proposals (specified in Capping and Restoration works – CQA plan, rev D, April 2022), specifically sections 7.3.3. and 7.3.5 of the CQA Plan.

The change to the approved construction proposals, namely:

1. the lack of any CQA supervision; and
2. the failure to maintain the minimum thickness of 1000mm of material at any location between the capping system and wheel plant/vehicles', is likely to have an adverse impact on the performance of the geomembrane layer. In any event, the Environment Agency did not agree any change to the approved construction proposals.

The agreed construction standards have been designed to control landfill gas emissions effectively and are one of the procedures that you have in place to mitigate pollution. You have failed to take these appropriate measures. This is a non-compliance which could have a minor effect on quality of life if it were not addressed promptly and adequately, due to an increased risk of odorous gas emissions escaping beyond the site boundary causing offence to residents' sense of smell, along with those who work nearby.

Action DP3734DC/0531324: Construct all landfill infrastructure in accordance with the approved construction proposals.

As construction had already taken place at the time of the inspection, it is not possible for the Environment Agency to require retrospective action. However, the following information should be provided to the Environment Agency to confirm that appropriate action has been taken to address the non-conformances with the CQA plan identified on 27 November 2024, and to prevent future recurrence:

1. Confirmation that the soil material has been carefully inspected to verify its suitability.
2. Confirmation that any damage that has occurred to the geomembrane cap as a result of the non-confirming works had been rectified.
3. An explanation of why WQL deployed the restoration soils contrary to the requirements of the CQA Plan.
4. A list of the measures that will be put in place to prevent work which does not meet the requirements of the CQA plan from going ahead again.

Deadline: by 18 December 2024. The information shall also be recorded appropriately in the CQA report, when it is submitted.

UK Health Security Agency [UKHSA] Interim Risk assessment

2.23 On 16 January, the EA published on 'Latest news' on their engagement website:

'The data recorded by our Mobile Monitoring Facilities (MMF's) and the volume of odour reports we received over the last week, reflect an unacceptable level of odour emissions from Walleys Quarry Landfill. We know that this has impacted many within the community and we have every sympathy with those who have been affected.

The Closure Notice, which we issued on 28 November 2024 (The Notice), does not alter Walleys Quarry Ltd's (WQL) obligations to comply with its permit conditions. The company remains responsible for maintaining active pollution control measures. We have informed WQL that it must work at pace to address the sources of the landfill gas and ensure that it is using appropriate measures to capture, contain and destroy the gas.

Since the beginning of January 2025, officers have been on site weekly and will continue to carry out regular inspections to ensure that WQL is making progress to complete the series of steps required by the Notice. As we have previously informed you (see 3 January 2025 update), we expect the odour outside the site to reduce as the additional gas infrastructure and capping required by the Notice are completed. The deadlines in the Notice are challenging but reasonable, based on the work which needs to be done. The capping work is due to be completed by 31 January 2025.

The significant levels of emissions outside the site have been intensified by the recent period of cold, still weather, which leads to poor dispersion conditions that will magnify the impacts on the community.

In recognition of this impact, and in particular the conditions between 9 and 11 January 2025, we have shared the raw MMF data that we have for the period up to 12 January 2025 with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) so that they could undertake an interim risk assessment. It is important to note that this data is based on indicative and incomplete raw data.

UKHSA has produced an interim risk assessment which can be viewed [here](#) and released the following statement

UKHSA is aware that residents living near Walleys Quarry Landfill have experienced increased odour pollution from the site throughout December, continuing into January.

The air quality data supplied by the Environment Agency (EA), for our December risk assessment, shows that hydrogen sulphide levels over the Christmas period were substantially above the World Health Organization (WHO) odour annoyance guideline level, with continual periodic high spikes of emissions throughout this time. This is consistent with the increase in local complaints sent to the EA and local authority.

UKHSA felt it was important to carry out an interim risk assessment, due to increasing levels of odour pollution complaints, along with further raw data being received for early January, showing hydrogen sulphide levels periodically exceeding the WHO short-term health guideline value.

The assessment is that while the risk to long-term health is still likely to be small, there is an increased likelihood that some residents could experience short-term health impacts affecting breathing, irritation of the eyes, nose and mouth. These effects should be transient (reduce if exposure declines) however, these higher exposures may exacerbate pre-existing chronic lung conditions.

Anyone with health concerns or symptoms should contact NHS 111 or their local GP'.

- 2.24** The UK Health Security Agency Health Risk Assessment of interim air quality monitoring results from 6 to 12 January 2025: Walleys Quarry Landfill Site, Silverdale Newcastle-under-Lyme is provided in full in Appendix 4.

Closure Notice

- 2.25** On 28 November 2024, the Environment Agency issued a Closure Notice to Walleys Quarry Ltd (WQL).
- 2.26** The Schedule to the Closure Notice requires WQL to comply with steps to initiate closure. The steps specified in the Schedule are summarised in the table below:

Schedule 2	Timescale	Steps
Stage 1 Step 1	From 00:01 on 29 November 2024	Cease accepting waste and do not recommence the acceptance of waste for disposal or recovery at the landfill
Stage 1 Step 2	By 13 December 2024	Construct bench-like horizontal platforms within the waste flanks on the uncapped former active tipping (operational) areas to facilitate access, maintenance and monitoring for the installation of gas control infrastructure (gas wells and connecting pipelines).
Stage 1 Step 3		Any waste left exposed following construction of bench like horizontal platforms in the former active area tipping (operational) areas shall be covered with non-waste material by the end of each working day.
Stage 1 Step 4	By 24 December 2024	Install permanent gas extraction wells as set out in Walleys Next Phase Gas Infrastructure Design 18.11.2024 reference CLP3573 and in those former active tipping (operational) areas without gas extraction, in accordance with the design and specification set out in the LGMP
Stage 1 Step 5		Connect all installed gas extraction infrastructure to the operational gas control system and place it under extraction. This shall occur no later than the end of the day of installation of the specific infrastructure
Stage 1 Step 6	By 31 January 2025	Install temporary geomembrane capping to any uncapped part of the former active tipping area of the landfill. Once installed, the capping shall alleviate gas emissions so that they do not exceed 50 parts per million (ppm) methane.
Stage 1 Step 7		Collect and remove surface water run-off from capped areas in accordance with Temporary Surface Water Management Layout, drawing ECL. 9311.D05.001 Rec C dated 10.07.2024. Any contaminated surface water shall either be removed from site or treated via leachate treatment plant.
Stage 1 Step 8	By 7 February 2025	A surface gas emissions survey shall be undertaken in accordance with LFTGN07 v2 2010 Guidance on monitoring landfill gas surface emissions

Stage 1 Step 9	By 14 February 2025	Submit a report to the EA demonstrating that emissions of methane do not exceed 50 parts per million (ppm) methane.
Stage 1 Step 10	From 14 February 2025	Conduct surface gas emission surveys every four weeks until the permanent cap is installed to ensure that the temporary cap is alleviating methane emissions to below 50ppm.
Stage 1 Step 11	No later than 7 days after each survey carried out in accordance with Step 10 above	Submit a report to the EA demonstrating that emissions of methane do not exceed 50ppm methane
Stage 1 Step 12	Within 24 hours from detection	Repair any defects or leaks in the cap giving rise to methane emissions greater than 50ppm methane
Stage 1 Step 13	By 28 February 2025	Provide the EA with a Landfill Closure and Aftercare Plan [Refer to the Closure Notice for the relevant sector guidance]
Stage 2 Step 1	By 30 May 2025 or such date agreed in writing by the EA	Provide the EA with a closure report which specifies how closure has been achieved and how the activities at the site will be managed, monitored and maintained during the aftercare phase. [Refer to Closure Notice for the relevant sector guidance]

Appeal against Closure Notice

2.27 Cabinet will be updated on the date(s) of the inquiry in due course.

Walleys Quarry update

2.28 No further information updates have been provided by Walleys Quarry Ltd since 02 January 2025.

Impact Study

2.29 An Impact study, commissioned jointly by a group of public bodies, including Staffordshire County Council, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, the Environment Agency and UK Health Security Agency, will be carried out by the independent Arcadis Consulting.

2.30 The Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Staffordshire County Council considered the report at its meeting on 2 December 2024.

2.31 The minutes are now available and are linked [here](#). The Committee endorses the recommendations within the Arcadis report and agreed that the Arcadis report be shared with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

Key Performance Data

2.32 Through the settlement agreement both Walleys Quarry Ltd and the Council have developed key performance indicators in relation to relevant data from each organisation. The key performance indicator for NuLBC is shown in Appendix 3.

2.33 The data from the Council covers the period from November 2024 to January 2025 and provides complaint numbers and officer assessments.

2.34 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 from September onwards has not been submitted by the operator.

3. Recommendation

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 On 20 November 2024 Council approved the sum of £400k (£250k from the General Fund Reserve, £150k from the Budget and Borrowing Support Fund) for costs associated with action to prosecute, and delegate to the Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for One Council, People and Performance and Town Centres and Finance, to draw down and remit such funds as are necessary for this action.

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;
- 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. One Council

11.1 Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council

One Digital Council

The Council will use all available monitoring data and digital tools in making strategic and operational decisions in relation to Walleys Quarry.

One Green Council

The Council is not a user of Walleys Quarry. Within its restricted powers, the Council is committed to ensuring that waste does not cause a nuisance for residents and ultimately wishes to see the end of landfill, with a site that is successful closed, capped off and restored.

12. Key Decision Information

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

13. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

13.1 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, 19th July 2022, 6th September 2022, 18th October 2022, 8th November 2022, 6th December 2022, 10th January 2023, 7th February 2023, 13th March 2023, 5th April 2023, 6th June 2023, 18th July 2023, 19th September 2023, 17th October 2023, 7th November 2023, 5th December 2023, 16th January 2024, 6th February 2024, 14th February 2024, 19th March 2024, 10th April 2024, 4th June 2024, 16th July 2024, 10th September 2024, 25th September 2024, 15th October 2024, 5th November 2024, 25th November 2024. 3rd December 2024, 9th January 2025.

14. List of Appendices

14.1 Appendix 1. Historical Complaint data

14.2 Appendix 2. Percentage exceedance above WHO odour annoyance guideline

- 14.3** Appendix 3. NULBC Key Performance Data
- 14.4** Appendix 4. UKHSA Health Risk Assessment of interim air quality monitoring results from 6 to 12 January 2025

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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
2022			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	2023		
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	Week Ending	Complaints to NuLBC	Complaints to Environment Agency
11-Jun	19	75	24-Mar	120	330
18-Jun	76	154	31-Mar	81	254
25-Jun	80	170	07-Apr	56	220
02-Jul	40	99	14-Apr	17	75
09-Jul	18	46	21-Apr	32	145
16-Jul	20	54	28-Apr	55	196
23-Jul	15	73	05-May	41	167
30-Jul	28	97	12-May	75	311
06-Aug	21	67	19-May	76	192
13-Aug	7	30	26-May	89	240
20-Aug	10	44	02-Jun	75	207
27-Aug	8	38	09-Jun	38	114
03-Sep	11	59	16-Jun	50	147
10-Sept	26	71	23-Jun	67	189
17-Sept	12	72	30-Jun	117	298
24-Sept	8	31	07-Jul	45	103
01-Oct	8	26	14-Jul	52	155
08-Oct	8	37	21-Juy	118	277
15-Oct	29	64	28-Jul	93	189
22-Oct	22	81	04-Aug	61	162
29-Oct	26	115	11-Aug	53	143
05-Nov	5	15	18-Aug	50	160
12 Nov	40	123	25-Aug	35	185
19-Nov	35	119	01-Sept	7	46
26-Nov	36	135	08-Sept	14	42
3-Dec	115	265	15-Sept	25	95
10-Dec	83	151	22-Sept	43	118
17-Dec	48	180	29-Sept	16	53
24-Dec	28	79	06-Oct	52	147
31-Dec	44	129	13-Oct	80	187
2024			20-Oct	37	136
07-Jan	236	627	27-Oct	100	311
14-Jan	76	268	03-Nov	46	163
21-Jan	270	824	10-Nov	41	153
28-Jan	86	261	17-Nov	251	793
04-Feb	133	416	24-Nov	252	842
11-Feb	382	905	1-Dec	518	1478
18-Feb	186	527	8 -Dec	261	760
25-Feb	397	1264	15-Dec	182	518
03-Mar	333	990	22-Dec	220	797
10-Mar	218	694	29-Dec	418	1644
17-Mar	103	374			

Time Period			
	MMF1 (%)	MMF 2 (%)	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
15 April – 21 April 2024	0.9	1.2	7.9
22 April – 28 April 2024	1.8	0	6.7
29 April – 05 May 2024	2.4	0.6	9.0
06 May – 12 May 2024	6.85	0.3	14.3
13 May – 19 May 2024	3.3	0	12.2
20 May – 26 May 2024	1.8	0.6	8.6
27 May – 02 June 2024	5.7	1.2	6.0
03 June – 09 June 2024	0	0	8.1
10 June – 16 June 2024	0.6	0	4.2
17 June – 23 June 2024	0.9	0.6	8.7
24 June – 30 June 2024	0.0	0.3	6.9

01 July - 7 July 2024	0.6	0.0	4.2
08 July - 14 July 2024	0.3	0.0	8.9
15 July - 21 July 2024	7.2	7.5	16.5
22 July - 28 July 2024	2.7	0	15.2
05 August - 11 August 2024	1.2	2.1	5.4
12 August - 18 August 2024	1.2	0.3	1.8
19 August - 25 August 2024	0	0	0
26 August - 01 September 2024	0	0	0.6
	MMF Maries Way (%)	MMF Silverdale Pumping Station (%)	MMF Galinagle View (%)
02 September - 08 September 2024	0.6	0	1.1
09 September - 15 September 2024	1.8	3.3	5.7
16 September - 22 September 2024	0.3	0.0	10.8
23 September - 29 September 2024	4.8	0.6	0.6
30 September - 06 October 2024	18.7	3.6	7.2
07 October -13 October 2024	14.0	11.3	8.0
14 October - 20 October 2024	22.8	5.09	1.8
21 October - 27 October 2024	13.4	14.0	12.0
28 October - 03 November 2024	13.2	1.5	15.0
04 November -10 November 2024	47.9	2.1	0.3
11 November -17 November 2024	4.80	7.49	20.40
18 November - 24 November 2024	8.0	5.4	6.5
02 December - 8 December 2024	11.9	10.3	3.9
09 December - 15 December 2024	7.1	0.6	22.3
16 December - 22 December 2024	3.3	13.6	14.5
23 December - 29 December 2024	22.9	25.6	16.4

Appendix 3 – NULBC Key Performance Indicators

NULBC		Information	Measurement	November 2024	December 2024	January 2025			
KPI 1	COMPLAINTS	Complaints reported to NULBC	Number	1064 * *Data revised to include back dated complaints Number of unique properties reporting complaints= 452 Rating 0 = 3 Rating 1 = 1 Rating 2 = 1 Rating 3 = 57 Rating 4 = 128 complaints (12.03%) Rating 5 = 262 complaints (24.6%) Rating 6 = 612 complaints (57.5%) % of complaints reporting odour entering the property = 879 (82.6%) % of complaints reporting health effects =783 (73.6%)	1129 * *Data revised to include back dated complaints Number of unique properties reporting complaints= 478 (amended figure) Rating 0 = 1 Rating 1 = 0 Rating 2 = 5 Rating 3 = 90 Rating 4 = 164 complaints (14.5%) Rating 5 = 287 complaints (25.5%) Rating 6 = 582 complaints (51.6%) % of complaints reporting odour entering the property = 917 (81.2%) % of complaints reporting health effects = 785 (69.6%)	1616 Number of unique properties reporting complaints= 708 Rating 0 = 0 Rating 1 = 0 Rating 2 = 9 Rating 3 = 100 Rating 4 = 193 complaints (11.9%) Rating 5 =370 complaints (22.9%) Rating 6 = 944 complaints (58.4%) % of complaints reporting odour entering the property =1414 (87.5%) % of complaints reporting health effects = 1279 (79.1%)			
				KPI 2	Complaints reported (daytime 07:00-23:00)	Number	881	983	1380
				KPI 3	Complaints reported (night-time 23:00-07:00)	Number	183	146	236
				KPI 4	Highest number of complaints during the period	Date (number of complaints)	28/11/24 (193 complaints)	03/12/24 (103)	10/01/25 (379)

NULBC		Information	Measurement	MMF Location Name	November 2024	December 2024	January 2025
KPI 5	AIR QUALITY	Percentage exceedance Odour Annoyance Guideline (Hydrogen Sulphide 30-minute average)	%	MMF Maries Way	28.4%	12.4%	Awaited
				MMF Silverdale Pumping Station	6.5%	16.5%	Awaited
				MMF Galingale View	11.3%	15.0%	Awaited
KPI 6		Monthly Average H ₂ S	ug/m3 over the month	MMF Maries Way	7.2ug/m3	6.0ug/m3	Awaited
				MMF Silverdale Pumping Station	2.7ug/m3	6.8ug/m3	Awaited
				MMF Galingale View	7.8ug/m3	5.0ug/m3	Awaited
KPI 7	H ₂ S PEAK LEVEL	Level measured over a 5-minute period Date & Time	ug/m3	MMF Maries Way 28/11/24 06:55	309.34ug/m3 28/11/24 06:55	585.29ug/m3 25/12/2024 20:50	Awaited
				MMF Silverdale Pumping Station 28/11/24 07:25	207.21ug/m3 28/11/24 07:25	1347.35ug/m3 25/12/2024 18:25	Awaited
				MMF Galingale View 26/11/24 22:50	293.38ug/m3 26/11/24 22:50	887.30ug/m3 25/12/24 07:00	Awaited
KPI 8	OFFICER ASSESSMENTS	Odour Rating - Officer odour assessment (5 minute)	Max Intensity Rating		32 assessments of which 30 recorded a max intensity rating of 4 or above on 11/11/24, 20/11/24, 21/11/24, 27/11/24, 28/11/24	N/A	3 assessments of which 3 recorded a max intensity rating of 5 on 10/01/25 17/10/25 23/01/25



UK Health
Security
Agency

Health Risk Assessment of interim air quality monitoring results from 6 to 12 January 2025: Walleys Quarry Landfill Site, Silverdale Newcastle-under-Lyme

Regarding ongoing response to odours and health concerns associated with the site

Introduction

UKHSA is aware that residents living near Walleys Quarry Landfill site have experienced increased odour pollution from the site throughout December, continuing into January.

The air quality data supplied by the Environment Agency (EA), for our December risk assessment, shows that hydrogen sulphide levels over the Christmas period were substantially above the World Health Organization (WHO) odour annoyance guideline level, with continual periodic high spikes of emissions throughout this time. This is consistent with the increase in local complaints sent to the EA and local authority.

UKHSA felt it was important to carry out an interim risk assessment for the period 6 to 12 January 2025, due to increasing levels of odour pollution complaints, along with further raw data being received for early January, showing hydrogen sulphide levels periodically exceeding the WHO short-term health guideline value.

Short Term Exposure

Assessment of odour pollution impacts

UKHSA has used the WHO odour annoyance guideline level for hydrogen sulphide to identify the potential for substantial odour pollution complaints. Hydrogen sulphide concentrations exceeding $7\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ over a 30-minute averaging period are likely to give rise to substantial numbers of odour pollution reports.

The interim concentrations of hydrogen sulphide for the period 6 to 12 January 2025 were above the WHO odour annoyance guideline value for a significant percentage of the time at MMF Maries Way, MMF Silverdale Pumping Station, and MMF Galingale View.

The more time spent above the guideline, the greater the likelihood of symptoms being experienced and consequently impacting on people's health and wellbeing.

Assessment of daily exposure

UKHSA has also used the WHO 24-hour air quality guideline value of 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to assess daily average exposure to hydrogen sulphide. This value is protective of eye irritation.

The weekly raw (indicative) hydrogen sulphide monitoring data for the period 6 to 12 January 2025 has been converted to 24-hour averages for each of the monitoring days. At MMF Maries Way, 24-hour average values were below the WHO 24-hour guideline value of 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. However, at MMF Pumping Station and MMF Galingale, the 24-hour average guideline value was exceeded on three days during the monitoring period: 10 January at MMF Pumping Station, and both 10 and 11 January 2025 at MMF Galingale, with 24-hour average concentrations of 205 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 213 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (10 January) and 258 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (11 January).

Exposure to concentrations of hydrogen sulphide above the WHO 24-hour guideline value may cause irritation of the eyes nose and throat.

Peak exposures

Short-term peaks in hydrogen sulphide concentrations have been compared against the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Acute Exposure Guideline Levels (AEGs). AEGs are expressed as specific concentrations of airborne chemicals at which health effects may occur and used to assess peaks of exposure. They are designed to protect elderly people and children, and other individuals who may be susceptible. The interim monitoring data from the three MMFs were compared with AEG-1 10-minute, 30-minute, 60-minute, 4-hour and 8-hour levels for hydrogen sulphide for the period 6 to 12 January 2025. At MMF Maries Way, all concentrations were below the AEG-1 values. However, at MMF Pumping Station, the AEG-1 10-minute, 30-minute, 60-minute, 4-hour and 8-hour levels for hydrogen sulphide was exceeded during 9 and 10 January 2025. At MMF Galingale, the AEG-1 4-hour and 8-hour levels for hydrogen sulphide was exceeded during 10 and 11 January 2025.

Exposure to concentrations above the AEG-1 values may cause notable discomfort, irritation or certain asymptomatic, non-sensory effects. However, the effects are not disabling, and are transient and reversible upon cessation of exposure.

Overall conclusions

The assessment is that while the risk to long-term health is still likely to be small, short-term transient health effects may be experienced such as irritation to the eyes, nose and throat, in addition to effects resulting from odour such as headache, nausea, dizziness, watery eyes, stuffy nose, irritated throat, cough or wheeze, sleep problems and stress. Individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), may be more susceptible to these effects.

UKHSA is working closely with the EA and other multiagency partners to monitor the situation and provide public health risk assessments and health advice. Anyone with health concerns or symptoms should contact NHS 111 or their local GP.

UKHSA strongly recommends that all measures be taken to reduce the off-site odour pollution from the landfill site, to reduce the health impacts experienced in the local community.

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAMS' REPORT TO HEALTH, WELLBEING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 MARCH 2025

Report Title: Newcastle Town Centre – Community Safety Partnership and Civic Pride

Submitted by: Service Director – Neighbourhood Delivery

Portfolios: Community Safety and Wellbeing

Ward(s) affected: Town

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
To provide the Committee with an overview of work that has been delivered by the Community Safety Partnership in Newcastle Town Centre line with the Community Safety Strategic Assessment and Priorities for 2024-2025 and the Civic Pride initiative.	
<u>Recommendation</u>	
<p>That Committee:-</p> <p>1. Receive the report and note the successful outcomes achieved in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as the work in progress to continue to tackle identified priority issues and promote Civic Pride.</p>	
<u>Reasons</u>	
To update the Committee on the ongoing Community Safety Partnership and Civic Pride work around Newcastle Town Centre.	

1. Background

1.1 The Council, Staffordshire Police, and other agencies work collaboratively under the umbrella of the Community Safety Partnership to identify and address community safety issues across the Borough and to deliver

initiatives which promote Civic Pride and engage communities in striving towards a clean, safe and welcoming Borough.

- 1.2 Like many other towns and cities across the UK, Newcastle town centre experiences issues relating to crime and anti-social behaviour which can have a negative impact on community perceptions of the town. To address this, a number of initiatives are in progress which are being jointly planned and delivered by the Council, the Police and other Community Safety Partnership agencies under the Civic Pride banner.
- 1.3 This report focuses on the initiatives which are in place or planned, to tackle community safety and anti-social behaviour in Newcastle town centre specifically. There are other initiatives in progress to tackle other related elements such as serious crime, homelessness and vulnerability which are not covered in this report.
- 1.4 The Council's Neighbourhood Delivery team brings together a cohort of staff who deal with various community safety, environmental enforcement and neighbourhood issues across the Borough. The team has a significant focus and presence in the town centre, and works closely with the police and other partners to carry out prevention, enforcement and clean up operations. They also lead on planning and organising Civic Pride events.

2. Issues

- 2.1 Newcastle is a vibrant market town with a bustling night time economy. The town centre has been identified as a hotspot location for ASB and Precision Policing in the Community Safety Strategic Assessment carried out by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. The issues in the town centre are not unique to Newcastle and are replicated in other town and city centres across the County and the UK.

3. Statistics

3.1 The following table and chart provided by Staffordshire Police as of February 2025, illustrates data for Newcastle town centre showing a trend of reducing incidences across all types of offences, compared to 2023/24:

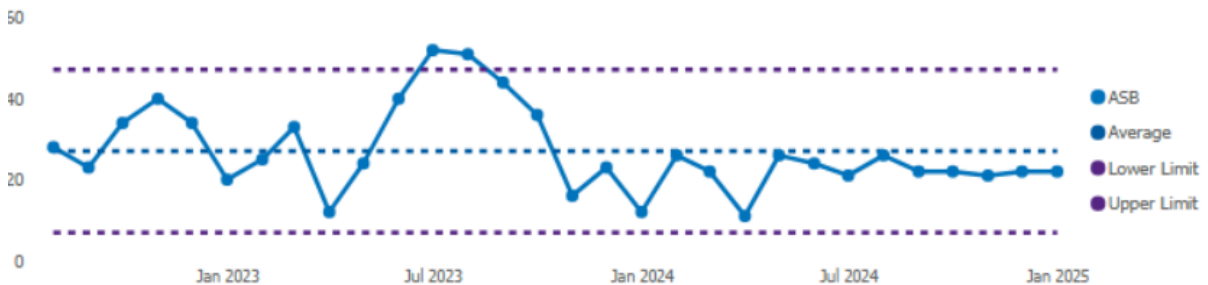
	Previous 12 Months 06/02/23 - 05/02/24	Current 12 Months 06/02/24 - 05/02/25	% Change
Crime	8532	7588	-11.1%
ASB	1913	1757	-8.2%
Business Burg	104	101	-2.9%
Serious Violence	148	149	0.7%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	136	151	11.0%
Theft	1420	1392	-1.97%

- Incidents managed through daily police briefing (DMM) where all crime reviewed.

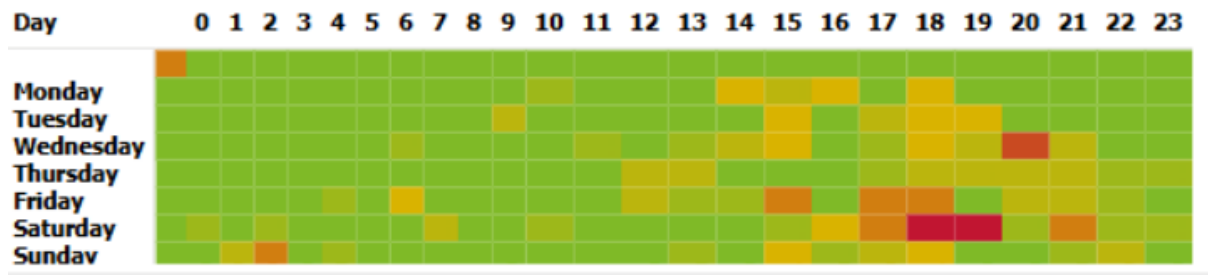
- Further scrutiny via threat and grip meetings where crime reviewed and allocated and any named offenders considered.
- Weekly performance reviews where crime levels and scrutiny of officers 'work in tray' is reviewed.
- Problem profiles raised for hotspot locations
- Community Safety Partnership focus is in line with priority areas, agreed via data collated in POWER BI

3.2 There is a 8.2% reduction in anti-social behaviour (ASB) reported incidents for the town in the last 12 months (this is a further decrease from 2023/24). The below chart shows the current trend. The heat map as shown in section 3.2.2 highlights key times for ASB in the town centre.

3.2.1
ASB SPC Chart



3.2.2



Recent problem profile raised which includes;

- Dedicated patrols between 1400-1700hrs when issues have been experienced
- Database created for persons dealt with by police and enforcement taken - letter to parents/ acceptable behaviour contracts/ arrest / dispersal notice
- Consideration for diversion tactics through requests/intelligence from the BID and Council
- SECTION 35 dispersal authorised by Chief Inspector that allows police to remove persons from the town for 48 hrs - this is a dynamic power that needs to be used only when police have had intelligence to suggest there will be

issues. It is not a cover all 24/7 and is only authorised for designated time and spaces.

3.3 Across the Borough, the Council and the Police have served 50 Community Protection Warnings and 21 Community Protection Notices (27 CPWs and 12 CPNs specifically for the Newcastle town centre.) These interventions are designed to target particular individuals who have been engaging in ASB and have proved to be a successful tool in this regard. Work is continuing to gather evidence, in conjunction with town centre businesses, to build cases to allow this approach to be used to tackle further individuals.

4 Current Activities/Operations

4.1 There are a number of activities and operations in progress to address issues in Newcastle Town Centre:

- **Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)** – The town centre PSPO was made in January 2023. This order defines a suite of prohibitions in order to address problematic behaviour in and around the town centre. Non-compliance with the PSPO results in a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) of £100. All Neighbourhood Policing Teams in Newcastle are able to enforce this and the Neighbourhood Delivery team also have the power to take enforcement action. A joint approach has been agreed whereby the police and the Neighbourhood Delivery team work together to regularly enforce the PSPO.
- **Safer Nights** – this is a police led operation in relation to the Night Time Economy (NTE). This runs on Friday and Saturday evenings. Briefing commences at 22.00 and the team are out on the ground at 22.30 – 03.00. This includes 1 Police Sergeant and 9 Police Officers. Activities involved include: high visual profile and engagement, walk through venue checks and toilet checks, licencing checks, CCTV, Door Staff details, occasional drug swipe tests, taxi checks, PSPO and ASB enforcement where required.
- **Town Centre Policing strategy** – the neighbourhood team consists of 1 x Sergeant, 3 x Police Officers and 3 x PCSO. The Proactive team also consists of 1 x Sergeant and 4 x Police Officers. This team will focus on the Precision Policing Areas which consists of Newcastle Town Centre but will include covert patrols.
- **Safe Space** – Launched in March 2022 and funded through the PFCC the safe space was opened on the Ironmarket to provide help and support to women and girls during the night time economy. The space is open from 9pm-2am on Fridays and is staffed by volunteers.
- **Street Medics** – initially funded as part of Safer Streets Round 4, and now funded via ASB funding from PFCC until 31st March 2025, the project deploys street medics in the town centre from 9pm- 2am on key Friday and Saturday nights throughout the year. The medics act as a triage to reduce the demand on A&E services.

- **CCTV** – the Council has a comprehensive CCTV system covering Newcastle town centre, including the subway routes around the ring road. CCTV is monitored 24/7 at the monitoring station in Stoke, and identified serious incidents are reported immediately to the police for response where appropriate.
Additional CCTV cameras are in the progress of being installed on privately owned buildings around the town centre and the new Castle Car Park to cover remaining “blind spots”, and wayleave agreements have been finalised to facilitate this (Ironmarket, Stubbs Street, Midway, Vue Cinema). A number of trees in the town centre have also been pruned to improve CCTV coverage.
- **Precision Policing** – this is an analytical report created to understand Staffordshire Police hotspots for vulnerability and crime. This aims to ensure that there is a more long term and partnership focused approach to resolving issues. The purpose of this model is to look at the wider social and economic issues and not just crime. This ensures that all partners understand the specific threats to the community in hotspot areas so all agencies are tailoring efforts in the same way. Newcastle Town Centre was selected for issues such as ASB, Serious Acquisitive Crime, Violence & Weapons and Drugs. This is why a number of tailored activity and supporting meeting structures are in place to ensure that this is coordinated between partners.
- **Joint Operations Group (JOG)**
Bi-monthly partnership meeting, chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing, to review intelligence and target multi-agency interventions, and to allocate funding to projects which tackle ASB in communities.
- **Community Wardens** – this project was launched in June 2024 and funded by PFCC. The scheme includes 2 wardens (from a company called Red Snapper) to patrol the town centre and engage with individuals or groups involved in ASB. The project is funded until until 31st March 2025.
- **Partnership Drop In** – this is held in the Safe Space on the third Thursday of each month. Hosted by the Council and Staffordshire Police, it is a drop in for businesses and members of the public to discuss issues in and around the town centre.
- **Weekly Enforcement Meeting** – partnership meeting with the police and the Council to discuss key individuals causing problems in the town centre and agree a joint approach to appropriate interventions.
- **Problem Solving Meeting** – Bi weekly partnership problem solving meeting to address high demand issues across the Borough. The meeting looks for partnership solutions to reduce the demand on services and resolve the matter.

- **Injunctions** – This method is used to tackle persistent individual offenders in Newcastle-under-Lyme. An injunction has recently been successfully obtained against an individual who has been causing problems, which has in effect banned them from the town centre for 2 years.
- **Civic Pride in Newcastle** – joint initiative between the Police, Borough Council, Aspire, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Staffordshire County Council and other partners to provide visible presence in communities and reassure/assist residents/businesses. Week of action held 28 October – 1 November 2024 under the banner of Civic Pride in Newcastle which co-ordinated a number of partners and initiatives to engage with the community and provide diversionary opportunities for young people. This will be repeated in October 2025.
- **Joint Operations with Trading Standards and Immigration** –

The CSP liaise with Trading Standards and Immigration and is planning another joint operation in 2025 to emulate the success of the previous operation where quantities of illicit goods were seized.

4.2 The Newcastle Partnership Board, which meets on a bi-monthly basis, provides the governance structure for community safety in the Borough, and reports to the County-wide Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group, hosted by Staffordshire County Council. The above initiatives, alongside other ongoing police and partner agency work and the Civic Pride programme, have resulted in the following outcomes in Newcastle town centre:

- Further reduction in ASB by an additional 8.2%.
- Reduction in reported crime by 11.1%
- Increase in engagement with the community and businesses
- Increase in CCTV cameras in and around the town centre – providing a vital tool in terms of collation of evidence for crime and ASB.
- Improved partnership working and co-ordination of intelligence and resources to tackle crime and ASB

The success of these initiatives has resulted in the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group, chaired by the Police Fire and Crime Commissioners (PFCC) Office, inviting Newcastle Borough Council and the Newcastle Local Policing Team to present a “deep dive” report on the partnership approach in the town centre at the March 2025 meeting. The PFCC provide Commissioners Community Safety Fund (formerly LDF) funds to Borough and District Councils each year to tackle priority issues identified in the Strategic Assessment (a refresh of this assessment has recently been issued) and the Council has submitted a proposal to the PFCC for 2025/26 for funds to deliver appropriate interventions.

5 Recommendation

5.1 That the Committee receives the report and note the successful outcomes achieved in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as the work in progress under the Civic Pride banner to continue to tackle identified priority issues.

6 Reasons

6.1 To provide an update to the Committee on the Community Safety Partnership and Civic Pride work around Newcastle Town Centre.

7 Options Considered

7.1 The Community Safety Partnership structure enables a range of options to be considered to address specific issues, and appropriate interventions agreed between partners.

8 Legal and Statutory Implications

8.1 The Council, the police and other agencies in the Community Safety Partnership have a range of powers and duties available to enable appropriate interventions and enforcement action.

9 Equality Impact Assessment

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been updated in relation to enforcement activities undertaken by the Council.

10 Financial and Resource Implications

10.1 There are no additional financial or resource implications directly relating to this report.

11 Major Risks & Mitigation

6.1 Without the Community Safety Partnership, there would be limited resource and capacity to deal with crime and ASB.

6.2 There would therefore be a risk of an increase in crime and ASB across the Borough, and in the town centre in particular.

6.3 Lack of funding could result in no delivery of some community safety projects that assist with reducing vulnerability and early intervention projects for low level ASB. The Community Safety Partnership pools resources and enables targeted funding bids to be made for identified priority projects.

12 UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

12.1 The proposal contributes towards the following UNSDGs:



12.2 This project contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals above as follows:

- Good health and well being – this projects will help to support the well being of residents at this location who have suffered from anti-social behaviour and crime
- Peace, justice and strong institutions – it will help to bring those who cause ASB to justice by assisting the Police and preventing these locations from experiencing Crime and ASB.

13 Key Decision Information

13.1 Not applicable.

14 Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

14.1 None.

15 List of Appendices

15.1 None.

16 Background Papers

16.1 None

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL



CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO HEALTH, WELLBEING & ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 March 2025

Report Title: Navigation House

Submitted by: Acting Service Director – Regulatory Services

Portfolios: Community Safety, and Wellbeing & Finance Town Centres and Growth, and One Council, People and Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: Town

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
To provide Health, Wellbeing and Scrutiny Committee with a review of operations at Navigation House post planning permission being granted.	
<u>Recommendation</u>	
<p>That HW&E Scrutiny:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receive this report. 2. Undertake a tour of Navigation House once the building works are completed to view the accommodation and review the operating policy. 3. Undertake a further site visit once the accommodation and operating policy has been ongoing for several months as part of the preparations to submit a planning application to continue after the first 12 months. 	
<u>Reasons</u>	
<p>In line with cross government strategy, we aim to end rough sleeping in the borough by 2025 and have embarked on an ambitious stepped approach to achieving this. Ending rough sleeping is defined as a position where rough sleeping is rare, brief and non-recurrent.</p> <p>The Shared Prosperity Fund Board have approved capital and revenue funding to develop a Homeless Hub for Newcastle-under-Lyme.</p> <p>This supports homeless individuals who are some of the most dis-advantaged in society and the furthest from accessing mainstream services.</p>	

1. **Background**

- 1.1 In 2022 Cabinet approved a Shared Prosperity Fund bid to develop a multi-agency assessment centre with accommodation for homeless individuals. This recognised the increasing number of people resorting to rough sleeping and the lack of any suitable, safe accommodation with necessary support services available to offer them.

- 1.2** The bid recognised that finding a premises for the centre would be challenging as would the funding timescales which end on 31st March 2025.
- 1.3** Finding a premises did subsequently prove challenging and time consuming with International House on Stubbs' Gate eventually being identified because it:
- Is a detached premises of sufficient size for the intended use at an edge of town centre location.
 - Is a reasonably modern building that could be converted without extensive renovations and within the budget.
 - Is an enclosed, gated site with high walls.
 - Has an internal courtyard, with most windows facing onto it.
 - Has no ground floor windows facing the street.
 - Has no buildings immediately opposite on Stubbs Gate.
 - Has a well-positioned office to aid site supervision.

Cabinet approved the acquisition of the property for this facility and architects were engaged to develop plans to convert the building into 2 distinct and separate uses. A homelessness hub, to be open limited hours each week, and a unit of 12 bed 24/7 supported accommodation.

- 1.4** Separately, planning permission for its conversion was granted in September 2024. The Planning Permission is to operate for 12 months after the date of the first use of the building.
- 1.5** Procurement of a contractor for the refurbishment was undertaken via the Pagabo Framework using the dynamic purchasing system for small works AVP-HGS-1013 and following an initial expression of interest stage. The opportunity was advertised on 11th November 2024 with a deadline for response of 3rd December 2024. Eight tenders were duly returned by the deadline. Tenders were assessed based on 60% cost and 40% quality.
- 1.6** On 7th January 2025 Cabinet gave approval to enter into the necessary building contracts for refurbishment and approved the funding. The name of the property was also changed to Navigation house. Once open Navigation House will:
- Provide safe, secure emergency accommodation.
 - Provide an environment where agencies can be available to support individuals without the need for an appointment (often a barrier to engagement).
 - Provide access to Department for Works and Pension, Citizens Advice Bureau, rough sleeping services, housing providers, probation, adult social care, homeless healthcare, drug and alcohol services, etc.
 - Develop relationships / trust for ongoing referrals for support, advice, medical appointments, developing paths to move on into non-emergency accommodation to continue the support.
 - Offer showers and a laundry, a place to be clean and warm.
 - Offer advice and support to overcome financial problems, secure job opportunities, and sustain tenancies.
 - Be a one stop shop to support those that are vulnerable; to get the right help and support.
- 1.7** The benefits to the wider community will be:
- Reduce perceived and actual anti-social behaviour in town associated with rough sleeping.
 - Potential to increase footfall into town as people see reduced anti-social behaviour,
 - Supporting businesses who are impacted by this cohort not being adequately supported and housed.

- Improved health of the rough sleeper cohort and impact on long term health conditions,
- Reduce impact on Police, ambulance, and hospital as rough sleepers are high users.
- Remove current reliance on expensive bed and breakfast for emergency accommodation, which is a barrier to engagement, is isolating and fuels the revolving door of individuals between bed and breakfast and rough sleeping.

2. Issues

2.1 Managing refurbishment works on site

- 2.1.1 The contract for refurbishment has been awarded to M2 Construction. The contractor recently completed refurbishment works to council owned properties within budget while keeping a good working relationship and communication with the client and other building users.
- 2.1.2 Work is planned to start on 24th February 2025, dependent on contract signing. There will be full engagement with the contractor whilst on site with regular visits from the Council's Regeneration Officer.

2.2 Securing a partner to manage the accommodation

- 2.2.1 The homeless hub part of the building will be run by the Council. It will replicate the successful homeless hub currently held at the Salvation Army on Bridge St on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.
- 2.2.2 The Council will be seeking a service provider to run the 12 bed 24/7 supported accommodation part of the building in partnership with The Council. The service provider will be expected to have a successful track record in providing services to rough sleepers and individuals with multiple and complex needs. The Council would like to appoint a service provider at an early stage in the project to allow them to be engaged and involved with the design, set up and delivery of the project.
- 2.2.3 The service provider will need to be a Registered Provider and will be responsible for:
- Running the provision on an Intensive Housing Management Model funded through housing benefit, so there are no ongoing revenue costs.
 - Managing the day to day running of the 12-bed provision, including, cleaning, safety checks, refuse, resident relations and behaviours, community cohesions.
 - CCTV monitoring and access on and off the site with appropriate logs/registers.
 - Providing 24/7 staff presence, including two waking staff and security at night.
 - Creating a Psychologically Informed Environment.
 - Developing and supporting move on options.
 - To participate in 'joint communications' and 'public relations' with the Council.

2.3 Local resident involvement

- 2.3.1 Following the granting of the 12 months planning permission neighbouring residents were invited to visit the building and discuss the plans. On 3rd October 2024 an 'open house' was held to enable a tour of the building.

review the plans and discuss aspects with Homelessness Lead Officers, Regenerations Officers and the Police. The project group will be working with neighbouring residents in relation to suggestions put forward to help mitigate concerns.



2.3.2 Further engagement will be held as refurbishment progresses. On completion of works and as the centre opens there will be monthly residents' meetings.

2.3.3 Following discussion with residents, works will include gates on the alleyways at the back of Navigation House.

2.4 Second Planning Permission Application

2.4.1 Planning permission is for one year from the start of operations at Navigation House. A second application will need to be submitted after approx. 6 – 9 months of operations and approval granted if the facility is to function after the end of the current permission. This is welcomed as it provides an opportunity for the centre to be reviewed based on a reality of the situation and operation.

3. Recommendation

That HW&E Scrutiny:

- 3.1 Receive this report.
- 3.2 Undertake a tour of Navigation House once the building works are completed to view the accommodation and review the operating policy.
- 3.3 Undertake a further site visit once the accommodation and operating policy has been ongoing for several months as part of the preparations to submit a planning application to continue operations after the first 12 months.

4. Reasons

- 4.1 The Shared Prosperity Fund Board have approved capital and revenue funding to develop a homeless hub for Newcastle-under-Lyme.
- 4.2 In line with cross government strategy, we aim to end rough sleeping in the borough by 2025 and have embarked on ambitious stepped approach to achieving this. Ending rough sleeping is defined as rare, brief and non-recurrent.
- 4.3 This supports homeless individuals who are some of the most dis-advantaged in society and the furthest from mainstream services.

5. Options Considered

- 5.1 Cabinet has previously considered options around creation of the Homeless Hub and considered the acquisition of a property, refurbish it and operate it as a Homeless Hub as the preferred option. These activities are in line with that decision.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1 The project is in line with the Council's Housing Strategy 2020 - 2024 Priority 3 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping and relevant statutory guidance with regard to homelessness and rough sleeping.

- 6.2 The use of the Pagabo small works AVP-HGS-1013 Dynamic Purchasing Framework offers a compliant route to market in line with both the Council's internal governance procedures and Public Contract Regulations 2015

7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 The location of Navigation House is intended to be accessible for all who need the facility.
- 7.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the funding. This identified a positive impact due to the project providing accessibility to services for disadvantaged individuals.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

- 8.1 The project requires expenditure of the Shared Prosperity Fund for which the Council is the accountable body. A key decision report to Cabinet on 9th January 2025 set out the full financial information for the project.
- 8.2 The refurbishment project will be managed by officers from the Regeneration Team in consultation with Regulatory Services.
- 8.3 Once completed the accommodation will run on a be intensive Housing Management model that is funded through housing benefit. Funding for the homeless hub, which will be operated by the Council, will continue to be through the Government Rough Sleeper Initiative Grant.

9. Major Risks & Mitigation

- 9.1 Unable to deliver the Shared Prosperity Fund project – consequences are loss of investment and no improvement of facilities for vulnerable local people. Control measures include project governance processes, project approval processes and the actions of the project subgroup in managing delivery of the project and associated risks and issues.
- 9.2 Not achieving planning permission for ongoing use – consequences are loss of a much-needed facility and subsequent impact on bed breakfast budgets. Control measures include close scrutiny and maintenance of all security and management measures put in place to ensure the centre can run without impacting the local community.

10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

- 10.1 The delivery of the project supports those most vulnerable in line with the following UNSDG's:



11. One Council

Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council

We will make investment to diversify our income and think entrepreneurially.

Refurbishment of Navigation House is intended to contribute to a reduction in the cost of providing accommodation for those who experience homelessness and to enable the efficient delivery of services to those that need it.

One Digital Council

We will develop and implement a digital approach which makes it easy for all residents and businesses to engage with the Council, with our customers at the heart of every interaction.

Following its refurbishment Navigation House will benefit from connection to the Council's new fibre network enabling the efficient delivery of services to both its residents and service users.

One Green Council

We will deliver on our commitments to a net zero future and make all decisions with sustainability as a driving principle

The refurbishment includes works to make the building more energy efficient. This includes the removal of gas as an energy source.

12. Key Decision Information

12.1 This is not a key decision.

13. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

13.1 Cabinet 19.07.22 [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#)

13.2 Cabinet 18.10.22 [UK Shared Prosperity Fund Contract Award](#)

13.3 Cabinet 19.09.2023 [Progression of the Shared Prosperity Fund and the Homeless Hub](#)

13.4 Planning Permission issued 19 September 2024

13.5 Cabinet 09.01.25 [Navigation House Refurbishment Contractor Award](#)

14. List of Appendices

14.1 None.

15. Background Papers

15.1 None.

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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, P. Northcott, P. Reece, L. Richards, R. Wright, A. Berrisford

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 or on (01782) 742222

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

Planned Items

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	NOTES
3 rd March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newcastle Fire Station Update and Performance • Walleys Quarry Update Report • Parks & Open Spaces Task & Finish Working Update • International House – review of operation post planning permission being granted • Newcastle Town Centre - Community Safety Partnership 	Contact: Glynn Luznyj Officer: Nesta Barker Officer: Andrew Bird Officer: Gill Taylor Officer: Roger Tait
12 th June 2025	• [No items scheduled]	
15 th September 2025	• Review of the Animal Welfare Charter	Officer: Roger Tait
24 th November 2025	• Review of the Gambling Policy 2024	Officer: Nesta Barker

Future Items

An update on allotment waiting lists and availability will be provided in the year 2025-26
 Progress to Net Zero and North Staffordshire Local Air Quality (formerly A53 bus gate) reports to be scheduled

Other Matters

Information on tennis provision – including maintenance of the facilities will be circulated by officers via email

Previous Items

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	NOTES
25 th November 2024	• Walleys Quarry Odours Update	Officer: Nesta Barker

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Parks across the Wards – open space, grassland and green infrastructure strategies including play equipment maintenance and repair as well as the opportunity for a Task & Finish working group • Tree Risk Management Strategy 	<p>Officer: Andrew Bird</p> <p>Officer: Andrew Bird</p>
16 th September 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walleys Quarry Odours Update • Mobile Multi-Functional Team (MMF) - Scope and Purpose • Animal Welfare Strategy • Sustainable Environment Strategy Update 	<p>Officer: Nesta Barker</p> <p>Officer: Roger Tait</p> <p>Officer: Roger Tait</p> <p>Officer: Andrew Bird</p>
3 rd June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walleys Quarry Odours Update • Youth Obesity - J2 Play Provisions • Chief Fire Officer Update 	<p>Officer: Nesta Barker</p> <p>Officer Jo Halliday</p> <p>Contact: Glynn Luznyj</p>

Last updated on 4th February 2025

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