

Public Document Pack

Date of meeting Thursday, 11th June, 2026
Time 7.00 pm
Venue Astley Room - Castle
Contact Geoff Durham - 742222



**NEWCASTLE
UNDER LYME**
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Health, Wellbeing & Environment Scrutiny Committee

AGENDA

OPEN AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (Pages 3 - 8)
To consider the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee.
- 4 DISTRICT AND BOROUGH HEALTH SCRUTINY ACTIVITY** (Pages 9 - 14)
The minutes of Staffordshire County Council Health & Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings can be viewed at the following address:
<https://staffordshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=871>
- 5 WORK PROGRAMME** (To Follow)
- 6 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.
- 7 URGENT BUSINESS**
To consider any business which is urgent within the meaning of Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members: Councillors Ashworth, Bailey, Casey-Hulme, Harrison, Heesom, Hutchison, Jellyman, Sparks, Stevenson (Chair), J Tagg and Westcott (Vice-Chair)

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

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

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

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

Substitute Members:	Beeston	S Tagg
	D Jones	Turnock

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.

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Agenda Item 3

Health, Wellbeing & Environment Scrutiny Committee - 09/03/26

HEALTH, WELLBEING & ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 9th March, 2026
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

Present:	Councillor Rupert Adcock (Chair)		
Councillors:	Beeston	Northcott	Wright
	Crisp	Reece	
	Dymond	Richards	
Apologies:	Councillor(s) Barker MBE and Whieldon		
Substitutes:	Councillor Mark Holland		
Officers:	Nesta Barker	Service Director - Regulatory Services	
	Andrew Bird	Service Director - Sustainable Environment	
	Roger Tait	Service Director - Neighbourhood Delivery	
Also in attendance:	County Councillor Adam Griffiths	Staffordshire County Council	
	Councillor Gill Heesom	Portfolio Holder - Community Safety and Wellbeing	
	Councillor David Hutchison	Portfolio Holder - Sustainable Environment	

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received 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 previous meeting held on 24th November 2025 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

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

The Chair introduced County Councillor Adam Griffiths who gave an overview of recent district and borough health scrutiny activity.

Cllr Reece referred to visa issues encountered by certain care workers following policy changes and asked if there were any alternative solutions in place.

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The County Councillor advised that there was a 306 million pounds cut resulting in savings in connection with the use of agencies and banked staff. More information could be provided by email.

Cllr Northcott enquired about the impact of Covid and flu vaccinations.

The County Councillor responded that people were encouraged to get vaccinated. More information could be provided by email.

Cllr Northcott asked if the County Council was actively involved in promoting vaccinations or if this was left to the NHS.

The County Councillor said that there was no policy he was aware of going on the County Council Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda. Elected representatives were passing on the advice from the NHS.

The Chair shared having attended a meeting of the above mentioned committee in November during which he had raised the issue of Stoke Air Ambulance charity. Since then the regulator had sanctioned the organisation for its irregular fundraising practices which involved a lot of controversy and the false allegation to be entitled to operate as an air ambulance.

Resolved: That the District and Borough Health Scrutiny Activity be noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

5. WALLEYS QUARRY UPDATE

The Service Director for Regulatory Services introduced the newly formatted update report on Walleys Quarry as presented to Cabinet in February. Only one complaint had been received in 2026 which demonstrated a very positive situation despite a localised low level of hydrogen sulphide.

Cllr Whieldon thanked the Service Director for covering issues raised at the previous meeting.

The Chair asked if any further details had been received on when the restoration of the site would be considered completed.

The Service Director for Regulatory Services advised that multi agency working groups had been set up, one of which was focusing on the restoration aspect of the site. There were two elements to take into consideration, one being that the landfill would remain closed i.e. not accepting any waste and that part was completed; the second was the ongoing monitoring in terms of decomposition of existing waste and related gas emissions. Restoration was looking at the long term i.e. what would ultimately happen to the site. At the stage it was too early to provide a timeline. The multi-agency working group and other organisations were starting to formulate plans.

Cllr Richards wondered if the Environment Agency would continue overseeing the works going forward.

The Service Director for Regulatory Services advised that the Environment Agency was undertaking discretionary powers to prevent serious pollution under section 57. There was currently no answer to the question of how far along the journey this will

lead however supplementary information provided showed that they were commissioning reports in relation to various potential issues including groundwater.

The Chair referred to paragraph 8.2 and asked if there were other powers the Council could use to recover the substantial money invested and owed.

The Service Director for Regulatory Services responded that while claims could be put through the liquidation process there were no awareness of other ways to recover debts.

The Chair added that input from local residents, parish councils and borough councillors used to be featured in the reports and a lot of information was now behind the scene which he regretted. An open forum where residents could submit questions and talk with both local representatives and the Environment Agency would be welcome.

The Service Director for Regulatory Services said that this had been looked into and raised with the Committee of Inquiry.

Cllr Whieldon supported the Chair's request adding that this, as well as the money recovery process, should be tracked not to drift on.

The Service Director for Regulatory Services advised that the Council was one of the many creditors in relation to the liquidation process and were engaged as far as they could.

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

[Watch the debate here](#)

6. **PROGRESS OF THE COUNCIL'S SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY & DELIVERY PLAN**

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment presented the progress of the delivery plan associated with the Council's Sustainable Environment Strategy as taken to Cabinet in January.

Cllr Richards asked how community centres would afford to meet the requirement set out in the Strategy and if the Council would provide any assistance.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment advised that audits had been carried out for community centres giving a framework of works to be undertaken to meet the net zero emission requirement. These would need to be done at some point however the priority at the moment was to focus on the Council's own operational buildings.

Cllr Reece enquired about the reduction of single use plastics widely utilized by supermarkets, take-aways and local businesses.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment responded that the Council was promoting the avoidance of single use plastics through the recycling and waste service but did not have an actual policy on the matter, which could be considered going forward.

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Cllr Whieldon suggested the use of the term “target date” instead of “achievement date” in the Delivery Plan and add a column with the date when the action has actually been implemented.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment noted the suggestion.

The County Councillor advised that the Borough Council had been at the forefront of waste and recycling and that plastic bags could now be recycled.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment added that the Borough Council through funding from the County Council was now supporting all the other districts in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent in terms of their roll out of food waste – both in terms of campaigns and the operational side.

Cllr Richards enquired about the processing of plastic waste.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment advised that the Council had a contract for the dry recycled material which was sent to a recovery facility operated by Veolia. Thin plastic used to wrap food was currently not recycled but turned into fuel which was an emerging market.

Cllr Dymond asked about cartons made of composite materials such as used for lactose free milk.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment said these were now being collected but very difficult to recycle with only one plant in the UK doing it.

The Chair asked if a graphic of what was recyclable and what wasn't had been made available to residents.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment confirmed that was the case and the information had been relayed with a number of communication campaigns pushed through the website and social media.

Resolved: That the progress of the delivery plan associated with the Council's Sustainable Environment Strategy be noted, and the update to a future meeting of the Health Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee (HW&E) be referred.

[Watch the debate here](#)

7. CIVIC PRIDE (EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITIES) - EVALUATION OF 2025 ACTIVITIES

The Service Director for Neighbourhood Delivery presented the review of the activities delivered in the initial year of the Civic Pride (Empowering Our Communities) initiative ahead to the next phase of delivery.

The Chair enquired about the Civic Pride Investment Fund and timeframes to apply in relation to a local project starting in May.

The Service Director for Neighbourhood Delivery responded that applications were now closed as the funds for the current financial year had been allocated and spent. New fundings would be available for projects from May onwards.

The Service Director for Neighbourhood Delivery said that other sources of funding may be available in the meantime, which he would be looking into.

Cllr Reece asked if Staffordshire County Council's transport plan was including Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

The Service Director for Neighbourhood Delivery advised that the Borough Council was not involved in the delivery of the Local Transport Plan and that the latter was currently in a consultation phase.

Cllr Reece enquired about the proliferation of vape shops in relation to public health as well as signage clashing with the aesthetic heritage of the borough.

The Service Director for Neighbourhood Delivery said this was a matter to be raised with the Planning team.

Cllr Whieldon raised the presence of blank boxes and vague timescales in the Delivery Plan. Lead partners' names and titles were also missing.

The Service Director for Neighbourhood Delivery said nothing needed to go in the blank boxes which were just there for formatting purpose. The names and titles of officers also didn't need to appear as the table was about which organization was in charge regardless of individual members of staff.

Cllr Heesom wished to thank the team for their hard work.

Cllr Hutchison commented that the £22,000 Civic Pride Investment Fund meant that a budget of £500 for each Councillor per annum was available for projects. Members were encouraged to start thinking about what the money could be spent on.

The Chair concluded on the enthusiasm brought by the events that took place in his ward and for which all partners had been working together.

- Resolved:**
1. That the report and notes the activities delivered in 2025 as part of the initial year of the Civic Pride (Empowering Our Communities) initiative be received.
 2. That the formal adoption of the Civic Pride (Empowering Our Communities) Strategy 2025 – 2028 be noted now that consultation had concluded.
 3. That the additional resource requirements of increasing community engagement activity and target setting and monitoring as set out in the motion which was approved at Full Council on 19th November 2025, be noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

8. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Cllr Holland wished to thank the Chair for his work as Chair of the Committee as well as all the officers who had been involved in the current 4 years cycle.

The Chair thanked Cllr Holland and said it had been great to serve the Committee, adding that he would be leaving the Council in May.

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Reference was made to the very impactful work achieved on Walleys Quarry.

Cllr Whieldon asked Cllr Hutchison if he could pass on a request for the grass cutting team to be mindful of the daffodils recently planted.

Cllr Richards enquired about the bus gate topic and related restriction of traffic, wondering if these would be coming back to the Committee.

The Chair advised that unless any substantial update was received there was no plan for further discussions.

Resolved: That the work programme be noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions received from members of the public.

10. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved: That the next meeting be held on the 25th June 2026.

**Councillor Rupert Adcock
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 8.02 pm

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Monday 23 March 2026

District and Borough Health Scrutiny Activity

Recommendation

I recommend that:

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

Summary

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

Background

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

5. It is anticipated that the District and Borough Councillors who are members of this committee will present the update of matters considered at the District and Borough committees to the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
6. The following is a summary of the health scrutiny activity which has been undertaken at the District/Borough Council level since the last meeting of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Cannock Chase District Council

Cannock Chase Council's Health, Wellbeing and The Community Scrutiny Committee met on 15 December 2025.

The Committee received a presentation/update from Biffa on the contract/delivery performance and the food waste collection rollout. They also received a presentation/update from the Waste and Commercial Services Manager on Simpler Recycling.

The Quarter 2 2025/26 Performance Update report was received, and Members had the opportunity to ask questions.

The Committee were then updated with the work being undertaken by the Working Group established to consider the Council's current housing fencing policy.

Date of next meeting: 17 March 2026

East Staffordshire Borough Council

East Staffordshire Borough Council's Scrutiny (Health and Well Being) Committee met on 15th January 2026.

The Committee considered the Q2 Performance Report and discussed future scrutiny review topics including:

- Disabled Facilities Grants
- Violence Against Women

The current review on Knife Crime is due to be completed and heard at the next Committee meeting on the 9th March 2026.

Lichfield District Council

Lichfield District Council's (LDC) Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 27 January 2026 to examine the lack of progress on the planned Burntwood Health & Wellbeing Centre. Representatives of the Integrated

Care Board (ICB) attended and stated that they are working with Staffordshire County Council (SCC) to resolve issues with the planning pre-application.

LDC members expressed extreme disappointment with the slow pace of the project, noting that 18 years had passed since this was first discussed in 2008. Concern was raised that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds offered by Lichfield District Council towards the project would no longer be available if the centre is not built by September 2028.

Representatives of SCC were invited to this meeting but declined to attend.

The next scheduled committee meeting is on 24 March 2026.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

The Borough Council's Health Well-being and Environment Scrutiny Committee met on 15th September when it considered the following:

- Walleys Quarry Update report
- Sustainable Environment Strategy Update
- Civic Pride: Evaluation of 2025 activities.

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is on 11th June 2026.

South Staffordshire District Council

The Committee will next meet in June 2026.

Stafford Borough Council

Stafford Borough Council's Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee met on 4 December 2025 and received a presentation from Veolia who delivered their annual report, touching on the forthcoming rollout of the Food Waste Collections.

The Task and Finish Group have met several times regarding Food Waste Collections and will be presenting to the next Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 18 March.

Freedom Leisure also attended the meeting and presented its Annual Report.

The Q2 Performance Report was scrutinised.

The next meeting will have presentations reviewing the previous year from the Community Wellbeing Partnership, and a further presentation from Turning Point. There will be an update from Streetscene.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

The Council's Health and Wellbeing Committee met on 19 November 2025.

Members expressed concerns regarding the lack of clarity surrounding the timetable for the implementation of Urgent Treatment Centres, the future provision of services at Leek Minor Injuries Unit and the approach the Integrated Care Board intends to take in engaging with district councillors on these matters. The Chair agreed to raise these concerns with the Chair of the Staffordshire County Council Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Healthwatch Manager for Staffordshire presented an overview of Healthwatch Staffordshire's Annual Report for 2024–2025. Members welcomed the report and reiterated their support for the continued operation of Healthwatch.

A Dementia Adviser provided an update on dementia support services delivered by the Alzheimer's Society across North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. The Council is currently arranging Dementia Friends sessions for district and parish councillors.

At each meeting, the Chair provides an update on the work undertaken by the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Committee is scheduled for 4 March 2026.

Tamworth Borough Council

Tamworth Borough Councils Community Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on the 25th November 2025 where they considered the following matters –

- Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Plan Update
- Additional Licensing – Houses in Multiple Occupancy
- Corporate ASB and Environmental Crime Policy
- Corporate Domestic Abuse Policy
- Corporate Hate Crime Policy

The next meeting is scheduled for the 10th March 2026.

Link to Strategic Plan

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

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

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

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Council	District/ Borough Representative on CC	County Council Representative on DC/BC
Cannock Chase	Tony Johnson	Neil Parton
East Staffordshire	Aaron Mansfield	Michael Carver
Lichfield	Steve Norman	Tracey Dougherty
Newcastle	Rupert Adcock	Adam Griffiths
South Staffordshire	Helen Adams	James Hodges
Stafford BC	Ann Edgeller	Antonia Orlandi-Fantini
Staffordshire Moorlands	John Jones	Charlotte Kelly
Tamworth	Natalie Statham	Wayne Luca

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