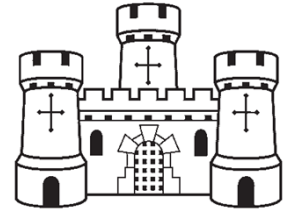


**Date of meeting** Monday, 15th September, 2025

**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

#### PART 1 – OPEN AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (Pages 3 - 8)  
To consider the Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee.
- 4 DISTRICT AND BOROUGH HEALTH SCRUTINY ACTIVITY**  
To receive feedback from members of this committee who attended the meetings of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee
- 5 WALLEYS QUARRY ODOUR ISSUES** (Pages 9 - 32)
- 6 CIVIC PRIDE (EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITIES) STRATEGY** (Pages 33 - 56)
- 7 REVIEW OF PARKS TASK & FINISH WORKING GROUP FINAL REPORT** (Pages 57 - 64)
- 8 REVIEW OF ANIMAL WELFARE CHARTER**  
A verbal update will be given on this item.
- 9 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP** (Pages 65 - 80)
- 10 WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 81 - 84)
- 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**

The next meeting will be held on 24 November, 2025

**Members:** Councillors Adcock (Chair), Barker MBE, Beeston, Crisp, Dymond, Northcott, Reece, Richards, Whieldon, Wilkes (Vice-Chair) and Wright

**Members of the Council:** If you identify any personal training/development requirements from any of the items included in this agenda or through issues raised during the meeting, please bring them to the attention of the Democratic Services Officer at the close of the meeting.

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

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

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

Substitute Members:	Bryan	Johnson
	Burnett-Faulkner	D Jones
	Casey-Hulme	Parker
	Edgington-Plunkett	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.

## HEALTH, WELLBEING & ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 12th June, 2025  
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

Present:	Councillor Rupert Adcock (Chair)		
Councillors:	Barker MBE Beeston Crisp	Dymond Reece Whieldon	Wilkes
Apologies:	Councillor(s) Northcott, Richards and Wright		
Substitutes:	Councillor Sheelagh Casey-Hulme (In place of Councillor Ruth Wright) Councillor Mark Holland (In place of Councillor Paul Northcott)		
Officers:	Nesta Barker Craig Jordan	Service Director - Regulatory Services Service Director - Planning	
Also in attendance:	Deputy Commander – Staffordshire Police Police Officer – Staffordshire Police		

### 1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were shared as listed above.

### 2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

### 3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

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

The Chair said there had been an induction meeting on the Monday which he was unable to attend. Training slides had been shared and County Councillor Adam Griffiths had been assigned to working with Newcastle's Scrutiny Committee and officers.

[Watch the debate here](#)

**5. POLICING ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOURS IN THE BOROUGH - STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE**

The Chair welcomed Staffordshire Police officers.

Deputy Commander Joel Hurst introduced himself and his colleague Sgt Dave Henshall. A presentation on policing antisocial behaviours in the borough was provided to members.

[Watch the presentation here](#)

Cllr Whieldon enquired about problem profiles.

The Deputy Commander advised that this could be both about assigning a classification to one person's behaviour or to a specific problem.

Cllr Whieldon asked what the police would do once a problem had been identified to stop it from recurring.

Sgt Henshall responded that a problem-solving meeting would take place, and all the information would be brought to one single point of contact who would then address it through education and if deemed necessary prosecution which was often the most efficient way of dealing with matters.

The Deputy Commander added that each problem had its own resolution path. Drug dealing issues for instance could not be addressed the same way as homelessness. The problem-solving meeting would gather organisations and partner agencies that were best positioned to help resolve the situation.

Cllr Reece enquired about nuisance bikes and related criminal activities.

The Deputy Commander responded that crime could be committed alongside nuisance bikes when for example a motorbike helmet or balaclava was used to hide one's identity. These were however separate from anti-social behaviours and dealt with as criminal matters.

Sgt Henshall added that there were fortunately very few of these incidents with no gangs or mass bikers committing robberies in Newcastle.

Cllr Reece wondered about the reporting process and how one could tell the difference between nuisance bikes and crime involving the use of a motorcycle.

The Deputy Commander advised that information about a vehicle could be cross referenced with data held by partner agencies. People simply needed to report what they saw as just a few lines from one person on a record / entry could be matched with a call received from another person.

Cllr Wilkes asked if the police was partnering with motorbike retailers as regards nuisance bikes.

Sgt Henshall responded that they did not, and it would be more to do with trading standards. The Deputy Commander added that it wasn't illegal to sell them, own them or ride them, making it difficult to tackle the issue at the source of sale.

Cllr Dymond asked if it was legal to drive electric scooters on the pavement.

The Deputy Commander responded that it was illegal to drive them anywhere that is not the road.

Cllr Barker said she worked at One Stop community shop in Chesterton and the camera running 24/7 picked up a lot of crime related behaviours which she reported to phone line 101 when she noticed them and could be of interest to the police.

The Deputy Commander advised that the police would come and look at CCTV footage when specific issues were being reported and investigated.

Cllr Whieldon enquired about communication and publicity around the reporting process for members of the public witnessing offenses. She also asked if an audit of CCTV equipment in the hot spot areas had been undertaken as well as what had been done in terms of signage.

The Deputy Commander responded that leaflets had been printed out and were in the process of being distributed. The work around profiling and investigations was not to be broadcasted, however. About CCTV cameras, these were controlled by the County Council and set up in specific locations. Cameras in an open area were likely to be stolen or broken. The police knew where all cameras were and could access them for specific enquiries. Finally and as far as signage went, offenders were aware that they were breaking the law and the costs of putting up and maintaining signs was likely to outweigh the actual benefits.

Cllr Holland referred to a nationwide trial that was government mandated in relation to scooters in July 2020, which Newcastle participated in. The trial was inconclusive, although did show that a lot of vehicles were misused. Injuries and incidents seemed to be higher than with e.g. pedal bikes or roller skates.

Cllr Holland wondered about the Committee responsibility with regard to hot spots areas under the Council's ownership and stewardship such as the former Keele Golf course. The latter would either become a protected area, where more trees could be planted, be developed for housing, or both. In the meantime, the question remained if there was anything the Council could do to address antisocial behaviours taking place there or on Council land elsewhere in the borough.

The Deputy Commander advised that those conversations were taking place as part of the process to address issues, and support was provided by the Council as required.

The Chair commented that, as a Councillor for Silverdale, this was one of the top issues raised by residents and there wasn't much members felt they could do about it. This brought up the question of what the options were in terms of both deterrence and communication. Would potential offenders engage in such behaviours if they knew they would likely be caught? Likewise, would local residents and communities, be encouraged more to report the issues if they thought action would be taken? Reference was made to an advertising campaign operated in Stoke-on-Trent in 2023 including signs. Tenancy enforcement agreements for those occupying Council housing warning tenants of the implications of nuisance activity had also been used.

Sgt Henshall confirmed working with housing associations in relation to tenancy agreements as one initiative. In terms of deterrence, hitting people in the pocket and taking vehicles away seemed to be the most efficient way to address the problem. Investigations were now carried out even after the incidents had stopped and

## ***Health, Wellbeing & Environment Scrutiny Committee - 12/06/25***

anonymous online reporting was making things easier when noticing suspicious behaviours in neighbourhoods.

The Chair referred to communication efforts on social media local communities' pages and asked if this was happening outside of social media as well.

The Deputy Commander said that housing associations were communicating using leaflets and other appropriate means, but this hadn't gone on the wider news channels as far as he was aware. This could be considered going forward.

The Chair requested that the presentation made by the Police to the meeting be shared with members.

Cllr Whieldon asked what the best email address to report incidents was.

The Deputy Commander responded that it was best to either ring 101 or use the Staffordshire Police online portal so that it could be fed into the system's analytics and the information be recorded and used.

The Chair asked if there was a specific option on the website to report off-road vehicle nuisance.

The Deputy Commander said there was a general reporting section which would then take people to different avenues once the process started.

Cllr Whieldon shared the case of a resident who seemed to struggle to get any response going through the reporting process. Cllr Whieldon subsequently tried to call 101 on her behalf and had a bad experience with the operator. Other residents had commented on the poor service received and it was felt that additional training may be required.

The Deputy Commander advised having been informed of issues, that a lot of work had been undertaken through training over the past twelve months. Faster pick-up times should now be noticed however it needed to be recognized that thousands of calls were still received every day. People were encouraged to report issues online, though members were welcome to inform him of any difficulties experienced over the phone.

Cllr Whieldon commented that elderly people did not always have the possibility to use online platforms and would rely on 101.

The Deputy Commander acknowledged the comment.

The Chair thanked police officers for their presentation and for answering questions from members, adding that ward councillors were there to help if there was anything they could do and could be contacted accordingly.

**Resolved:** That the presentation be received and a copy of the slides be shared with members after the meeting.

[Watch the debate here](#)

**6. WALLEYS QUARRY ODOUR ISSUES**

The Service Director for Regulatory Services introduced the update report on Walleys Quarry as presented to Cabinet on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Cllr Casey-Hulme expressed concerns over recent news suggesting the landfill had now actually been abandoned. The Environment Agency did not intend to permanently cap and was removing the MMFs with no water services management in place and no restoration of the site. It was feared this would eventually open to the elements, there wouldn't be any security, and children would be able to go and play there. It was requested that the matter be discussed at the next meeting of the full Council.

The Service Director for Regulatory Services responded that the operator having now gone into liquidation the priority was to make things stable on site and then looking at the longer-term options. A staged approach was essential, and the Council was currently working with the Environment Agency to deal with things as they were on site at the moment before moving on to the next stage of development.

Cllr Holland commented that there was always an option to raise issues relating to Walleys Quarry at full Council as the item was included in the Leader's statement. Members were encouraged to never lose an opportunity to represent residents on this matter, the long-term future of the site and inaction demonstrated by the Environment Agency being indeed a great concern. The fact that odours had reduced was very welcomed and the question was now what the Council could do to press the regulator who was stewarding the site.

The Service Director for Regulatory Services confirmed that the dialogue would be maintained to press the government, Environment Agency and liquidators.

The Chair stated that while it was nice to see that a lot of work had been going on and that the site was in much better condition, there hadn't been much detailed information about the long-term future of the site. Another public briefing felt appropriate if this is something that could be asked of the Environment Agency along with more information about the MMFs.

The Service Director for Regulatory Services said she would pass on the request for a public meeting to the Environment Agency. The three MMFs stations were still there and it was expected they would be reviewed over time.

Cllr Casey-Hulme said she had evidence from the judicial review of Matthew Richards that the Environment Agency had stated they would not be restoring the site or manage the water and that they would take away the MMFs.

The Service Director for Regulatory Services said she had not been included in the communication referred to and suggested that the information be shared along with having a conversation.

The Chair commented that this highlighted the need for a meeting with the Environment Agency so that they can explain themselves and address the confusion and anxiety for members of the public around the future of the site.

Cllr Barker asked about the £132,000 owed by Walleys Quarry to the Council.

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The Service Director for Regulatory Services responded that the Council was engaging with the liquidators and awaiting an update.

**Resolved:** That the contents of the update report be noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

### **7. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair went through the work programme and indicated that he hoped a report from the Parks and Open Spaces Task and Finish Working Group would be available for the September meeting.

Cllr Whieldon commented that the group was scheduled to meet on the 30<sup>th</sup> June and would be discussing the final report to be presented to the Committee.

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

[Watch the debate here](#)

### **8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

### **9. URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

### **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved:** That the next meeting be held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7pm.

**Councillor Rupert Adcock  
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 8.19 pm



## NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

### CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S

#### REPORT TO CABINET

02 September 2025

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

**Submitted by:** Chief Executive

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

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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

**Key Decision** Yes ☐ No ☒

To update Cabinet on the latest position regarding the problematic odours in the Borough associated with Walleys Quarry.

#### **Recommendation**

**Cabinet is recommended to:**

1. Note the contents of this update report.

#### **Reasons**

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

### **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 which has, until its liquidation been operated by Walleys Quarry Ltd. The Environment Agency (EA) is the lead regulator for permitted landfill 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** 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/environmental-health-enforcement-policy)]. 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.

**1.6** At its meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025, full Council resolved to write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the local member of parliament, the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency and the Leader of Staffordshire County Council. The following updates on this correspondence are provided.

1.6.1 The Secretary of State, Steve Reed OBE MP, was asked to provide a timetable for a public enquiry into the actions of the Environment Agency through the Walleys Quarry process and for confirmation that he would provide a guarantee that all costs of remediation would be met by UK Government. At time of writing, no response has been received.

1.6.2 The Member of Parliament for Newcastle-under-Lyme, Adam Jodge MP, was asked for specific assistance in getting the relevant Government departments and agencies to engage with the multi-agency co-ordinating group; to call for Government to play an active role in the safe restoration of the site; and to join calls for a public enquiry into the site and its regulation. There has to date been no response.

1.6.3 The Chief Executive for the Environment Agency was asked to commit real and lasting financial support for the restoration of the site; that continuous monitoring would continue to be in place; and that a public meeting be held by the end of September. A reply was received on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025 and is set out in Appendix 4 to this report.

**1.7** The Council continues to assess the prevalence of odours off site.

## 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
<b>June 2025</b>		
02/06/25 - 08/06/25	3	6
09/06/25 - 15/06/25	3	7
16/06/25 - 22/06/25	4	4

23/06/25 - 29/06/25	6	2
<b>July 2025</b>	1	1
30/06/25 - 06/07/25		
7/07/25 - 13/07/25	3	4
14/07/25 - 20/07/25	3	6
21/07/25 - 27/07/25	3	6
28/07/25 - 03/08/25	8	17
<b>August 2025</b>		
04/08/25 - 10/08/25	2	0
11/08/25 - 17/08/25	0	3
18/08/25 - 24/08/25	0	0
25/08/25 - 31/08/25	2*	Awaiting data

\*Figure may alter due to backdated complaints received

## 2.2 July 2025

- There were no 'odour events' (where 10 or more complaints have been reported) during the month of July.
- The highest number of odour complaints reported was on 28 July with 8 complaints.
- The total number of odour complaints in July was 18 complaints.

The total number of odour complaints reported each month has remained relatively stable in the last 4 months:

- May - 15 complaints
- June - 16 complaints
- July - 18 complaints

## August 2025

- There were no 'odour events' (where 10 or more complaints have been reported during the month of August)
- The highest number of odour complaints reported was on 27 August 2025 with 2 complaints
- The total number of odour complaints in August was 4 complaints

In August there was a significant reduction in the number of reported complaints as work continues to progress onsite.

## NULBC Odour Assessments

- 2.3** Officers have undertaken odour assessments. 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.
- 2.4** With the reduction in complaint numbers, odour assessments are proactive rather than reactive and aim to provide reassurance monitoring within the community.
- 2.5** In July 12 spot assessments were undertaken of which 3 detected landfill related odour with an intensity rating ranging from 2 (slight/weak) to 3 (distinct).

- 2.6** In August 10 spot assessments were undertaken of which 1 detected landfill related odour with an intensity rating of 2 (slight/weak).

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

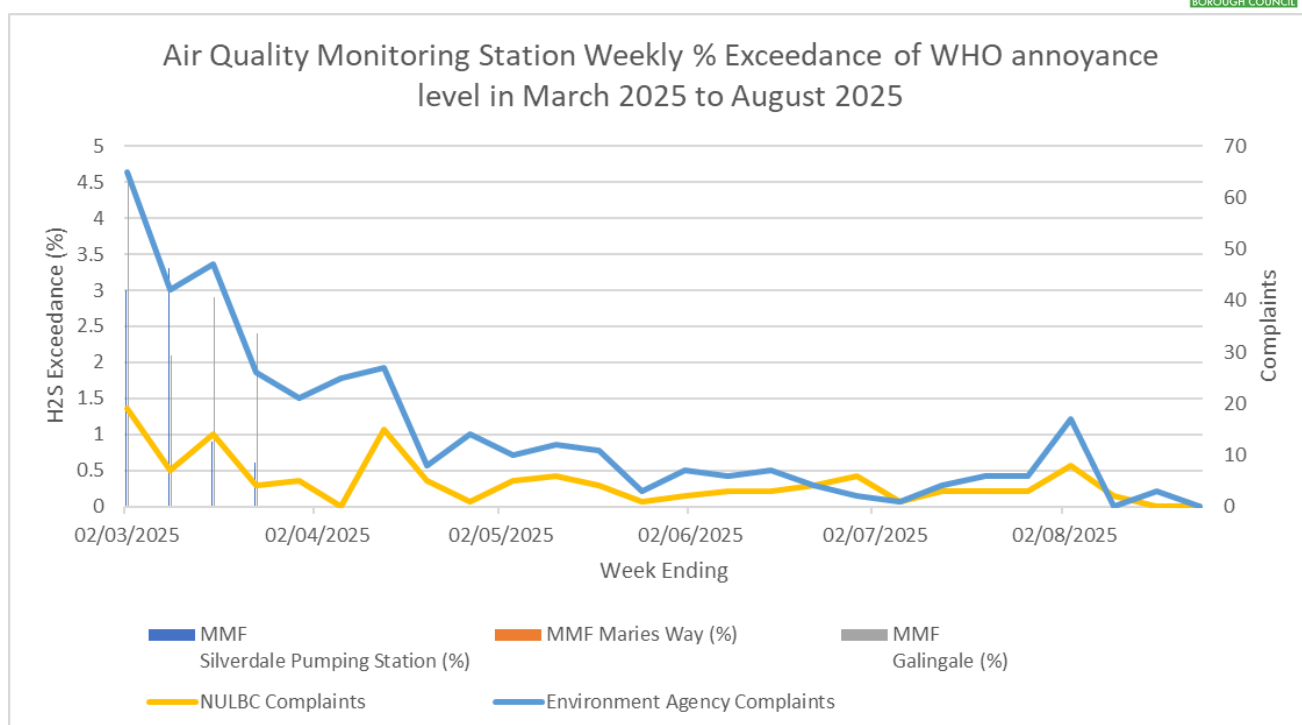
- 2.7** Hydrogen sulphide monitoring was undertaken by Officers on 29 August 2025. At each of the 7 locations the H<sub>2</sub>S levels were recorded at 0ppb.

### **Air Quality**

- 2.8** 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).
- 2.9** The air quality data up to July 2025 has been published on the EA website and the KPI data has been updated.
- 2.10** The latest H<sub>2</sub>S data is set out in the table below, defining the proportion of the time periods where H<sub>2</sub>S levels were above the WHO Odour Annoyance guideline of 7ug/m<sup>3</sup>. Historic data is available in Appendix 2.

Time Period	MMF Maries Way (%)	MMF Silverdale Pumping Station (%)	MMF Galingale View (%)
26 May - 01 June 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
02 June - 08 June 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
09 June - 15 June 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
16 June - 22 June 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
23 June - 29 June 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
30 June - 6 July 2025	0.0		0.0
7 July - 13 July 2025	0.0		0.0
14 July - 20 July 2025	0.0		0.0
21 July - 27 July 2025	0.0		0.0
28 July - 03 August 2025	0.0		0.0
4 August - 10 August 2025	0.0		0.0
11 August - 17 August 2025	0.0		0.0
18 August - 24 August 2025	0.0		0.0

- 2.11** The complaint data and weekly % exceedance of the WHO annoyance level for the last six months have been combined and is shown on the graph below:



## Environment Agency Regulatory and Enforcement Action

- 2.12** 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>.
- 2.13** The EA have 'launched 'Report an environmental problem,' a new online reporting service to make it easier to report water and odour pollution across England. This will replace the Walleys Quarry online reporting service on 6 August 2025'. The EA advise that if you need to report an odour, please use the following link - [Report a smell from a waste facility, industrial site or farm in England - GOV.UK](#).

## Progress with onsite works

- 2.14** The EA have published the following updates since the previous Cabinet report:

### **2.15 29 July 2025**

'Since our update on 9 June 2025, works to capture landfill gas and leachate in the void area have been completed. By the end of August, we expect the contractors to move from a manual system to using automatic pumps, which manage the separate surface water and leachate drainage in that part of the site.

Work at the top of the site to infill the surface depressions, and repair defects in the temporary capping, will continue into the Autumn. This work focusses on controlling landfill gas emissions, which can cause off-site odour. To move plant and materials where they are needed, additional access tracks will be constructed. We have given instructions that lorries avoid queuing on the public highway.

Throughout this period, landfill gas pipework may be temporarily disconnected and realigned. As we have explained before, this may result in temporary increases in

localised off-site odour. We have instructed contractors to keep this to a minimum as much as possible.'



a. Photograph of imported material in the void area taken on 29 July 2025

## **2.16 07 August 2025**

'From the week commencing 11 August 2025 there will be an increase in the number of lorries delivering materials to the site, for the purposes of the work described in our update on 29 July 2025. A road sweeper will be in operation on the road outside the site as necessary.'

## **Walleys Quarry Limited Update – Voluntary Liquidation [28 February 2025]**

- 2.17** No further updates have been uploaded to the filing history for Walleys Quarry Ltd on Companies House.
- 2.18** There is no legal time limit on how long a liquidation will last. A typical liquidation takes a year to complete but can go on for longer. It depends on what assets are to be realised, and how long it takes to agree creditors' claims.

## **NULBC Update**

- 2.19** We will offer both the EA and liquidator any support we can within our powers to keep this landfill under control, as it is currently.
- 2.20** We will continue to monitor the data in relation to the landfill.
- 2.21** We will continue to undertake odour monitoring and assessments in the community.
- 2.22** We would ask that should the community be adversely affected by odour that complaints are logged to the EA or ourselves via [Report a problem or concern about Walleys Quarry – Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council](#).



## **UK Health Security Agency [UKHSA]**

**2.23** The UKHSA produced the Health Risk Assessment of air quality results from March 2021 to May 2025 for Walleys Quarry Landfill site.

**2.24** The UKHSA position in the latest risk assessment is;

Waste acceptance at Walleys Quarry landfill site has ceased and we are reassured that engineering measures are now in place to fully seal and stabilise the site to prevent hydrogen sulphide emissions escaping into the atmosphere and to manage landfill gasses appropriately through the site's gas utilisation plant.

In May 2025, the odour annoyance guideline value for hydrogen sulphide was not exceeded at any of the monitoring sites and the monthly average concentration at all three sites was below the long-term health-based guidance value. The cumulative average concentration is above the long-term health-based guidance value at all three of the monitoring sites due to historic concentrations and the protracted nature of this incident. UKHSA is assured of a continued decrease in the cumulative average concentrations of hydrogen sulphide due to the cessation of landfill waste acceptance and the transition of the site into the restoration phase.

## **Key Performance Data**

**2.25** Through the settlement agreement both Walleys Quarry Ltd and the Council had developed key performance indicators in relation to relevant data from each organisation, only data for NULBC is available, following Walleys Quarry Ltd liquidation. The NULBC data is shown in Appendix 3.

**2.26** The data from the Council covers the period from June 2025 to August 2025 and provides complaint numbers and officer assessments.

## **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.

## **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.
- 6.2** In 2024, the Council established breaches of the abatement notice. As the Council was not the primary regulatory permission to undertake legal proceedings was sought from the Secretary of State. This permission was received in July 2024, preparation for legal proceedings commenced, with the intention to issue proceedings in late 2024/early 2025.
- 6.3** This report details both the EA closure notice and subsequent appeal against the closure notice, which the Borough Council was a principal party to present evidence in relation to the statutory odour nuisance.
- 6.4** Walleys Quarry Ltd in February 2025 entered voluntary liquidation.
- 6.5** Upon the liquidation of Walleys Quarry Ltd, the abatement notice and the legal requirements in respect of odours, will cease to be enforceable. As a result, those legal proceedings will not continue. The council will keep this under review.
- 6.6** The Council also continues to engage with the Crown Estate and the EA regarding any future plans for the site.

## **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 a further 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 and when necessary for this action.
- 8.4 On 25 February 2025 the Council was listed as a creditor in the 'Notice of Statement of Affairs' signed by a Director of Walleys Quarry Ltd. The amount owed to the Council is £132,097.20. This outstanding debt is made up of £102,000 in respect of the legal fees agreed through the mediated settlement in court back in October 2022 relating to the Abatement Notice. The remaining amount relates to outstanding Business Rates.
- 8.5 The Council is now in correspondence with Walleys Quarry liquidators in order to recover these outstanding monies. Updates on this situation will be provided as and when available.

## 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:
- 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 Sustainable Council ☒

The Council will further develop the Walleys Quarry landfill webpage to make it easier for residents and businesses to be kept up to date with the works being undertaken onsite.

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 and Health, Wellbeing & Environment Scrutiny Committee, Council and Cabinet on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021, 17<sup>th</sup> November, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025, and 8<sup>th</sup> July 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. Letter from Chief Executive, Environment Agency

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## Appendix 1 – Historic Complaint Numbers

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

Week Ending	Complaints to NuLBC	Complaints to Environment Agency	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
<b>2024</b>			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	-	-	-

Week Ending	Complaints to NuLBC	Complaints to Environment Agency	Week Ending	Complaints to NuLBC	Complaints to Environment Agency
<b>2025</b>					
05-Jan	303	1315			
12-Jan	894	3878			
19-Jan	283	803			
26-Jan	109	470			
02-Feb	72	404			
09-Feb	47	221			
16-Feb	8	39			
23-Feb	6	26			
02-March	19	65			
09-March	7	42			
16-March	14	47			
23-March	4	26			
30-March	5	21			
06-April	0	25			
13-April	15	27			
20-April	5	8			
27-April	1	14			
04-May	5	10			
11-May	6	12			
18-May	4	11			
25-May	1	3			
01-June	2	7			
08-June	3	6			
15-June	3	7			
22-June	4	4			
29-June	6	2			

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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
	<b>MMF Maries Way (%)</b>	<b>MMF Silverdale Pumping Station (%)</b>	<b>MMF Galingale View (%)</b>
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
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
27 January - 02 February 2025	10.9	2.1	1.8
03 February - 09 February 2025	1.6	6.3	7.6

10 February - 16 February 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
17 February - 23 February 2025	0.0	0.3	0.0
24 February - 02 March 2025	0.0	3.0	4.5
03 March - 09 March 2025	0.0	3.3	2.1
10 March -16 March 2025	0.0	0.9	2.9
17 March - 23 March 2025	0.3	0.6	2.4
24 March - 30 March 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
31 March - 6 April 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
7 April - 13 April 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
14 April - 20 April 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
21 April - 27 April 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
03 March - 09 March 2025	0.0	3.3	2.1
10 March -16 March 2025	0.0	0.9	2.9
17 March - 23 March 2025	0.3	0.6	2.4
24 March - 30 March 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
31 March - 6 April 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
7 April - 13 April 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
14 April - 20 April 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
21 April - 27 April 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
28 April - 4 May 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
5 May - 11 May 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
12 May - 18 May 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 May - 25 May 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
26 May - 01 June 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
02 June - 08 June 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
09 June - 15 June 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
16 June - 22 June 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0
23 June - 29 June 2025	0.0	0.0	0.0

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### Appendix 3 – NULBC Key Performance Indicators

NULBC		Information	Measurement	June 2025	July 2025	August 2025
KPI 1	COMPLAINTS	Complaints reported to NULBC	Number/ Odour Intensity rating	16  Number of unique properties reporting complaints = 8  Rating 0 = 0 Rating 1 = 0 Rating 2 = 0 Rating 3 = 5 complaints Rating 4 = 4 complaints (25%) Rating 5 = 0 complaints (0%) Rating 6 = 7 complaints (43.8%)  % of complaints reporting odour entering the property = 14 (87.5%) % of complaints reporting health effects = 11 (68.8%)	18  Number of unique properties reporting complaints = 13  Rating 0 = 0 Rating 1 = 0 Rating 2 = 0 Rating 3 = 6 complaints Rating 4 = 6 complaints (33.3%) Rating 5 = 4 complaints (22.2%) Rating 6 = 2 complaints (11.1%)  % of complaints reporting odour entering the property = 16 (88.9%) % complaints reporting health effects = 10 (55.6%)	4  Number of unique properties reporting complaints = 4  Rating 0 = 0 Rating 1 = 0 Rating 2 = 0 Rating 3 = 1 complaints Rating 4 = 1 complaints (25%) Rating 5 = 1 complaints (25%) Rating 6 = 1 complaints (25%)  % of complaints reporting odour entering the property = 2 (50%) % complaints reporting health effects = 1 (25%)
KPI 2		Complaints reported (daytime 07:00-23:00)	Number	15	17	4
KPI 3		Complaints reported (night-time 23:00-07:00)	Number	1	1	0
KPI 4		Highest number of complaints during the period	Date (number of complaints)	06/06/25 (3)	28/07/25 (8)	27/08/25 (2)

NULBC		Information	Measurement	MMF Location Name	June 2025	July 2025	August 2025
KPI 5	AIR QUALITY	Percentage exceedance Odour Annoyance Guideline (Hydrogen Sulphide 30-minute average)	%	MMF Maries Way	0%	0%	Awaiting data
				MMF Silverdale Pumping Station	0%		
				MMF Galingale View	0%	0%	Awaiting data
KPI 6		Monthly Average H <sub>2</sub> S	µg/m3 over the month	MMF Maries Way	1.4	1.0	Awaiting data
				MMF Silverdale Pumping Station	0.6		
				MMF Galingale View	1.7	1.9	Awaiting data
KPI 7	H <sub>2</sub> S PEAK LEVEL	Level measured over a 5-minute period Date & Time	µg/m3	MMF Maries Way	2.95	7.14	Awaiting data
				MMF Silverdale Pumping Station	16.05	Partial data for 01/07/25 - 1.34	Monitoring station decommissioned from 01/07/25
				MMF Galingale View	9.39	9.86	Awaiting data
KPI 8	OFFICER ASSESSMENTS	Odour Rating - Officer odour assessment (5 minute)	Max Intensity Rating		No 5-minute assessments undertaken	No 5-minute assessments undertaken	No 5-minute assessments undertaken

**Cllr Simon Tagg**

Email: [Simon.Tagg@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.Tagg@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk)

**Our Ref:** 27924

**Your Ref:** CST307a

**Date:** 20 August 2025

**Gordon Mole**

Email: [Gordon.Mole@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:Gordon.Mole@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Tagg and Mr Mole

### **Walleys Quarry – Resolution of Full Council**

Thank you for your letter of 4 August 2025 regarding Walleys Quarry Landfill site (“the site”).

I am pleased that you welcome the work the Environment Agency has arranged to carry out at the site, and its beneficial effect. Levels of hydrogen sulphide detected at all the Mobile Monitoring Facilities around the site have remained below the World Health Organisation (WHO) odour annoyance guideline value since 24 March 2025. I am also very aware of the significant reduction in odour report numbers from the surrounding community.

We have made considerable progress in the work to remove risks of serious pollution from the site following its disclaimer by the liquidators of Walleys Quarry Ltd. Works are continuing to remedy defects in the temporary capping and related infrastructure, to prevent fugitive emissions of landfill gas. We have completed important engineering works within the remaining landfill void area to address slope instability, to improve gas capture and ensure separation of clean surface water from leachate. This was a significant milestone, and our contractors continue to make positive progress on site.

The future of the site is a complex issue, which will require a multi-agency approach, and I welcome the council’s continued commitment to this. We will take part in discussions with Government and strategic coordinating group (SCG) partners as necessary in developing a long-term plan for the site, including funding arrangements. These conversations have already begun. Officers in West Midlands have informed me of the meeting with partners on 19 June 2025, and recent SCG meetings. We have consistently affirmed the need to work together collaboratively for the benefit of the community.

In discussions we have made it clear that the Environment Agency’s powers are limited to those set out in the legislation. We are arranging for steps to be taken to remove a risk of serious pollution, in accordance with discretionary powers under Regulation 57(1) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (EPR). The Environment Agency is not operating the landfill – the site has no operator and there is no longer an environmental permit against which to regulate compliance. In order to fund works to date, the Environment Agency has used the Financial Provision (FP) provided under the permit. This provision is limited and, in the absence of an operator or permit, it will no longer be topped up following use for the purposes of our powers under Regulation 57 EPR.

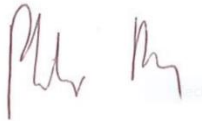
The Environment Agency's powers do not extend to site restoration in the terms contemplated in the planning permission. Compliance with the requirements of the planning permission is a matter for Staffordshire County Council, as the waste planning authority.

Each partner will, of course, need to consider and address its own funding requirements for the exercise of its specific statutory powers. We understand, and are committed to, raising the need for funding with Government, and ensuring that the costs associated with restoration of the site are fully understood. Nonetheless, we will continue to arrange for steps to be taken to remove risks of serious pollution under our discretionary powers as discussions about funding proceed.

I trust this reassures you of our ongoing commitment.

If you would like to discuss this matter further Ian Jones, West Midlands Area Director, will be happy to talk with you. You can contact Ian at [ian.jones@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:ian.jones@environment-agency.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip Duffy', with a small blue rectangular stamp or mark to the right of the signature.

**Philip Duffy**  
Chief Executive, Environment Agency



## NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

### CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO HEALTH WELLBEING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 SEPTEMBER 2025

**Report Title:** Civic Pride (Empowering Our Communities) Strategy 2025 - 28

**Submitted by:** Service Director – Neighbourhood Delivery

**Portfolios:** One Council, People and Partnerships; Community Safety and Wellbeing; Sustainable Environment

**Ward(s) affected:** ALL

<b><u>Purpose of the Report</u></b>	<b><u>Key Decision</u></b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
To consider the draft Civic Pride (Empowering Our Communities) Strategy 2025 – 28 and provide feedback in advance of adoption			
<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>  <b>That Committee:</b>  <b>Considers the draft Civic Pride (Empowering Our Communities) Strategy 2025 – 28 and provides feedback in advance of adoption</b>			
<b><u>Reasons</u></b>  To boost civic pride across the Borough and strengthen its reputation as a place which is clean, safe and friendly			

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 In October 2024, the Council launched its Civic Pride campaign which aims to boost pride across the borough and strengthen its reputation as a place which is clean, safe and friendly, with a week of action in Newcastle town centre, followed over the next few months by a varied programme in Kidsgrove, Loggerheads, Chesterton and Holditch, Crackley and Red Street, Audley, Bradwell and Porthill, Knutton and Cross Heath, Clayton and Westlands, Wolstanton and May Bank, Westbury Park and Northwood, Silverdale and Thistleberry.
- 1.2 The Clayton and Westlands event on 11<sup>th</sup> June also hosted the launch of the new £22,000 Civic Pride Investment Fund where elected members were allocated £500 each to support community priorities in their respective wards via a simple application process. The first round of applications saw a total of £5,500 awarded to 5 projects. Further events are planned for the remainder of 2025 in the other neighbourhoods in the Borough as well as a further 2 rounds of the Civic Pride Investment Fund.

- 1.3 Civic Pride aims to create a strong sense of belonging to, and pride in, our fantastic borough. It's a response to feedback from residents and captures a lot of the work that already goes on by the council and its partners – under a unified #PrideInNUL badge – and is also a call to arms for people of all ages to get involved.
- 1.4 One of the council's priorities is to create healthy, active and safe communities. As part of this area of work, the Council is committed to working closely with partners, and local groups, to make a positive difference in every part of the borough. Civic Pride is a great legacy from the Borough's 850th anniversary celebrations and aims to build on the fantastic community spirit and pride shown by residents in 2023.
- 1.5 Cabinet approved the draft Civic Pride (Empowering Our Communities) Strategy for consultation at the meeting of 8 July 2025, which will provide a framework to guide our continuing work in this area and the Council has been consulting our communities and partners on the strategy since this date.

## 2. Issues

- 2.1 At the heart of how we work at Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough Council is listening to our communities and finding ways to give residents power over their own lives and the neighbourhoods they live in. This is central to our Civic Pride approach in Newcastle-Under-Lyme. Our community is active across our Borough with residents, partner organisations, schools, the college and the university, businesses and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors making a difference every day.
- 2.2 In 2024, Staffordshire County Council adopted the Communities Strategy, reaffirming how important the energy of the community is in setting the direction of how the County Council works and moving into implementation to take work forward. The vision was shaped by engagement and feedback, including stories from residents, partners, businesses and others about what happens in their local communities, including Newcastle, and has been adapted to help shape our strategy for the Borough. Building on and linking with this work, we are now launching a Borough Civic Pride (Empowering Our Communities) Strategy, which will set out the areas we will focus on as we make progress, respond to feedback, and continue to listen to our communities. The Strategy will be a dynamic document, evolving as we move forward. Our priorities will mirror those in the County Council's Communities Strategy and will focus on the Great Places Where We Live, our Connected Communities and The Way the Council Listens, Talks and Acts.
- 2.3 This strategy is the first step of our journey to support residents to achieve the lifestyles and local neighbourhoods that they want to see.
- 2.4 In every part of the Borough Council, our councillors, staff, volunteers and services interact with residents and partner organisations every day. It's important to do this in the right way. We know that when we work together with residents and communities, outcomes for everyone are improved. This is why working with our communities is central to our Council Plan 2022-2026. This strategy is the next step forward for this collaborative work.

- 2.5** The strategy has been developed by listening to what our communities have told us, and hearing from people who live in, work in, study in and enjoy Newcastle. People have talked about what they do to help themselves and each other in the Borough, and what the Council could do differently. This has informed the first iteration of our Civic Pride (Empowering Our Communities) Strategy 2025 – 2028.
- 2.6** A huge amount of work takes place across the Borough Council to improve how we work with communities, from finding better and more convenient ways to provide Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) to residents, to developing new forms of engagement that put residents at the centre. This is the first time we have brought all of this together into a strategy to make sure that this work helps us make progress with our collective vision over the next 3 years.
- 2.7** Integral to this strategy is our Delivery Plan, which sets out the practical actions we will take together with our community under the themes of Great Places Where We Live, Connected Communities and the Way the Council Listens, Talks and Acts. This translates our high level objectives into real actions our residents expect, and will show what difference we have collectively made in the future. We will review progress against the Delivery Plan every year, and conduct a reflection in 2028, taking soundings from our partners and residents to check that the direction is still relevant and delivering the right outcomes as we prepare for any changes Local Government Reorganisation may bring.
- 2.8** This strategy is intended to guide how Newcastle Borough Council works with its communities, how its communities can be involved in decision-making and local service delivery, and to support our workforce and partners. It is to provide clarity and guidance for:
- Residents
  - Our staff and volunteers
  - Partner organisations (through Newcastle Partnership Board)
  - Town and Parish Councils
  - Organised voluntary, community and social enterprise groups
  - Children and young people
  - Students
  - Businesses
- The draft strategy is attached to this report at Appendix 1.
- 2.9** Consultation is in progress with this group of stakeholders to sense check the draft strategy before formally adopting it later this year (2025) subject to the feedback we receive. The consultation is running online for 6 - 8 weeks from July to September 2025.

### **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1** That Committee considers the draft Civic Pride (Empowering Our Communities) Strategy 2025 – 28 and provides feedback in advance of adoption.

### **4. Reasons**

- 4.1** To boost civic pride across the Borough and strengthen its reputation as a place which is clean, safe and friendly.

## **5. Options Considered**

- 5.1 No other options were considered.

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

- 6.1 The Council has a duty to work with partners to deliver particular functions and can engage with the communities of the Borough to assist in shaping service delivery.

## **7. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 It is intended that this strategy will have a positive impact on equality by providing opportunities for all Borough communities to engage in service design and delivery.

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

- 8.1 There are significant staff resource implications in consulting on the draft strategy and progressing the actions in the Delivery Plan.
- 8.2 Each service area will need to adapt and flex workplans to enable delivery of the actions, and be mindful of how this fits with other pre-identified priorities.
- 8.3 Some actions also have financial implications which, wherever possible, will be absorbed within existing approved budget provision. Where this is not possible, further reports will be brought forward to explore funding options.
- 8.4 A Civic Pride Investment Fund of £22,000 has been approved in the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2025/26 which invites applications up to a maximum of £500 from each ward member to support community projects which contribute to civic pride. The application form is available on the Civic Pride web page and the first round of applications resulted in 4 projects being approved, and a total of £5,500 being awarded.

## **9. Major Risks & Mitigation**

- 9.1 There is a risk of limited community and partner engagement with the Civic Pride campaign. Efforts will be made to promote the campaign and develop community ownership of local issues, including making funds available for local projects via the new Civic Pride Fund.
- 9.2 There is a risk of limited staff capacity impacting on the Council's ability to drive the strategy and deliver the actions in the Delivery Plan. Efforts will be made to balance competing priorities and support communities and members to take forward local actions.
- 9.3 There is a risk that Local Government Reorganisation could have a significant impact on the sustainability of the Civic Pride campaign in Newcastle. Options to mitigate this risk will be considered when more detail is known about the model of any future Council which covers the Borough.

## 10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)



## 11. One Council

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

One Commercial Council ☒

Providing Information, Advice and Guidance to communities on service efficiencies and commercial opportunities are a key element of the strategy.

One Digital Council ☒

Access to digital services and considering digital exclusion issues are a key element of the strategy.

One Sustainable Council ☒

Supporting communities to be involved in managing green spaces and contributing to the Council becoming carbon neutral by 2030 are a key element of the strategy.

## 12. Key Decision Information

12.1 This is not a key decision.

## 13. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

13.1 None

## 14. List of Appendices

14.1 Draft Civic Pride (Empowering Our Communities) Strategy 2025 - 28

## 15. Background Papers

15.1 Staffordshire County Council Communities Strategy 2024 - 29





# Civic Pride Strategy (Empowering Our Communities) 2025 – 2028



# Foreword

## Mr Simon Tagg – Leader of Newcastle Borough Council



At the heart of how we work at Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough Council is listening to our communities and finding ways to give residents power over their own lives and the neighbourhoods they live in. This is central to our Civic Pride approach in Newcastle-Under-Lyme.

Our community is active across our Borough with residents, partner organisations, schools, the college and the university, businesses and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors making a difference every day

In 2024, Staffordshire County Council adopted the Communities Strategy ([add link here](#)), reaffirming how important the energy of the community is in setting the direction of how the County Council works and moving into implementation to take work forward. The vision was shaped by engagement and feedback, including stories from residents, partners, businesses and others about what happens in their local communities, including Newcastle, and has been adapted to help shape our strategy for the Borough.

Building on and linking with this work, we are now launching a Borough Civic Pride (Empowering Our Communities) Strategy, which will set out the areas we will focus on as we make progress, respond to feedback, and continue to listen to our communities. The Strategy will be a dynamic document, evolving as we move forward.

Our priorities will mirror those in the County Council's Communities Strategy and will focus on the Great Places Where We Live, our Connected Communities and The Way the Council Listens, Talks and Acts.

This strategy is the first step of our journey to support residents to achieve the lifestyles and local neighbourhoods that they want to see.

Thank you for being involved, and for being at the heart of everything we do.



# Introduction

In every part of the Borough Council, our councillors, staff, volunteers and services interact with residents and partner organisations every day. It's important to do this in the right way. We know that when we work together with residents and communities, outcomes for everyone are improved. This is why working with our communities is central to our [Council Plan](#) (2022-2026). This strategy is the next step forward for this collaborative work.

The strategy has been developed by listening to what our communities have told us, and hearing from people who live in, work in, study in and enjoy Newcastle. People have talked about what they do to help themselves and each other in the Borough, and what the Council could do differently. This has informed the first iteration of our Civic Pride (Empowering Our Communities) Strategy 2025 – 2028.

A huge amount of work takes place across the Borough Council to improve how we work with communities, from finding better and more convenient ways to provide Information, Advice and Guidance to residents, to developing new forms of engagement that put residents at the centre. This is the first time we have brought all of this together into a strategy to make sure that this work helps us make progress with our collective vision over the next 3 years.

Integral to this strategy is our Delivery Plan, which sets out the practical actions we will take together with our community. This translates our high level objectives into real actions our residents expect, and will show what difference we have collectively made in the future. We will review progress against the Delivery Plan every year, and conduct a reflection in 2028, taking soundings from our partners and residents to check that the direction is still relevant and delivering the right outcomes as we prepare for any changes Local Government Reorganisation may bring.



# Who is this strategy for?

This strategy is intended to guide how Newcastle Borough Council works with its communities, how its communities can be involved in decision-making and local service delivery, and to support our workforce and partners. It is to provide clarity and guidance for:



# Our Vision

Communities are at the heart of everything we do. We will work better with residents and partners to help people get more involved and make a local difference.

<b>Great Places Where We Live (#Pride in NuL – safe, clean, friendly)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen our work with partners to help people feel safer and more included within their neighbourhoods</li> <li>• Help residents get more involved in tackling climate change, take care of our environment and make Newcastle more sustainable</li> <li>• Help people to have better access to our town and neighbourhood centres by working with Staffordshire County Council on a Local Transport Plan</li> <li>• Engage with the County Council and our Town and Parish Councils, community groups and other external partners to understand and work with our communities better</li> </ul>
<b>Connected Communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with and support our thriving Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector</li> <li>• Make it easier for residents to find information, opportunities and connections that help them do their bit and be independent</li> <li>• Connect people of all ages to the right help, at the right time, in the right place</li> <li>• Support people to become digitally included, informed and connected across the Borough</li> </ul>
<b>The Way the Council Listens, Talks and Acts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try our best to engage with residents earlier, more accessibly, more creatively, more consistently and more locally</li> <li>• Adapt our approach to help residents get more involved, and support officers to understand how they can help</li> <li>• Support all our councillors to access the local information they need</li> </ul>





# Engagement Process

Staffordshire County Council engaged with Staffordshire's communities and partners, including Newcastle, from November 2023 to February 2024 using a multi-method approach which involved:

**An online residents survey**

**A paper residents survey**

**A dedicated partner survey**

**Face to face conversations with targeted groups of people**

**A social media campaign**

In addition, the Borough Council continually engages with communities in Newcastle via elected members and the Customer Hub, with our partners in the Newcastle Partnership, through the Public Consultations pages on our website, and through our day to day interactions with the community we serve.



# Feedback Themes

This engagement was crucial in helping us start to understand what matters to our residents and partners, what they already do in our local area, and what we could do differently to help them do more. We learned:

**Community: Residents see their community as where they live.** People consider their town or village as their community. Identity is based in local place. Fewer residents identify with other communities, such as groups or clubs they are members of, workplaces, or places of education, however younger people place a greater emphasis on online communities.

**Most Proud: Residents have pride in their communities.** People are most proud of the friendliness/neighbourliness. The sense that people look out for each other, neighbourliness, friendliness, and community spirit are sources of pride.

**Matters Most: Safety and neighbourliness.** Safety/low crime matters greatly. Feelings of safety associated with low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, along with neighbourliness or community spirit, are the things that matter to people in their communities, along with a clean and well-maintained green environment, and the availability of community groups, activities and events.

**Improve: Infrastructure and transport.** Residents think that better infrastructure would improve their community. Residents identify infrastructure and maintenance (roads and pavements) along with the need for better public transport as the things that could improve their communities. Transport was an important priority, particularly regarding accessing local amenities, and seeing this as necessary for a thriving local area.

**Involvement: Residents support each other through mostly informal neighbourliness.** Residents want to be more involved in local decision making. Residents feel that broadly, people in their community do help them out from time to time, mainly via neighbours helping them with small tasks. This has clear links to the idea of small actions making a bigger difference.

**Done Differently: Residents would like to help out further.** Residents want the Council to communicate more. They are already engaged where they are able, but they would also like to help out further given the right opportunities of additional support. Better information, advice or communication about opportunities that are available are something that would encourage people more. Residents would also like to see the council setting an example, getting more involved and listening to communities.





# Civic Pride (Empowering Our Communities) Strategy for Newcastle-under-Lyme

We have analysed the feedback and learning from the County Council engagement and considered this alongside our experiences from other community work across the Borough Council.

We have also shared learning with partners via Newcastle Partnership Board and our pilot Civic Pride events, and learned from what they could tell us, which has helped test our thinking.

This has helped us to validate and agree the three overarching and ambitious aims set out in the County Council Communities Strategy for our work with communities in Newcastle. These will help us achieve our collective vision and set our focus for the next 3 years of the journey.





# Great Places Where We Live

## (#Pride in NuL – safe, clean, friendly)

Strengthen our work with partners and residents to help people feel safer and more included within their communities differentiate the objectives somehow.

People told us that feeling safe within their community and connections to other people were the things that mattered to them the most.

We have recognised this within our strategy and will continue to work with partners such as the Office of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, our Local Policing Team, the County Council and Newcastle Partnership to support these aims.

Help residents to get more involved in tackling climate change, take care of our environment and make Newcastle more sustainable.

People told us that they would like to take a more active role in maintaining their local environment. The Borough Council Sustainable Environment Strategy sets out our vision to become carbon neutral as a Council by 20230, and as a wider Borough by 2050. The County Council Climate Action Fund supports community activity in this area and gives a great starting point. Our teams will work with partners and community groups to identify and provide more opportunities for people to get involved.

Help people to have better access to thriving local town centres and neighbourhoods, by working with Staffordshire County Council on developing a Local Transport Plan.

People told us how important it was to access their local area through well maintained roads and pavements, using a range of inclusive, sustainable and safe transport modes. We will support the County Council in writing the Local Transport Plan which will support the Government's target to de-carbonise the transport network by 2050 and play a key role in helping our communities to thrive.

Engage with our Town and Parish Councils, community groups and other external partners to understand and work with our communities better.

We also know that lots of other organisations understand our communities. It is important that we continue to work together, sharing whatever knowledge and resources we can, to help us work even better.







# Connected Communities

Continue to work with and support our thriving Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector.

A vital part of our work with communities is with organisations in the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector. It remains important that we help the sector to thrive and be sustainable, so this is a key priority within the Civic Pride (Empowering Our Communities) Strategy.

Make it easier for residents to find information, opportunities and connections that help them do their bit and be independent.

People told us that they can find it hard to get information about activities in their community or about how they could get more involved. We know there is a lot of information available, but it can be hard to know which information is correct and up to date. We can build further on great work we have already done such as our Information, Advice and Guidance pages on our website, Citizen Access/MyAccount and our links with communications teams in partner organisations. If we can make the system simpler, we think this could help residents be and stay independent.

Connect People of all ages to the right help, at the right time, in the right place.

A lot of work has already taken place across the Borough Council and with our partners. Whenever people need help we try to link them to support which is nearer to home, and which helps them get on with their lives. This is why encouraging our communities to help themselves and each other is already an important part of our Council Plan.

Support people to become digitally included, informed and connected across the Borough.

We already support people to stay involved with the council through digital channels, from social media and emails, all the way through to digital ways of getting residents views on things. Digital can help us to do more of this, but we know that not everybody wants to engage with us in this way and we don't want to leave anyone behind. However, if we can support more people who would like to, then we can have better conversations together, and they can stay better informed.







# The Way the Council Listens, Talks and Acts

Try our best to engage with residents earlier, more accessibly, more creatively, more consistently and more locally.

People would clearly appreciate better communication and information from the Council. They are also clear on how important their very local area is to them. Across the council we are already engaging with residents in new creative ways. However, we want to make our engagement better every time.

Adapt our approach to help residents get more involved, and support officers to understand how they can help.

Working with communities is already a key part of our Council Plan and we have a long history of fantastic work with residents and partners which was highlighted in our Corporate Peer Challenge report. However, there is more work to do. This strategy will focus on making sure everyone in Newcastle Borough Council understands how their role, and every decision we make, impacts on the Borough's communities – and how we might be able to link up work and make things simpler and better.

Support all our councillors to access the local information they need.

Councillors across the Borough are vital to the success of this strategy. Not just Borough councillors, but county, town and parish councillors too. As local champions who understand the patch but who also understand the strategic work going on, they are the people who can join it all up. We need to ensure they have everything they need to do their essential job.



# Other Key Work and How this Strategy Relates

The Civic Pride (Empowering Our Communities) Strategy is closely related to other major pieces of work across the Borough and County Councils. Many other organisations and agencies are also working with communities differently too, and we will develop our next steps in partnership with them

**Newcastle Borough  
Council – Council  
Plan 2022-2026**

**Staffordshire  
County Council  
Communities  
Strategy 2022-2026**

**Newcastle  
Partnership –  
Workplan and  
Community Safety  
Partnership Action  
Plan**

**Newcastle Borough  
Council Sustainable  
Environment  
Strategy**

**Newcastle Borough  
Council Technology  
Strategy**

**Newcastle Borough  
Council - One  
Green Council, One  
Digital Council, One  
Commercial Council**



# Measuring Our Impact/What Will Be Different

We have been working differently with communities for a number of years but this strategy now gives us our long term vision for where we want to get to and marks the start of the next phase. An integral part of this strategy is the Delivery Plan which sets out what we will do to deliver each of the objectives and has clear milestones and implementation dates for each one. We will review this regularly, but most importantly we will not stop listening and talking to residents and partners about this work. The strategy will guide, co-ordinate and set the terms for everything we do with our residents and partners. It is essential that we continue to review this to make sure residents still feel we are going in the right direction.

We will monitor milestones under each of the objectives of the strategy. These will be reviewed annually but will be especially important at the review in 2028 when we will ask partners for views on progress and reflect on feedback provided by our communities in relation to the following themes:

- **Do residents feel safer in their communities, and feel the highways and transport in their area are improving**
- **Do residents feel better informed about where to find opportunities to get involved, and are more of them doing so**
- **Are residents and partners telling us they feel more engaged and that the Borough Council is more visible to them**
- **Are VCSE partners telling us that our systems are evolving and becoming easier for communities to get involved, with capacity being built.**
- **Is our information, advice and guidance being used regularly and increasing over time**

Long term	Mid-point review	Annually	All the time
This is a 3 year plan, so that we have a vision for the long term	After 1.5 years or sooner we will review progress and update the Delivery Plan	We will review our progress every year to make sure we are delivering what we aim to	We will try to maintain a more consistent dialogue with residents about our work with communities in the future





# Delivery Plan 2025-2028

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## Great Places Where We Live (#Pride in NuL – safer, cleaner, welcoming)

Pillar	Action	Lead Partner	Timescale
Strengthen our work with partners and residents to help people feel safer and more included within their communities	Deliver the Community Safety Action Plan Hold regular Civic Pride events across the Borough	NuLBC/Staffs Police NuLBC/SCC/Staffs Police/Aspire	Ongoing Ongoing annual programme
Help residents to get more involved in tackling climate change, take care of our environment and make Newcastle more sustainable	Deliver Newcastle in Bloom local competitions Support community volunteering in green spaces	NuLBC NuLBC	Annually in June Ongoing
Help people to have better access to thriving local town centres and neighbourhoods by working with Staffordshire County Council on a Local Transport Plan	Deliver Town Deal, FHSF and UKSPF projects Local Plan Digital Infrastructure Local Transport Plan	NuLBC and Town Deal Boards NuLBC NuLBC SCC	2025 – 2028 2025 Ongoing Ongoing
Engage with our Town and Parish Councils, community groups and other external partners to understand and work with our communities better	Deliver Placemaking Programme Action Plan Promote Civic Pride in Newcastle-under-Lyme	NuL BID/NuLBC Newcastle Partnership Board/ elected members/Town and Parish Councils/Support Staffordshire	Ongoing Ongoing



# Delivery Plan 2025-2028

## Connected Communities

Pillar	Action	Lead Partner	Timescale
Continue to work with and support our thriving Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector	Host Newcastle Partnership Board meetings Facilitate Newcastle Partnership Board workshop to identify priorities and update workplan	NuLBC NuLBC/Newcastle Partnership Board	Bi-monthly meeting June – October 2025
Make it easier for residents to find information, opportunities and connections that help them do their bit and be independent	Continue to develop the Information, Advice and Guidance pages on the website	NuLBC	Ongoing
Connect people of all ages to the right help, at the right time, in the right place	Support Staffordshire County Council Supportive Communities programme	SCC	Launched in April 2025
Support people to become digitally informed, included and connected across the Borough	Support Staffordshire County Council Supportive Communities Programme	SCC	Launched in April 2025



# Delivery Plan 2025-2028

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## The Way the Council Listens, Talks and Acts

Pillar	Action	Lead Partner	Timescale
Try our best to engage with residents earlier, more accessibly, more creatively, more consistently and more locally	Programme of "Ask the Leader" digital broadcasts Programme of face to face engagement events as part of Civic Pride days across the Borough Online engagement survey Civic Pride Online Community Panel	NuLBC NuLBC SCC/NuLBC NuLBC	Launch in July 2025 Launched in January 2025 Launched in January 2025 Launch in July 2025
Adapt our approach to help residents get more involved and support officers to understand how they can help	Regular feature in Team Talk and CastleNews Volunteering Scheme	NuLBC NuLBC	Ongoing Ongoing
Support all our councillors to access the local information they need	Members Area on Connexus	NuLBC	Ongoing



Additionally, each Service of the Council will progress the following initiatives:

Service	Policy/Strategy	Action/Project	Communications
Sustainable Environment	Grassland/Tree Management	Lyme Park Countryside Park; greenspace trail	Waste minimisation campaign
Planning	Planning policy and planning application decisions (healthy and vibrant town centres/protect built heritage and open spaces)	Work with property and land owners to add value to development proposals; use building control powers to ensure safety/accessibility and facilitate aesthetic improvements	Engage with communities on Local Plan proposals via road shows and online consultation
Commercial Delivery	Strategy for future cremated remains burial (Bradwell Crematorium extension)	Digital hubs in Community Centres; Knutton Village Hall	Town Deal newsletters; bereavement services customer information (memorial safety/tribute removal)
Regulatory	Partnership approach to supporting vulnerable people	Navigation House Hub	Energy efficiency/Staffordshire Warmer Homes campaigns
Legal and Governance	Governance support for town and parish councils	Civic and mayoral events/support for town centre enforcement	Promotion of local democracy to young people/promotion of social value procurement



Service	Policy/Strategy	Action/Project	Communications
Strategy, People and Performance	Council Plan to deliver community priorities and facilitate co-production of services	Better Health programme	Social Media campaign to enable improved interaction
Information Technology	Technology Strategy to deliver services to residents digitally	CRM/Customer Portal to improve resident access and communication	Promote digital connectivity to reduce digital divide
Finance	Capital Strategy to support community benefit and priorities	Setting budget to keep Council Tax low and support community priorities	Budget consultation for residents to have their say
Neighbourhood Delivery	Mobile Multi Functional operating model	PSPO enforcement/Great British Spring Clean/Safe Space	Publicity on enforcement successes



## NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

### TASK & FINISH GROUP ON PARKS REPORT TO HEALTH WELLBEING & ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**Report Title:** Recommendations for Policy for Unsupervised Children's Playgrounds

**Submitted by:** Chair of the Task & Finish Group

**Portfolios:** Sustainable Environment

**Ward(s) affected:** All

<p><b><u>Purpose of the Report</u></b></p> <p>To request Cabinet adopts a refreshed Policy for Unsupervised Children's Playgrounds, previously adopted in May 2013.</p> <p>To propose Cabinet approves a programme of repairs and replacement of play equipment associated within the independent annual reports, subject to financial provision, and also minimise any associated risks.</p> <p>To propose Cabinet approves a programme of playground painting and signage upgrades to improve usage, attractiveness and general maintenance of playgrounds, subject to financial provision.</p>	<p><b><u>Key Decision</u></b>    Yes <input type="checkbox"/>    No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p><b>That (Cabinet/Committee/Council):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposes Cabinet adopts a revised policy for unsupervised children's playgrounds.</li> <li>Considers a more frequent review of facilities and their management say every 5 years</li> <li>Proposes a programme of playground painting refurbishment is developed, and budget authority is delegated to the Service Director – Environmental Sustainability /Streetscene Business Manager.</li> <li>Acknowledges the procurement of EzyAsset to enable the enhanced management of our playground facilities.</li> <li>Future consideration is given for adult exercise equipment in a prime location as a pilot initiative.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Reasons</u></b></p> <p>Much of our playground provision is more than 25 years old and has been managed on a risk basis, with worn or damaged playground items being replaced or removed when identified subject to limited financial resources.</p> <p>Most of our playgrounds have become faded with flaked paint and have become unattractive for local residents but largely remain physically robust.</p>	

## 1. **Background**

- 1.1 A cross-party Task and Finish Group was established in February 2025 as part of the Health Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committees work plan to review the Boroughs parks and open spaces and the role these played in achieving National Standards for Play, reviewing Local Areas for Play (LAP's), Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP's) and Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP's).
- 1.2 Members of the review were – Councillor Joan Whieldon (Chair) Councillor Jacqueline Brown, Councillor Rupert Adcock and Councillor Ian Wilkes.
- 1.3 As part of the review the group also considered the councils attainment in achieving Green Flag status for 7 of our parks, [www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/borough-maintenance/parks-open-spaces/2](http://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/borough-maintenance/parks-open-spaces/2) including a cemetery, crematorium and allotments in addition to other play / sports provision including sites for rugby, football, tennis and bowls. The importance of play was also considered in relation to the physical and mental health development of children and young people. The group also discussed the various funding streams for sporting bodies for sporting activities.
- 1.4 The Task and Finish Group acknowledges the considerable and wide reaching offer provided by the council via its parks, open space, sports and playground provision and decided to focus on the quality of playground provision, to consider the quality of provision, location, safety inspection regime, playground related insurance claims, data and intelligence in relation to repairs, maintenance and damage caused through antisocial behaviour, current budget allocations, external funding sources and community involvement.  
  
Additionally, the existing sensory gardens sited in the Keele cemetery and the crematorium are valued by residents and inspected regularly.
- 1.5 The Councils policy for Unsupervised Children's Playgrounds was adopted in February 2006 and revised in May 2013. The policy set out the Councils approach to planning for, providing, managing and maintaining outdoor unsupervised play facilities for children and young people throughout the Borough.
- 1.6 There is currently a £60,000 allocation within the Councils Capital Programme which provides for play area refurbishment and an additional £30,000 allocation (total £90,000) for railings and structures repairs. There are 63 playgrounds in addition to several Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs), skate parks and exercise equipment.
- 1.7 Playgrounds are inspected on a weekly basis by Streetscene playground engineers, in addition to a comprehensive annual independent inspection.

Through this process, the need for repair and replacement of play equipment, impact absorbing surfacing, fencing, hard surfaces and ancillary features are identified. This information is triaged and actioned according to risk priority.

## **2. Issues**

**2.1** The majority of our playground provision is in excess of 25 years old and has been managed on a risk basis, with worn or damaged playground items being replaced or removed when identified, subject to limited financial resources. The majority of our playgrounds have become faded with flaked paint and have become unattractive for local residents. However, they largely remain physically robust with moving parts being replaced where possible to sustain individual items and playground facilities.

**2.2** Weekly inspections are carried out to all of our 63 playgrounds and additional MUGA's, skate parks and exercise equipment with repairs being undertaken or equipment being made safe. Where repairs are not possible individual pieces of equipment affected are removed or there is a temporary closure of a playground. The repairs are undertaken by Streetscene Playground Engineers.

The weekly inspection regime was undertaken via a paper-based system with information being catalogued and saved for a period of 21 years due to insurance requirements. This system did not allow for any easily accessible management reports to identify maintenance intensive locations, individual equipment that receive repeat repairs or removal locations or locations where there are repeat vandalism issues affecting the integrity or the safe use of a particular site. These difficulties have now been addressed, and the system of inspection made more effective by the installation of the EzyAsset system.

**2.3** Staffordshire Police have undertaken a review of anti-social behaviour (ASB) across the Borough which includes areas of the Councils Parks and open spaces, including playgrounds. This information helps the Council in determining risk associated with specific sites.

**2.4** As part of the review, the group considered an audit of existing signage and the implementation of more significant signage to assist in deterring ASB activities. This measure was considered by the Health Wellbeing & Environment Scrutiny Committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

**2.5** Council officers have undertaken comprehensive market testing to identify and have procured a playground software application. EzyAsset, will enable accurate inspection, repairs and maintenance information gathering and retention. The data will enable accurate interrogation of issues arising to produce management reports to assist in identifying repair costs, trends by sustainability of equipment and location.

The information is anticipated to be developed over a period of several months, requiring each piece of playground equipment and ancillary features to be plotted, assessed and image captured to create baseline information, and the start point of an interactive audit trail. The software application is anticipated, via improved data collection and management, to reduce the number of injuries and litigation claims associated with these play areas.

**2.6** The playground software application will also be able to capture information in relation to assessed damage in relation to vandalism or other anti-social

behaviour whether damage or graffiti to equipment or signs of anti-social behaviour such as broken glass, used syringes. Such information can be notified to the Neighbourhood Delivery Team for intelligence and purposes for sharing with the wider police family.

- 2.7** Over the past 2 years a process of targeted playground painting has developed in response to issues raised from a number of sources: negative comments from Green Flag judging events; customer complaints; concerns in relation to playgrounds. The playgrounds generally look to be in poor condition due to old, faded signage, faded, flaking paint and in some places missing equipment.

Since 2023, 15 playgrounds have been repainted through a variety of methods including the direct award of small-scale painting contracts, community or Parish Council co-ordinated painting initiatives (with materials being provided by us) or local business sponsorship. A further 5 playgrounds are scheduled to be painted prior to October 2025. Additionally, 11 playgrounds have been identified as in need of immediate refurbishment via repainting. A playground signage programme has been developed to compliment the painting initiative.

- 2.8** On identifying a painting refurbishment need, officers currently develop individual reports for consideration to the Capital Assets Resource Investment Group to seek permission to release funding to undertake painting refurbishment initiatives. This process prolongs and/or delays the award of contracts for the season, as it is a weather dependant-based activity. This also increases resident complaints.

Contract awards are aimed at small scale painter and decorators, to achieve enhanced value for money. The current authorised spending route reduces the speed of undertaking the volume of painting refurbishments. Delegated authority to the Service Director – Environmental Sustainability/Streetscene Business Manager, to spend against the Capital Programme budget, up to a value of £90,000 per annum, will enable a deliberate managed process of programming increased numbers of playgrounds painting refurbishments over an anticipated period of 3 – 4 years.

- 2.9** Prior to the completion of painting LEAP and NEAP playgrounds a programme of painting MUGA's, skate parks and exercise equipment will be developed to ensure the maintenance of these additional park assets.

### **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1** Delegate authority to the Service Director – Environmental Sustainability/ Streetscene Business Manager for the play area refurbishment and railings and structures repairs budgets totalling £90,000 based on a proposed program of work reviewed annually as part of the Councils budget setting process.
- 3.2** Receive the information in relation to the procurement and planned implementation of EzyAsset to improve playground asset management.
- 3.3** To develop a programme of playground painting refurbishment, and equipment replacement, based on need and officer visual inspections to form a 3–4-year programme subject to budget provision.

#### **4. Reasons**

- 4.1 Our playgrounds facilities are important community use assets and are valued by residents and young families. It is important to ensure the safety and quality of provision is of a good standard to attract positive play and that we can manage all of these locations using easily accessible, reportable information. Such actions as suggested in this report are intended to minimise risk and avoid injury and potential litigation claims.

#### **5. Options Considered**

- 5.1 Do nothing. This would potentially lead to –
- Increased complaints
  - Significant and increased deterioration of sites and facilities
  - Increase in claims
  - Adverse impact on the community as a whole
- 5.2 To maintain all our existing playgrounds to a good standard utilising easier to access available budgets to be used in a timely programmed manner to accelerate a painting refurbishment programme.

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

- Health and Safety at Work Act (1974)
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Act 1992
- Occupiers Liability Act 1957, (revised 1984)
- Unfair Contract Terms Act (1977)
- Children Act (1989)
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulation (2013)
- Environmental Protection Act (1990)

#### **7. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 Provides the ability of the council to provide accessible play and recreational facilities for residents, children and young people.

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

- 8.1 £90,000 of existing profiled Capital Programme for play area refurbishment and railings, structures repairs and new signage.

#### **9. Major Risks & Mitigation**

- 9.1 The major risks are the possibility of accidents occurring whilst playgrounds are in use, any ASB and the ability of the council to defend any subsequent action.
- 9.2 Continuing to maintain playgrounds to the requirements of applicable British Standards and implementing a robust inspection and repairs regime reduces the council's exposure to risk

## 10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)



## 11. One Council

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

One Commercial Council ☐

**One Digital Council** ☒ Introduction of the EzyAsset system for monitoring and managing the Councils playground site and equipment along with other assets is a major step forward for the service and fully supports the Councils digital transition work.

**One Green Council** ☒ The Councils parks and open spaces are a key element of the Councils Sustainable Environment strategy (SES) and an important resource in the protection of nature, as well as being a positive influence on people's wellbeing and health.

## 12. Key Decision Information

12.1 The report does not constitute a key decision.

## 13. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

13.1 None

## 14. List of Appendices

14.1 None

**15. Background Papers**

**15.1** None

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## NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

15 September 2025

**Report Title:** Newcastle Community Safety Partnership – Community Safety Action Plan 2025/26

**Submitted by:** Service Director – Neighbourhood Delivery

**Portfolios:** Community Safety and Wellbeing

**Ward(s) affected:** ALL

<b><u>Purpose of the Report</u></b>	<b><u>Key Decision</u></b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
To provide the Committee with an overview of successful work that has been delivered by the Community Safety Partnership in 2024/25, and planned actions for 2025/26 in the Local Police and Crime Plan and the Community Safety Action Plan, in response to the Strategic Assessment priorities for 2025/2026.	
<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>  <b>That Committee:-</b>  <b>1. Receives the report and notes the successful outcomes achieved in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as the work in progress to continue to tackle the strategic priorities.</b>  <b>2. Receives and notes the updated Local Crime and Police Plan in line with the Strategic Assessment priorities for 2025/26.</b>	
<b><u>Reasons</u></b>  To deliver the Council's statutory obligations in relation to Community Safety and to contribute to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in Newcastle-under-Lyme.	

#### **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.
- 1.2 Like many other areas across the UK, Newcastle-under-Lyme experiences issues relating to crime and anti-social behaviour which can have a negative impact on community perceptions of the Borough. 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. These plans form part of the Local Police and Crime Plan (see appendix 1)

- 1.3 This report focuses on the performance of the Community Safety Partnership in dealing with the strategic priorities as outlined in the Community Safety Strategic Assessment which is prepared on behalf of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and which has recently been refreshed for 2025/26.

## 2. **Strategic Priorities for 2024/2025**

- 2.1 The Community Safety Strategic Assessment is commissioned on behalf of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to provide Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) a data led assessment on the issues within the Borough. The CSP then formulate an action plan which outlines their response as to how they will tackle the priorities identified.

The priorities for 2024/2025

- Anti-social behaviour
- Community Cohesion and Tackling Extremism
- Domestic Abuse
- Drugs and County Lines
- Fraud
- Serious Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons

## 3. **Community Safety Partnership performance for 2024/2025**

- 3.1 The following information provided by Staffordshire Police as of April 2025, illustrates data for Newcastle-under-Lyme showing a trend of reducing incidences across all types of offences compared to 2023/24, with the exception of drug related offences where an increase has occurred due to a stepping up of police activity in stop searches and intelligence gathering.

	Previous 12 months April 23 – March 24	Current 12 months April 24 – March 25	% change
ASB	1846	1802	-2%
DA	3026	2666	-12%
Drugs	168	245	+46%
Fraud	94	70	-26%
SVAWG	2129	1912	-10%

The below chart shows the comparative data for Staffordshire Police across the whole of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent for 2023/2024 - 2024/2025.

	April 23 - March 24	April 24 - March 25	% Change
ASB	16,393	15,032	-8%
DA	26,928	25,375	-6%
Drugs	1,925	2,441	27%
Fraud	859	737	-14%
SVAWG	20,713	19,814	-4%

This shows that Newcastle is following a similar trend across these crime types but that in most areas crime and anti-social behaviour is reducing.

### Priority : Anti-Social Behaviour

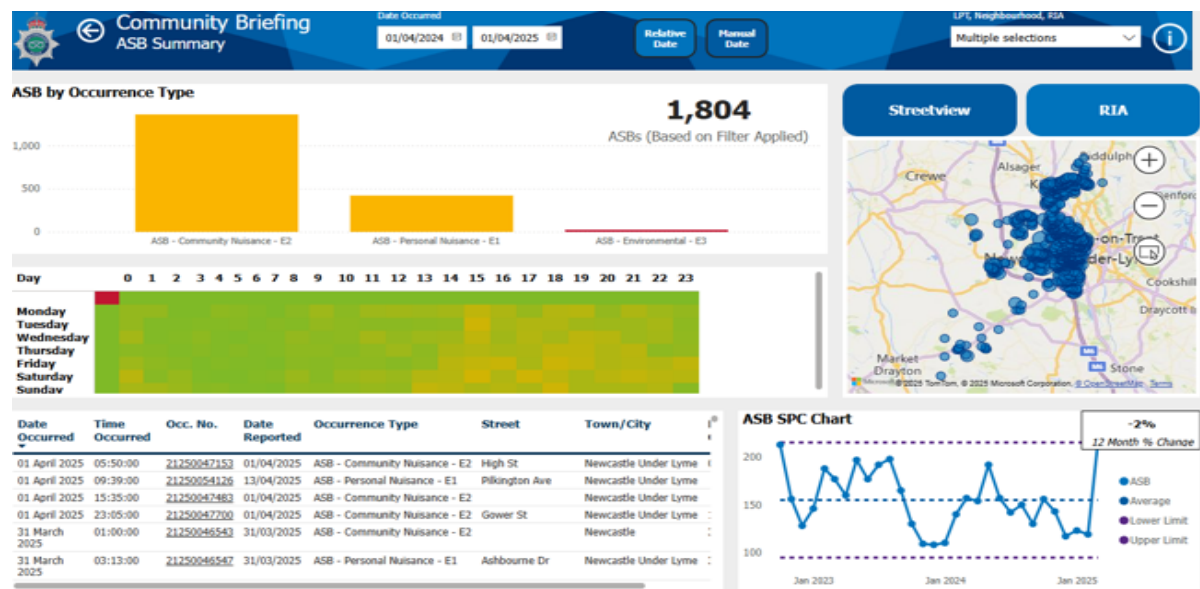


Figure 1– Staffordshire Police ASB performance figures 2024/2025

- There has been an increase of 2% in relation to reported cases of anti-social behaviour.
- Hotspot areas are Newcastle town centre, Kidsgrove, Chesterton and Bradwell.

### Priority: Drug Related Offences

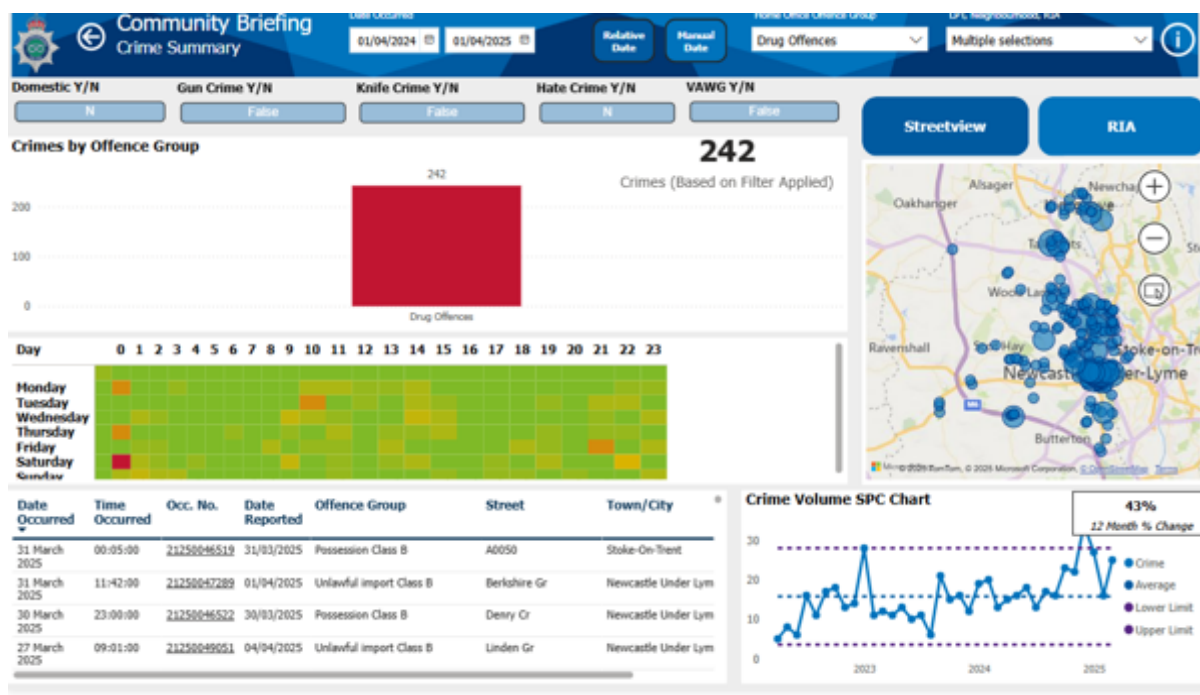


Figure 2 – Staffordshire Police drug performance figures 2024/2025

- During 2024/2025 there has been an increase of 43% in relation to drug related offences across the Borough. The increase can be attributed to the following initiatives:

The introduction of the proactive Policing Team which focused on drug supply and stop searches.

There has been a force-wide drive to increase the number of stop searches across Staffordshire which has seen an increase in possession of drug offences.

Neighbourhood teams are now adopting a problem solving approach which is tackling drug supply.

Newcastle has a high rate of intelligence reports.

Priority: Violence

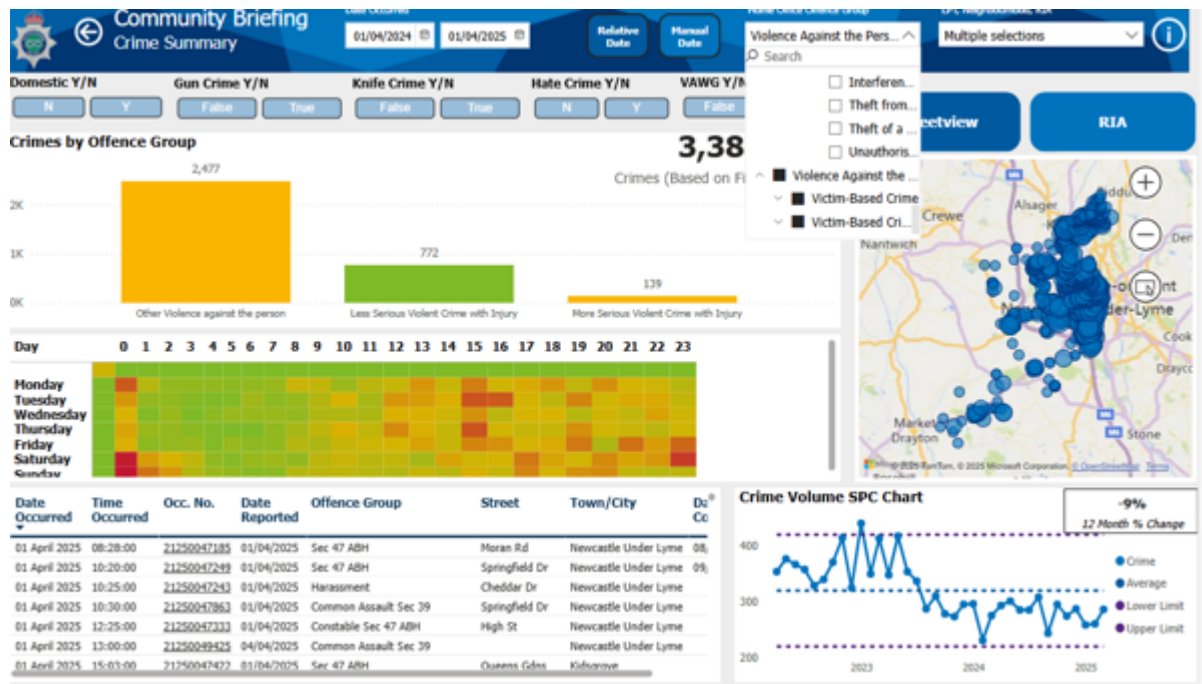


Figure 3: Staffordshire Police performance data for Violence 2024/2025.

There has been a 10% decrease in violence offences during 2024/2025.

The Community Safety partnership (CSP) has continued a number of projects to tackle violence including;

Operation Sceptre – Knife crime awareness

Knife warrants issued to all licenced premises as part of the night time economy.

Introduction of knife bins where people can safely deposit unwanted knives

Street medics to act as triage services for the nighttime economy

Serious Violence Duty funding received from Violence Reduction Alliance

which was used by the CSP to extend diversionary activities in Kidsgrove and Chesterton.

SCYVS have rolled out the virtual display education on knife crime and gangs.

Priority: Domestic Abuse

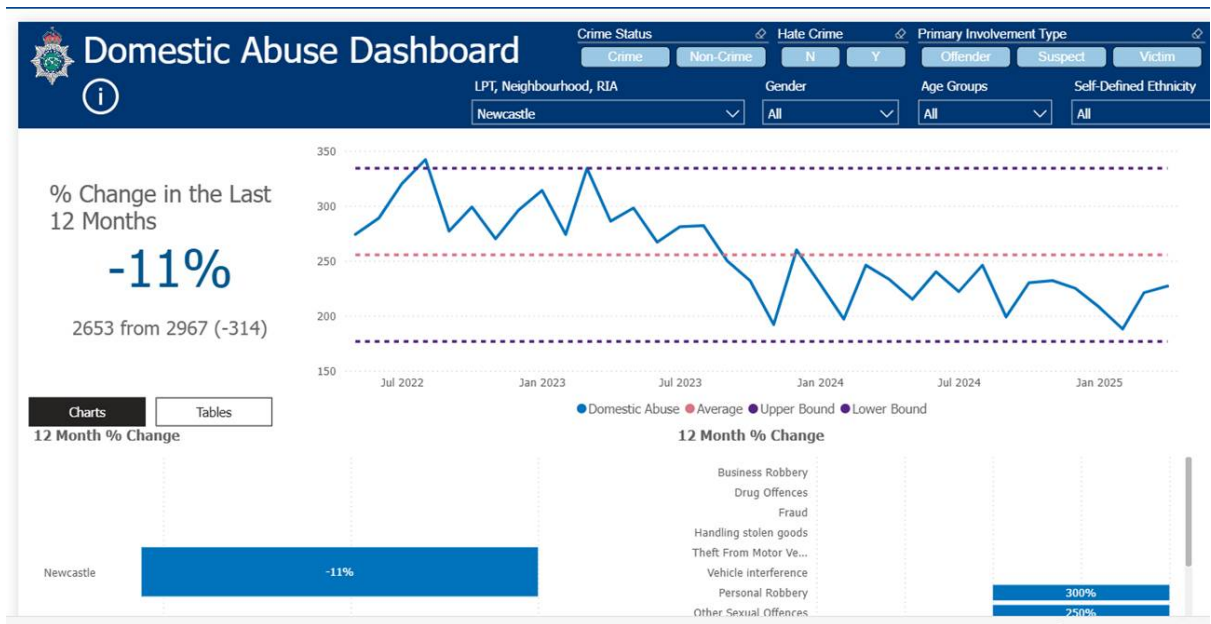


Figure 4: Staffordshire Police performance data for Domestic abuse 2024/2025

The Community Safety Partnership host weekly case conferences referred to as MARAC to discuss the most high risk victims in domestic abuse. This forum look to implement actions around victims to improve their safety.

Total number of cases heard on MARAC over the past three years

2023 – 240

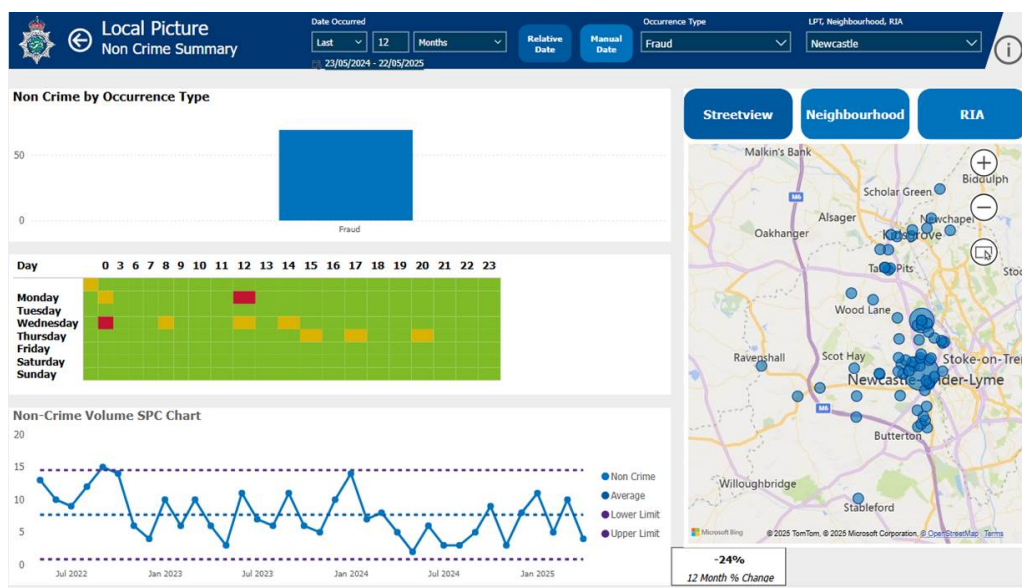
2024 - 256

2025 (to date May 2025) – 85

Any cases that do not meet the threshold for MARAC but result in repeat calls to the Police can be heard at the Problem Solving meeting which is held every 2 weeks.

Priority: Fraud





There have been 69 incidents of fraud in the last 12 months. This is down by 21% on the previous 12 months.

### Priority: Vulnerability

The CSP co-ordinate the Vulnerability Hub which is a case conference to discuss the most vulnerable residents in the Borough. The aim is to reduce their vulnerability and risk.

Total number of referrals to the Vulnerability Hub 2023/2024 – 190.

Total number of referrals to the Vulnerability Hub 2024/2025 - 205

The Council also funds the role of the Safe Recovery Officer through the Community Safety Fund. The role of this officer is provide face to face support with vulnerable individuals who chose not to engage with statutory services or do not meet the threshold for those services.

Staffordshire Police monitor all incidents reported into them in their daily briefings where all crime is reviewed. There is further scrutiny via the in force threat and grip meetings where crime is reviewed and allocated to appropriate officers/teams and any named offenders are considered.

Staffordshire Police also review performance on a weekly basis and any problem profiles for the neighbourhood policing team are referred onto the partnership problem solving meeting for intervention.

#### 4. **Community Safety Priorities for 2025/ 2026**

4.1 The Newcastle-under-Lyme Strategic Assessment was commissioned by the Office of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and undertaken by the centre for Public Innovation to generate the Community Safety Priorities for 2025-2026.

The priorities are:

- Continue to Reduce Violence Against the Person
- Continue to Reduce Theft Offences
- Continue to Reduce Stalking and Harassment
- Continue to Reduce Violence without Injury
- Continue to Reduce Violence with injury
- Continue to Reduce Anti-social behaviour

Additional CSP priorities for Newcastle as identified by local stakeholders include:

- Reduce Business Crime
- Reduce Shoplifting
- Reduce Domestic Abuse
- Reduce Drugs (and County Lines)

The Community Safety Partnership Action Plan and the Local Crime and Police Plan establishes how we will address and tackle these priorities during 2025-2026.

A copy of the Local Crime and Police Plan (which will be shared online) will set out the Community Safety Partnership commitment in delivering on the strategic priorities. This can be found at appendix 1.

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.

4.3 The Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner provide the Community Safety Partnership with an annual Community Safety Fund (formerly LDF) to support the commissioning of projects to help to target their priorities.

This year the Community Safety Partnership have been awarded the sum of £82,333 and the following projects are currently being commissioned (in agreement with the commissioners office) :

- Street Medics
- Taxi Marshals



- Diversionary Youth Activities
- Joint Operations Group funding
- Safe Recovery Officer
- Reactive fund

## **5 Recommendation**

- 5.1** That Committee receives the report and notes the successful outcomes achieved in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as the work in progress to continue to tackle the strategic priorities.
- 5.2** Receives and notes the updated Local Crime and Police Plan in line with the Strategic Assessment priorities for 2025/26

## **6 Reasons**

- 6.1** To deliver the Council's statutory obligations in relation to Community Safety and to contribute to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

## **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 to be 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.
- 8.2** The Council has a statutory duty to deliver the Community Safety function as part of its role in the Newcastle Partnership.

## **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. The staffing resource required to deliver the activities referred to in this report are situated with the Neighbourhood Delivery Service and Regulatory Services.

## **11 Major Risks & Mitigation**

- 11.1 Without the Community Safety Partnership, there would be limited resource and capacity to deal with crime and ASB.
- 11.2 There would therefore be a risk of an increase in crime and ASB across the Borough, and in the town centre in particular.
- 11.3 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 wellbeing – the projects will help to support the well-being of residents 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 locations in the Borough from experiencing Crime and ASB.

## 13 **Key Decision Information**

13.1 Not applicable.

## 14 **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

14.1 Cabinet 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

## 15 **List of Appendices**

15.1 Appendix 1 – Local Crime and Police Plan 2024-2027 (updated May 2025)

## 16 **Background Papers**

16.1 None



**STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER**  
Police | Fire and Rescue | Crime



# NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME LOCAL POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2024 - 2027

## INTRODUCTION

The Newcastle Partnership formed as a result of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which placed a statutory duty on the statutory partners; Police, Borough Council, County Council, Health, Probation Trust and Fire Authority, to work together in order to develop and implement a community safety strategy designed to reduce crime and disorder within their area. The Partnership actively engages with a variety of other partners from the private, voluntary and community sectors in order to achieve a truly collaborative, community-based multi-agency approach.

The Partnership will work collaboratively in order to address the following community safety priorities as per the Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2025. These are:

- Serious Violence
- Theft/ Business Crime and Shoplifting
- Stalking and Harassment
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse
- Drugs and County Lines

As a Partnership we are working to encourage and empower more resilient, supported and confident communities; contribute to a safer, healthier and more sustainable Borough and in turn create increased opportunities for our residents, visitors and businesses. We also work collaboratively in order to deliver the Serious Violence Duty.

The Partnership is required to have three-year Community Safety Plan, which is refreshed annually. This Plan sets out the priorities for the period 2024 – 2027, based on the most recent assessment of community safety issues. Each year, the Partnership prepares a Strategic Assessment to assist in revising the plan and the community safety priorities for the Borough. The assessment includes; an analysis of the types and levels of crime, including identifying communities at greatest risk; changes in crime since the last assessment and additional challenges; views from partners and the community on matters that need to be prioritised and recommendations.

### **What we know?**

Newcastle has a population of around 123,000 people. Levels of overall deprivation here are broadly in line with the rest of Staffordshire but there are pockets of considerable deprivation – with some areas ranking in the top 10% nationally. Average earnings are lower than national average and there is a higher younger population than elsewhere in the County. The Borough has a mix of rural fringe communities and urban and suburban areas. Partnership working in Newcastle-under-Lyme is effective and we are proud of it. It is essential in improving outcomes and opportunities for our communities and ensuring that our collective resources are used efficiently and effectively. We continue to challenge the way in which the public sector has operated previously to initiate change. We recognise that in many cases we can deliver solutions by bringing together the skills and experience from existing partner organisations without always needing additional money or resources. We are aware of the challenges we face – not least financially – but we aim to remain focused on the work we want to do and will continue to seek to deliver, but also be mindful of how our work is impacting on the Borough as a whole linked to the delivery of complimentary strategies.

Against a backdrop of significant welfare reform and the challenges of financial exclusion, it is inevitable that some of our more vulnerable residents, particularly those in our more deprived communities, may be at an increased risk of experiencing socio-economic hardship and unhealthy lifestyles.

### **Our Priorities**

While Newcastle has seen some improvements in key quality of life indicators in recent years, there are still a number of areas where families and communities face multiple issues such as unemployment, low income, low qualifications, poor housing, social isolation and ill-health. With this in mind, the Strategic Assessment has identified the following priorities;

#### **Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)**

We are committed as a Partnership, to reducing ASB and it continues to be a priority to improve the quality of life for local people and reduce fear of crime within our communities. We are also keen to promote understanding, tolerance and respect and to encourage residents to resolve issues themselves wherever possible.

We will continue to utilise the tools and powers we have available as part of joint response to tackling ASB. We will look to develop with partners a better understanding where Hate is a factor in ASB and look to see where Hate-related ASB is a particular concern linking this in with Prevent strategy.

We will continue to share information and work collaboratively to ensure that individuals receive multi-agency support where appropriate in order to reduce re-offending.

### **Serious Violence**

We are working in partnership to deal with matters of serious violence. We understand the impact that this has on communities. We will continue to work together to focus on early intervention and prevention, including commissioning diversionary activity but where problems escalate into more serious and wide spread issues, the Partnership will provide a timely and proactive response using the most appropriate enforcement powers.

We will remain engaged with the development and delivery of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Serious Violence Reduction Strategy. We will continue to look at enforcement and preventative measures for the night time economy and work with licensing authorities to identify and tackle heavy drinking in areas with high levels of alcohol- related disorder and public place violence.

### **Drugs and County Lines**

We understand that the impact of the coronavirus pandemic in regards to physical health, mental health and well-being, employment and education – in addition to the current Cost of Living Crisis and recession will mean that we are likely to see a sharp increase in numbers and people and families considered to be vulnerable. This will also impact on the number of individuals who are likely to be at an increased risk of criminal exploitation. We are aware of trends and ‘hotspot’ locations which require partnership attention in order to tackle and disrupt this activity.

We will continue to develop and enhance our part and community awareness and sharing of concerns linked to County lines, looking to tackle signs of exploitation of young people and vulnerable adults through cuckooing.

We will also continue to work in partnership to focus on education in secondary schools and methods of reporting in regards to criminal exploitation.

### **Domestic Abuse**

Domestic Abuse affects all communities and is not unique to any one part of Staffordshire or Stoke-on-Trent. Domestic Abuse presents a significant risk to victims, but also has a wider impact where children are present – with many children

who experience DA coming into contact with Social Care services. Within the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) there is a clear legal definition of DA and the recognition of children who witness or experience such abuse as victims of DA in their own right.

The Act further adds statutory duties around the provision of support within DA-related Safe Accommodation and a requirement for responsible authorities to form DA Local Partnership Boards, which include oversight over support delivered within Safe Accommodation: CSPs should ensure that they engage with these accordingly.

We will engage with partners to develop and improve understanding of Stalking and Harassment offences, and continue to improve awareness and understanding of the Stalking Protection Act (2019) and how the Police can apply for Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs) to address offending and protect victims.

### **Stalking and Harassment**

Stalking and harassment is when someone repeatedly behaves in a way that makes you feel scared, distressed or threatened. Repeated anti social behaviour can also be classified as harassment. Both stalking and harassment are offences under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

We will continue to work with partners on raising awareness on both domestic abuse and stalking and harassment. We will continue to try and identify both as early as possible to get the support in place and reducing risk in cases such as utilising forums such as MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

### **Business Crime and Theft**

We will work in partnership to reduce business crime in and around Newcastle Borough. We understand the impact that this has on businesses and the perception on the Borough. We will work closely with Newcastle BID to build relationships with the business community and will continue to work with Partnerships Against Business Crime to tackle and drive down theft offences. We will utilise powers within the ASB, Crime and Policing Act to ensure that repeat offenders are issued Criminal Behaviour Order's as a means to address their behaviour. We will also look to engage with businesses to increase the reporting of offences so that these can be investigated accordingly.

### **Delivering our vision and achieving our outcomes.**

When we come together as partners to support people experiencing problems in the places where they live, work, shop and socialise, that's when real partnership work happens. As a Partnership we are working to encourage and empower more resilient, supported and confident communities.

Using our shared vision and strategic framework we will work with partners and our community to challenge ourselves and transform the way that we commission in

order to deliver efficient, effective and quality services whilst reducing duplication and adding value.

Whilst the priorities we have identified in this plan are predominantly crime and disorder related, the Partnership is focused on achieving its overarching outcomes by working together on more holistic priorities, which encompass themes such as health and wellbeing and economic growth. We believe this interactive approach will increase opportunities for those experiencing the most entrenched vulnerabilities and those most at risk of becoming perpetrators, or indeed victims of crime. The 'Newcastle Partnership workplan' provides more detail about the tasks and projects that the Partnership will deliver during 2025 -2026.

We are committed and will contribute to the challenges above, through active involvement and participation in the appropriate County wide forums. We will continue to effectively engage and cascade key information back to our local partners for interpretation and delivery in our communities.

### **HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS**

We will monitor the delivery of the 'Newcastle Partnership workplan' through regular reporting to our Partnership Board and Operational Groups. We will continue to actively monitor performance through qualitative and quantitative information obtained from our partners and commissioned service providers to ensure that we are making a contribution to a reduction in crime and disorder. We will monitor customer satisfaction and fear of crime by the use of service user questionnaires and the 'Feeling the Difference' surveys.

### **Local Councillors**

Local Councillors are elected by the community to decide how the Council and partners should carry out various activities. They represent the public interest as well as individuals living within the ward in which they have been elected to serve a term of office. Local Councillors are keen to establish the views of residents, address issues of concern and to assist in developing ideas for improvements. They have regular contact with the general public through council meetings, telephone calls or surgeries. Surgeries provide an opportunity for any ward resident to go and talk their Councillor face to face and these take place on a regular basis. To get in touch with your Local Councillor please visit the Council's website [www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](http://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk) or contact the Council on 01782 717717.

### **Voluntary and Community Support**

If you are a voluntary organisation, charity or social enterprise based in Newcastle-under-Lyme, advice and support is available from Support Staffordshire, who offer assistance in starting up a new community group, grant funding, organisational development and can also assist with project management and volunteering opportunities. To get in touch contact; Support Staffordshire - 0300 777 1207 - [info@supportstaffordshire.org.uk](mailto:info@supportstaffordshire.org.uk) - [www.supportstaffordshire.org.uk](http://www.supportstaffordshire.org.uk)



For further information about the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Police and Crime Plan 2024 – 2027 or any of the information in this document please contact [michelle.hopper@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.hopper@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk) or visit our website at [www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](http://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk)

## HEALTH, WELLBEING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



### Work Programme 2025-26

#### **Chair**

Cllr R. Adcock

#### **Vice-Chair**

Cllr I. Wilkes

#### **Members**

Cllrs S. Beeston, L. Barker, N. Crisp, S. Dymond, P. Northcott, P. Reece, L. Richards, J. Whieldon and R. Wright

#### **Scrutiny Champion**

Craig Jordan

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

Cllr Gill Heesom – Community Safety and Well Being

Cllr Craig Skelding – Leisure, Culture and Heritage

Cllr David Hutchison – Sustainable Environment

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

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

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

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

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

**Planned Items**

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	NOTES
15 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Animal Welfare Charter</li> <li>• Review of Parks T&amp;F Final Report</li> <li>• Walleys Quarry Update Report</li> <li>• Community Safety Partnership</li> <li>• Civic Pride (Empowering our Communities) Strategy</li> </ul>	Officer: Roger Tait Officer: Andrew Bird Officer: Nesta Barker Officer: Roger Tait Officer: Roger Tait
24 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the Gambling Policy 2024</li> <li>• Walleys Quarry Update Report</li> </ul>	Officer: Nesta Barker 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
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newcastle Fire Station Update and Performance</li> <li>• Walleys Quarry Update Report</li> <li>• Parks &amp; Open Spaces Task &amp; Finish Working Update</li> <li>• International House – review of operation post planning permission being granted</li> </ul>	Contact: Glynn Luznyj Officer: Nesta Barker Officer: Andrew Bird Officer: Gill Taylor

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newcastle Town Centre - Community Safety Partnership</li> </ul>	Officer: Roger Tait
25 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walleys Quarry Odours Update</li> <li>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 &amp; Finish working group</li> <li>Tree Risk Management Strategy</li> </ul>	Officer: Nesta Barker Officer: Andrew Bird  Officer: Andrew Bird
16 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walleys Quarry Odours Update</li> <li>Mobile Multi-Functional Team (MMF) - Scope and Purpose</li> <li>Animal Welfare Strategy</li> <li>Sustainable Environment Strategy Update</li> </ul>	Officer: Nesta Barker Officer: Roger Tait  Officer: Roger Tait Officer: Andrew Bird
3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walleys Quarry Odours Update</li> <li>Youth Obesity - J2 Play Provisions</li> <li>Chief Fire Officer Update</li> </ul>	Officer: Nesta Barker Officer Jo Halliday Contact: Glynn Luznyj
12 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walleys Quarry Odour Issues</li> <li>Policing Antisocial Behaviours in the Borough – Staffordshire Police</li> </ul>	Officer: Nesta Barker Contact: Chief Inspector Darren McGrath

Last updated on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2025

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