

Date of meeting Tuesday, 16th January, 2024

Time 2.00 pm

Venue Astley Room - Castle

Contact Geoff Durham 742222



**NEWCASTLE
UNDER LYME**

BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Cabinet

AGENDA

PART 1 – OPEN AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive declarations of interest from Members on items included in the agenda.
- 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** (Pages 5 - 10)
To consider the Minutes of the previous meeting.
- 4 WALLEYS QUARRY ODOUR ISSUES** (Pages 11 - 32)
- 5 BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND NEXT STAGES** (Pages 33 - 316)
- 6 DRAFT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS AND STRATEGIES 2024/25** (Pages 317 - 404)
- 7 SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES 2024/25** (Pages 405 - 456)
- 8 STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL URBAN GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT DELIVERY** (Pages 457 - 462)
- 9 AWARD OF THE CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF BEDDING PLANTS AND HANGING BASKETS** (Pages 463 - 466)
- 10 HEALTH INEQUALITIES GRANT PROJECTS** (Pages 467 - 474)
- 11 FUTURE DELIVERY OF COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE** (Pages 475 - 480)
- 12 FORWARD PLAN** (Pages 481 - 488)

13 URGENT BUSINESS

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

14 DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following reports, because it is likely that there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972.

15 SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES - TRADE REFUSE CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX

(Pages 489 - 490)

ATTENDANCE AT CABINET MEETINGS

Councillor attendance at Cabinet meetings:

- (1) The Chair or spokesperson of the Council's scrutiny committees and the mover of any motion referred to Cabinet shall be entitled to attend any formal public meeting of Cabinet to speak.
- (2) Other persons including non-executive members of the Council may speak at such meetings with the permission of the Chair of the Cabinet.

Public attendance at Cabinet meetings:

- (1) If a member of the public wishes to ask a question(s) at a meeting of Cabinet, they should serve two clear days' notice in writing of any such question(s) to the appropriate committee officer.
- (2) The Council Leader as Chair of Cabinet is given the discretion to waive the above deadline and assess the permissibility of the question(s). The Chair's decision will be final.
- (3) The maximum limit is three public questions at any one Cabinet meeting.
- (4) A maximum limit of three minutes is provided for each person to ask an initial question or make an initial statement to the Cabinet.
- (5) Any questions deemed to be repetitious or vexatious will be disallowed at the discretion of the Chair.

Members: Councillors S Tagg (Chair), Sweeney (Vice-Chair), Heesom, Fear, Skelding and Hutchison

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

Meeting Quorums :- 16+= 5 Members; 10-15=4 Members; 5-9=3 Members; 5 or less = 2 Members.

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.

This page is intentionally left blank

CABINET

Tuesday, 5th December, 2023
Time of Commencement: 2.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

Present:	Councillor Simon Tagg (Chair)		
Councillors:	Sweeney Heesom	Fear Skelding	Hutchison
Officers:	Martin Hamilton Geoff Durham Simon McEneny Sarah Wilkes Anthony Harold Nesta Barker Georgina Evans-Stadward Craig Jordan	Chief Executive Civic & Member Support Officer Deputy Chief Executive Service Director - Finance / S151 Officer Service Director - Legal & Governance / Monitoring Officer Service Director - Regulatory Services Service Director - Strategy, People and Performance Service Director - Planning	

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 7 November, 2023 be agreed as a correct record.

3. **WALLEYS QUARRY - ODOUR ISSUES**

The Leader, Councillor Simon Tagg introduced a report on Walleys Quarry odour issues. This was the monthly report giving an update on issues at Walley's Quarry.

The Chief Executive presented the report stating that there had been an increase in the number of complaints received in November, double the level seen in October.

The Monitoring station data had shown that the percentage of time that the Hydrogen Sulphide had been above the World Health Organisation's Annoyance Threshold was just over 14% at MMF9 between 20 and 26 November. This was most likely due to the cold weather conditions.

In response, the Council increased the deployment of officers out into the community to try and witness the odours in order to take action. In addition the complaint data was being shared with Walleys Quarry and a meeting was scheduled for Friday 8 December where previous spikes and the data from November would be discussed.

The Environment Agency (EA) had advised that they had also increased the level of odour assessment tours.

The Chief Executive made reference to the ongoing work by the EA in terms of their regulation of the site and publication of some Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) forms which detailed works which they were requiring Walleys Quarry to do. There were two areas in particular; the clay capping of the flanks, to be completed by 12 December and a request for Walleys' to update their Odour Management Plan to reflect the development at the site since the production of the Plan.

The Leader stated that it was good that increased monitoring was taking place by the Council as a result of the rise in complaints. It was key to keep a very close watch on the situation in order to do the Council's part and also to hold the EA to account.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, Councillor Sweeney made reference to paragraph 3.8 of the report, stating that it was scandalous that the EA did not attend the meeting held at Castle House on 20 November.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning, Councillor Fear stated that the figures were disappointing. Referring to the table at paragraph 3.4, MMF9, Councillor Fear stated that, for one minute in every seven the Hydrogen Sulphide level had been in excess.

The Leader stated that the Council's role through the Abatement Notice was to meet and discuss the issues with the operator and was pleased that officers would be doing that. At Full Council in October, Members had asked the Leader to write to the new Secretary of State regarding issues with the EA. The Leader stated that, in addition, he would also write to the Prime Minister about the failings of the EA and ask again for a public inquiry.

The Leader asked the Chief Executive about the SCG to see if the Group could be ramped up again. The Leader stated that the EA would be coming to speak with Councillors in the new year regarding the calibration issues.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the SCG did continue to meet on a monthly cycle with himself and the Council's Service Director for Regulatory Services in attendance. The Group were continuing to apply pressure to agencies. There were also sub-groups in existence.

The Leader proposed two additional recommendations; asking Cabinet to support the Leader writing to the Prime Minister regarding the issues at Walleys Quarry and the EA's performance and failures and calling for a public inquiry and; asking the Chief Executive to explore holding a political SCG in the new year.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the contents of the update report be noted.
 - (ii) That Cabinet support the Leader writing to the Prime Minister regarding the issues of Walleys Quarry (copying in the relevant people) about the EA's performance and failures and calling for the public inquiry.
 - (iii) That the Chief Executive explore the holding of a political SCG meeting early in the new year.

[Watch the debate here](#)

4. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2024/25 - FIRST DRAFT SAVINGS PLANS

The Leader introduced a report regarding the refreshed Medium Term Financial Strategy including the first draft savings proposals.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth stated that savings and funding strategies had been identified to address a £2.686m budget gap for 2024/25, outlined at paragraph 2.4 of the report.

There would be a council tax increase, significantly below the rate of inflation, of 1.99% for a band D property amounting to an increase of ten pence or less per week.

Identified savings enabled a continued contribution of £250,000 to the Borough Growth Fund to continue to enable investment in the Council's priorities.

The Leader stated that a robust budget setting process began in the summer, an Efficiency Board had met and the MTFS had previously been to the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee. The first draft savings had now been brought to Cabinet en-route to setting the budget which would be a balanced budget, in February.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning thanked the Finance team for an excellent report and their hard work with a process that was producing deliverable targets.

The Leader stated that the next step for this would be to go to the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee next week.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the first draft savings proposals as set out in Appendix A and Appendix B to the report, be noted.
 - (ii) That the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) funding gap (Appendix C), be noted.
 - (iii) That the refreshed Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) (Appendix D) be referred to the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee for their views.
 - (iv) That the first draft savings proposals be referred to the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee for their views (Appendix A and Appendix B).
 - (v) That the Mid-Year Capital Estimates for 2023/24 be approved.

[Watch the debate here](#)

5. COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

The Leader introduced a report providing a summary of progress made during the first year of the Council's 2022-2026 Council Plan. The report would go to Full Council for debate in January.

The report showed that Newcastle was a well run Council that was delivering on its set priorities; regenerating the town centre through the Town Deal and Future High Street Fund government funding; supporting a healthy, active and safe community; creating a safe and attractive town centre and the One Council transformation.

During this year there had also been a Peer Review report which showed a good picture of management within the Council. There had been constant focus on

Walleys Quarry through this period and the Abatement Notice victory. The Council's 850 Anniversary Celebrations had taken place throughout the year and the Council had done exceptionally well in the Britain in Bloom competition.

The Portfolio Holders highlighted some of the areas that had performed well under their Portfolios.

Page 4 of the Annual Report summarised the achievements that had been made across the board. Pages 13 to 21 showed the Council's performance under the four Priorities with 80% of targets being met.

The Leader proposed an amendment to the first recommendation to thank the staff and members that had been involved in achieving the success of the Council during this period.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the Council's Annual Report for 2022-2023 be received and that thanks be passed to the staff and members involved during this period, for their work on behalf of the residents.
 - (ii) That the publication date of the Annual Report going forward, which will be September each year, be noted.
 - (iii) That the 2022-2023 Annual Report be referred to Full Council's January 2024 meeting.

[Watch the debate here](#)

6. TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY 2023-2028 REPORT

The Leader introduced a report seeking Cabinet's approval of the 2023-2028 Technology Strategy.

The Strategy would bring ICT and Digital Strategies together to take the Council forward and provide better services and delivery to residents. The Council understood that there would still be people who wanted the personal approach, either over the telephone or in person at Castle House.

The Strategy would be taken to the next Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee next week for its views.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the Technology Strategy be approved.
 - (ii) That the Technology Strategy be reviewed on its individual merits and any future allocation of resources be supported.
 - (iii) That an action plan be received for consideration at a future meeting of the Cabinet.
 - (iv) That the Strategy be considered by the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee and feedback be provided to the Portfolio Holder for One Council, People and Partnerships

[Watch the debate here](#)

7. CHATTERLEY VALLEY WEST LUCIDEON PROJECT

The Leader introduced a report updating Cabinet on progress with the Chatterley Valley West project and sought approval of Cabinet for a full business case review.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth stated that the project had the potential to create up to 1700 jobs. Lucideon were currently based in Penkhull but wanted to move into Newcastle.

A bespoke office and manufacturing business would be built and once completed, the buildings would be sold to the Council who would then rent it out to Lucideon. The rent received would cover the interest on the loan and create an income stream.

A full financial appraisal of Lucideon was included at page 80 of the report, along with other information.

The Leader stated that the site had a long history with the west side awaiting development for many years and as a result of receiving the Town Deal money and the investment from the County Council this development had been able to move forward.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning stated that the development would create good quality jobs. The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Heritage stated that the development brought great potential to Kidsgrove and the surrounding areas.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the progress made to date on the development of The Chatterley Valley Industrial Park be noted.
 - (ii) That a further report be received detailing both the full business case and the evaluation of the full business case, once completed, to enable a decision to be taken regarding future investment in this project.

[Watch the debate here](#)

8. CHATTERLEY VALLEY WEST PLOT C INDUSTRIAL UNIT INVESTMENT

The Leader introduced a report updating Cabinet on Plot C of the Chatterley Valley West project and sought approval for a full business case review of the potential investment into small industrial units.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth stated that this development was for three separate units that would be sub-divided into smaller units which, upon completion the Council would purchase them and rent them out, generating income for the Council. The smaller units across the Borough were in great demand and the proposed units would be slightly bigger to enable businesses to expand.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the progress made to date on the development of the Chatterley Valley Industrial Park be noted
 - (ii) That a further report be received detailing both the full business case and the evaluation of the full business case, once completed, to enable a decision to be taken regarding future investment in this project.

[Watch the debate here](#)

9. FORWARD PLAN

The Leader went through the Cabinet Forward Plan.

Resolved: That the Forward Plan be received and noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

10. **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no Urgent Business.

11. **DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION**

There were no confidential items.

**Councillor Simon Tagg
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 2.55 pm

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S

REPORT TO CABINET

16 January 2024

Report Title: Walleys Quarry – Odour Issues

Submitted by: Chief Executive

Portfolios: Sustainable Environment; One Council, People & Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: All

<p><u>Purpose of the Report</u></p> <p>To update Cabinet on the latest position regarding the problematic odours in the Borough associated with Walleys Quarry.</p>	<p><u>Key Decision</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>Cabinet is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the contents of this update report. 	
<p><u>Reasons</u></p> <p>To ensure Cabinet is kept updated on the ongoing work regarding the problem odours associated with Walleys Quarry landfill.</p>	

1. **Background**

- 1.1 For a number of years, parts of the borough have suffered from foul odours from the Walleys Quarry Landfill Site in Silverdale operated by Walleys Quarry Ltd, part of the RED Industries group of companies. The Environment Agency (EA) is the lead regulator for such sites, testing and enforcing compliance with the permit under which the site operates. The Council also has a role in influencing the operation and performance of such sites, where an operator fails to comply with actions required under an abatement notice issued by the Council in relation to any statutory nuisance caused by the site.
- 1.2 In March 2021, Council held an extraordinary meeting to receive the report of the Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee review into the Walleys Quarry issues, and to debate a motion demanding the immediate suspension of operations and acceptance of waste at the Walleys Quarry Landfill site.
- 1.3 Following extensive work, officers determined that the odours from the Walleys Quarry site amounted to a Statutory Nuisance and, on 13 August 2021, served an Abatement Notice on Walleys Quarry Ltd. (WQL). Following an appeal by Walleys Quarry Ltd, and a successful mediation process, His Honour District Judge Gregg

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

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

2. Complaint Data

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

	Complaints to NuLBC	Complaints to Environment Agency
October 2023		
02/10/23 – 08/10/23	8	37
09/10/23 - 15/10/23	29	64
16/10/23 - 22/10/23	22	81
23/10/23 - 29/10/23	26	115
30/10/23 - 05/11/23	5	15
November 2023		
06/11/23- 12/11/23	40	123
13/11/23- 19/11/23	35	119
20/11/23- 26/11/23	36	135
27/11/23 - 03/12/23	115	265
December 2023		
4/12/23- 10/12/23	83	151
11/12/23- 17/12/23	48	180
18/12/23 -24/12/23	28	79
25/12/23-31/12/23	44	129
January 2024		
01/01/24 - 07/01/24	229	627
08/01/24 - 14/01/24	66	N/R

2.2 Officers highlight any odour events where 10 or more odour complaints have been recorded. There have been 8 odour events in the month of December:

- 01 December 2023 - 24 complaints
- 02 December 2023 - 17 complaints
- 04 December 2023 - 12 complaints
- 05 December 2023 - 27 complaints
- 06 December 2023 - 25 complaints
- 11 December 2023 - 11 complaints
- 14 December 2023 - 12 complaints
- 30 December 2023 - 13 complaints

In January there have been over 10 complaints received each day during the following period:

- 01 January to 08 January
- 11 January
- 13-14 January

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

2.3 NULBC Odour Assessments

Officers have undertaken odour assessments during normal working hours and out of hours. The monitoring has been reactive to odour complaints and proactive where low odour dispersion is predicted.

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

This report focuses on the 5-minute odour assessments.

27 odour assessments were undertaken on 5 separate dates in December. 11 out of 27 assessments detected distinct or strong landfill related odour on:

- Friday 01 December
- Tuesday 05 December
- Wednesday 06 December
- Wednesday 13 December

Mobile Air Quality Monitoring (using Jerome monitor)

2.4 Officers have monitored the levels of hydrogen sulphide within the community using the mobile Jerome monitor. The highest level of hydrogen sulphide recorded was 40.38ppb at Galingale View on 13 December at 22:22. In January, a level of 210ppb was monitored at The Hamptons on 04 January at 20:07.

NULBC Actions

2.5 It is disappointing to report that over this winter period there has been a deterioration in the odours conditions from Walleys Quarry, as shown in the data reported. The worsened conditions have continued into January.

2.6 Officers are awaiting the rectified air quality data published by the EA to compare the data against the findings from Officer assessments and the Jerome air quality data.

- 2.7 A request is being made to Walleys Quarry for their investigation findings for the November and December odour events and any remedial action taken or planned.
- 2.8 Officer monitoring and assessments will continue to be undertaken in January, both in and out of office working hours to continue monitoring and to respond to the issues raised.

Walleys Quarry Update

- 2.9 Walleys Quarry Limited issued a press statement on 13 December 2023 as follows:

‘Over the past few months, Walleys Quarry Ltd (WQL) has been engaged in several projects at the facility, as part of their ongoing commitment to and development of, the Walleys Quarry (WQ) facility. These extensive and complex works demonstrate continued commitment to the site and are reflective of a significant financial investment. These works have been completed, whilst also maintaining an active operational facility’

- 2.10 Further details are available [here](#) and in summary WQL report on the following work undertaken to the site:

Sidewall Engineering – ‘In order to continue the development of the facility and in preparation for the deposit of wastes accepted for permitted disposal, an area of the southern sidewall of the original quarry has been lined’.

‘Upon completion of active landfill operations, the sidewall engineering also gives the “anchor” for the permanent capping to be installed into, eventually creating a complete impermeable envelope’.

Leachate Wells – ‘WQL has installed a series of 5 new leachate wells through the 60m waste mass, to the original basal engineering to ensure that the installed infrastructure at the facility continues to be effective and allow the monitoring and measuring of the site generated leachate’.

Permanent Capping – ‘WQL continues to install permanent capping in areas where all active operational activity is complete. The 2023 permanent capping programme has seen a significant area of the landfill, focussed on the eastern flank covered with a thick layer of impermeable plastic’.

Temporary Capping – ‘Throughout 2023 WQL has instigated a significant programme of temporary capping at the facility. Utilising high-quality, low permeability engineering clay sourced locally, areas of the site which are either not being actively deposited on or represents the flanks of active depositional areas have been covered in significant quantities and depths of clay’.

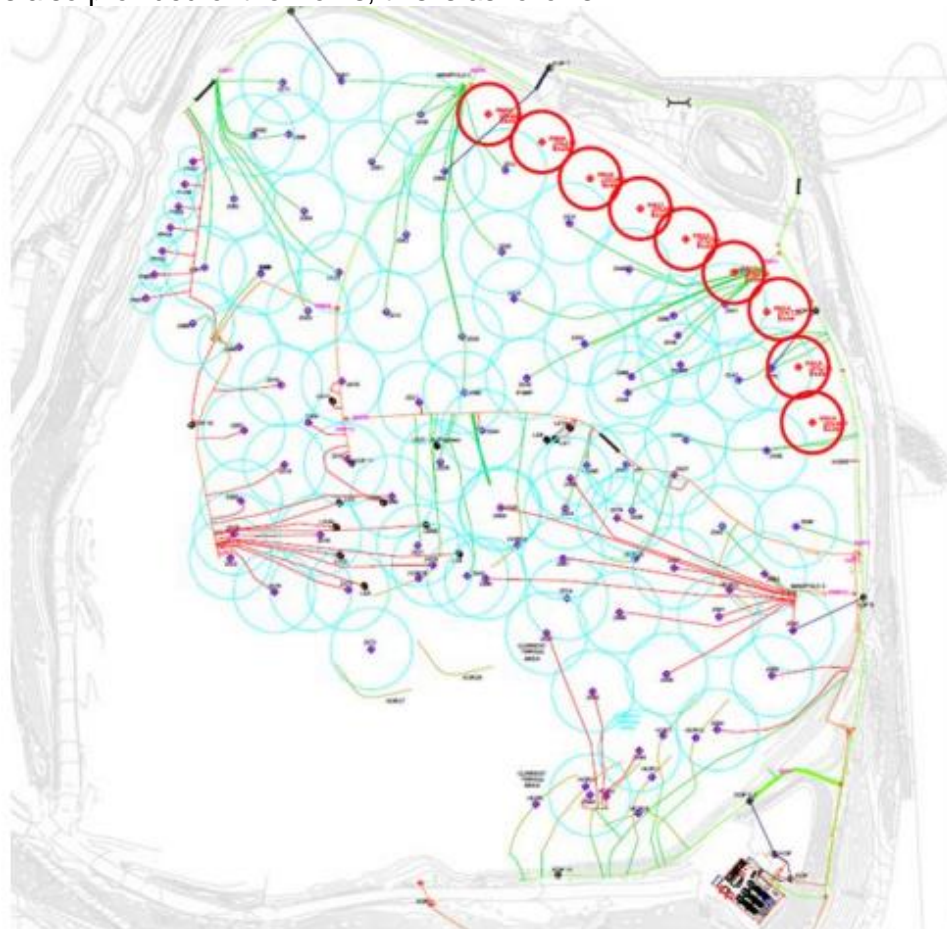
- 2.11 On 04 January 2024 Walleys Quarry Ltd issued a press release as follows:

“Aligned with the principles developed within the Landfill Gas Management Plan (LFGMP) and continuing the BAT approach (Best Available Technique) taken at the Walleys Quarry facility, a series of 9 Pin wells will be installed along the northern boundary.

The works will commence on 8 January 2024 and is expected to be completed within the week. The installed wells will be integrated directly into the existing gas capture and control infrastructure. Collected landfill gas, will be safely conveyed through the perimeter ring main to the Gas Utilisation Plant (GUP) where it will be treated through

the system, aiding the generation of electricity which is exported to the grid for off-site use. It is not anticipated that there will be any off site impacts from the works.”

A plan is also provided of the works, this is as follows:



The press release is available at the following link
[659678543782f0fed602e8de Walleys Update 04.01.2024.pdf \(website-files.com\)](https://www.newcastle-under-lyme.gov.uk/website-files/659678543782f0fed602e8de_Walleys_Update_04.01.2024.pdf)

3. Air Quality & Health

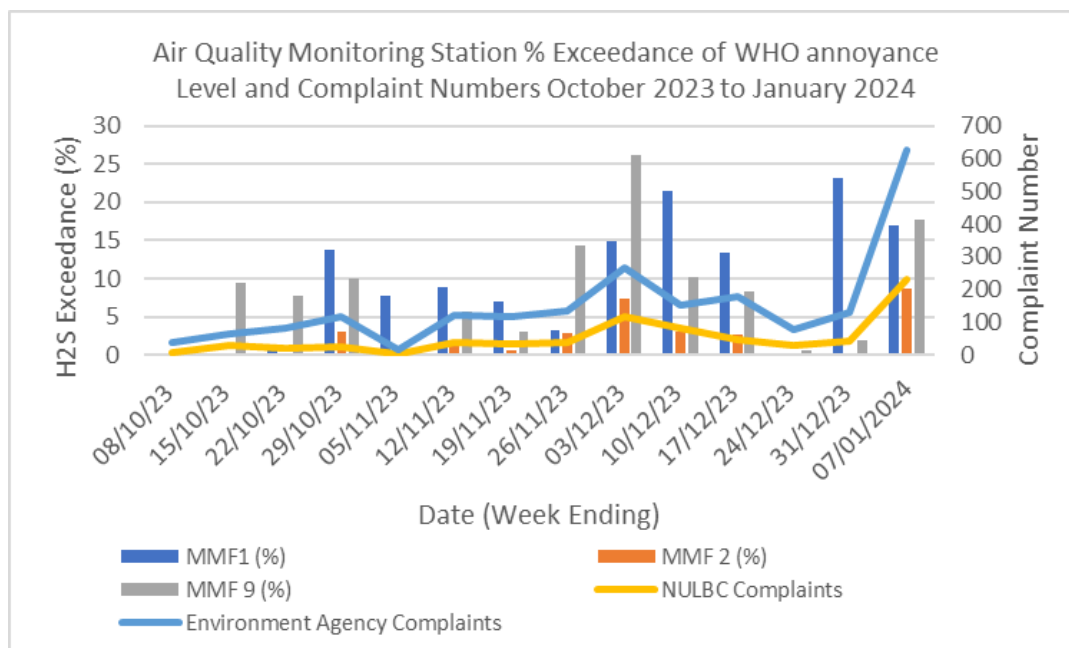
- 3.1 The Council, Staffordshire County Council, and the Environment Agency have jointly funded a campaign of air quality monitoring utilising three static air monitoring stations. The Environment Agency manage and operate these air quality monitoring stations. Data from these stations has been routinely published weekly by the Environment Agency.
- 3.2 Hydrogen sulphide levels have previously been reported and reviewed as part of this report and a full data set provided in Appendices. On 5 October, the Environment Agency provided an update, alerting the community to a problem with the reliability of the Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S) monitoring data collected at the monitoring stations. This update is available at the following link [Latest News | Engage Environment Agency \(engagementhq.com\)](https://www.engagementhq.com/latest-news/)
- 3.3 On 19 October 2023, the EA calibrated the H₂S analysers in MMF1 and MMF2. The EA have sufficient confidence in the raw data recorded for the week commencing 16 October 2023 to allow the EA to restart publishing data from MMF1 and MMF2. The latest H₂S data is set out in the table below, defining the proportion of the time periods where H₂S levels were above the WHO Odour Annoyance guideline of 7ug/m³.

- 3.4** The latest H2S data is set out in the table below, defining the proportion of the time periods where H2S levels were above the WHO Odour Annoyance guideline of 7ug/m3.

Time Period	Percentage of time the location recorded hydrogen sulphide concentrations above the WHO annoyance guideline level		
	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%	0.0%	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%

NR= not reported

- 3.5** The complaint data and weekly % exceedance of the WHO annoyance level have been combined and is shown on the graph below. This shows good correlation between the two, apart from the week ending 31st December where complaints are much lower than the H2S exceedance level at MMF1.



- 3.6** The EA have been required to remove the Mobile Monitoring Facility (MMF) 2 from the Silverdale Pumping Station in mid-January 2024. This is due to construction works beyond their control. The EA issued an update on 4 January 2024:

Following discussions with Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council and the UK Health Security Agency, proposals for potential new locations were shared with the Strategic Coordinating Group and a site to the east of the current MMF2 location was confirmed on 12 December 2023.

Work is now under way to commission the new monitoring site and establish the appropriate services as soon as possible. It is important to note that data from the previous MMF 2 location will not be directly comparable to data collected at the new location. We will continue to update the community on the progress of the new monitoring site.

- 3.7** The previous Cabinet meeting reported that Staffordshire County Council had held their Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20th November 2023 to consider matters relating to Walley's Quarry Landfill Site with a focus on health implications for residents. The minutes of this meeting are available at [Minutes \(staffordshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/minutes).
- 3.8** A motion was agreed 'That Council agrees that the Leader of the Council will write to the Secretary of State admonishing them for the failure to support this Council's request for a public enquiry; to ask them to reconsider their decision and invite the minister or their representatives to meet with representatives of this Council to discuss our concerns.' A copy of the original response from Ms Pow MP and the Leader's letter to Mr Sunak Prime Minister are attached in Appendix 2 and 3.

Environment Agency Regulatory and Enforcement Action

- 3.9** The Environment Agency has continued to provide updates on their regulatory activity on the Walleys Quarry Landfill and can be accessed here: <https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/hub-page/walleys-quarry-landfill>
- 3.10** These updates reflect regular EA officer presence at the site to review progress with the Contain Capture Destroy strategy. The Compliance Assessment Reports (published on the [EA website](#)) provide further details of the site visits undertaken.
- 3.11** The following table provides a summary of the published CAR (Compliance Assessment Report) forms since the last Cabinet report:

Date of Report	Date issued	CAR Reference	Assessment	Compliance score
02/10/23	16/10/23	DP3734DC/0476949	Site inspection (unannounced)	31
26/10/23	08/11/23	DP3734DC/0479867	Site inspection (announced)	0
08/11/23	21/11/23	DP3734DC/0481216	Site inspection (unannounced)	0new CAR

22/11/23	11/12/23	DP3734DC	Site inspection (announced)	0
21/11/23	04/12/23	DP373DC/0482454	Site inspection (unannounced)	0

3.12 The CAR dated 02 October 2023 scored a category 2 non-compliance (31 CCS points) for 2 breaches.

- **C2 General Management – Management System & Operating Procedures - Permit Condition 2.4.1** 'failed to install a temporary clay cap to the flanks of phase 4, with the exception of the lower part of the south facing flank of Phase 4 above the haul road, in accordance with the agreed Capping and Phasing Plan. 'This is a non-compliance which could have a significant effect on quality of life if not addressed. promptly and adequately, due to an increased risk of fugitive emissions of landfill gas from the uncapped area of Phase 4, with the potential for off-site odour causing offence to local residents' sense of smell'.
- **C2 General Management – Management System & Operating Procedures - Permit condition 2.4.1.** 'You have been scored a category 2 non-compliance (31 CCS points), because you have carried out landfill operations without adequate seals on a leachate well (LS7A) as specified in the OMP' [Odour Management Plan]. This is a non-compliance which could have a significant effect on quality of life if not addressed promptly and adequately, due to an increased risk of fugitive emissions of landfill gas from an unsealed leachate well, with the potential for off-site odour causing offence to local residents' sense of smell.
- 'The total non-compliance score for this assessment is 31 CCS points. When we identify several non-compliances under permit condition, we consolidate these. The risk category and score we give is usually the most severe non-compliance we have identified. The scores for both non-compliances recorded under permit condition 2.4.1 have been consolidated'.

3.13 On 8 December 2023 the EA provided an update video on their Facebook page. On 12 January 2023 the EA provided a further update video. You can view it by clicking [here](#).

Key Performance Data

3.14 Through the settlement agreement both Walleys Quarry Ltd and the Council have developed key performance indicators in relation to relevant data from each organisation. These key performance indicators are shown in Appendix 4 and 5.

3.15 The data from the Council covers the period from October to December 2023, and provides complaint numbers and officer assessments.

3.16 The data from Walleys Quarry Limited provides data on waste acceptance, odour management, landfill operations, landfill gas management, leachate management and information relating to the EA regulator as the primary regulator of the site. The KPI data and explanatory notes for December is awaited and will be uploaded later as Appendix 5.

4. Proposal

- Note the contents of this update report.

5. Reasons for Proposed Solution

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

6. Options Considered

- 6.1 To provide regular updates to Cabinet.

7. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 7.1 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.

8. Equality Impact Assessment

- 8.1 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.

9. Financial and Resource Implications

- 9.1 Dedicated officer resource has been allocated to continue the Council's work regarding Walleys Quarry Landfill.
- 9.2 From April 2023 there is £100k reserved for legal action associated with Walley Quarry landfill site. In the event that formal action is required, a separate report will be brought to full Council to approve additional funds.

10. Major Risks

- 10.1 A GRACE risk assessment has been completed including the following main risks:
- Failure to achieve a reduction in odour levels;
 - Community dissatisfaction at odour levels;
 - The ability to take enforcement action against abatement notice;
 - Failure to evidence a breach of the abatement notice;
 - Secretary of State refuses permission to undertake prosecution proceedings.
- 10.2 Controls have been identified and implemented in order to control these risks; the main controls include:
- Provisions in settlement agreement ensures greater transparency for public;
 - Provisions in settlement agreement ensures regular meetings with Walleys Quarry which enable issues to be discussed;
 - Dedicated officer resource for Walleys Quarry work has been secured;
 - Continued air quality monitoring provision;
 - Robust procedure for investigating complaints with experienced officers;
 - Specialist expert advice maintained;
 - Multi-Agency partnership working continues.

11. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)



12. Key Decision Information

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

13. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

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

14. List of Appendices

- 14.1** Appendix 1. Historical Complaint data
- 14.2** Appendix 2. Letter from Ms Pow MP
- 14.3** Appendix 3. Letter to Mr Sunak PM
- 14.4** Appendix 4. NUL Key Performance Data
- 14.5** Appendix 5. WQL Key Performance Data

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 1 – Historic Complaint Numbers

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

Week Ending	Complaints to NuLBC	Complaints to Environment Agency
11-Jun	19	75
18-Jun	76	154
25-Jun	80	170
02-Jul	40	99
09-Jul	18	46
16-Jul	20	54
23-Jul	15	73
30-Jul	28	97
06-Aug	21	67
13-Aug	7	30
20-Aug	10	44
27-Aug	8	38
03-Sep	11	59
10-Sept	26	71
17-Sept	12	72
24-Sept	8	31
01-Oct	8	26
08-Oct	8	37
15-Oct	29	64
22-Oct	22	81
29-Oct	26	115
05-Nov	5	15
12-Nov	40	123
19-Nov	35	119
26-Nov	36	135
3-Dec	115	265
10-Dec	83	151
17-Dec	48	180
24-Dec	28	79
31-Dec	44	129



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Rebecca Pow MP
Minister for Environmental Quality and Resilience

2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T: +44 (0) 3459 335577

E: correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk W: gov.uk/defra

Alan White
Leader
Staffordshire County Council

Your ref: AW/TK 105
Our ref: PO2023/20005/JM

Simon Tagg
Leader
Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council tracy.key1@staffordshire.gov.uk 6 November 2023

Dear Alan and Simon,

Thank you for your letter of 10 October to the Secretary of State about the effectiveness of the Environment Agency (EA). I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The error with the hydrogen sulphide monitoring data collected by the Mobile Monitoring Facilities (MMFs) is regrettable. However, on discovery of this issue the EA has acted swiftly, openly and transparently.

In relation to Walleys Quarry specifically, the EA has taken steps to ensure the MMFs operating there are now doing so fully in line with the manufacturer's recommended calibration method. It has apologised to the local community and has also held a virtual public meeting on 9 October which was recorded. This recording as well as a series of follow up questions have been published on the EA's Walleys Quarry engagement site.

The error has not impacted the EA's regulatory actions at the site or the fact that the situation there has improved significantly. This issue does not affect the published plan to reduce emissions by capturing, containing, and destroying landfill gas. Indeed, as part of its ongoing work on 19 October the EA issued another enforcement notice against the site operator in relation to the capping work at the site.

I know how important it is to have confidence in the measurements of hydrogen sulphide at Walleys Quarry and other sites, and I have asked my officials to help provide expert technical assistance to the EA on this matter.

I continue to have confidence in the regulatory work of the EA and do not believe a public inquiry is necessary.

Thank you once again for taking the time to contact us about this important issue.

REBECCA POW MP



Our ref:

Your ref:

Date: 21 December 2023

The Right Honourable Rishi Sunak MP, Prime Minister
CC: Steven Barclay MP, Secretary of State for
Environment, Food & Rural Affairs &
Aaron Bell MP

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

By e-mail only:

rishi.sunak.mp@parliament.uk

stephen.barclay.mp@parliament.uk & aaron.bell.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Prime Minister

Environment Agency Regulation of Walleys Quarry, Newcastle under Lyme

I refer to the letter received from Rt Hon Rebecca Pow MP dated 6th November, copy attached.

I appreciate that neither you nor the new Secretary of State have been previously involved in this matter, which relates to noxious odours caused by Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S) emanating from an Environment Agency regulated landfill site (Walleys Quarry). The local community have suffered from appalling conditions for many years, with a marked upturn in problems since February 2021. By way of context, in 2021 this site generated more complaints to the Environment Agency than all other Agency regulated sites in England combined and has been the subject of Judicial Review. In the face of the Environment Agency's failure to use its regulatory powers to address the issue, it fell to my Council to use its limited powers to secure an Abatement Notice against the site operator in 2022 – something which should not have been necessary had the primary regulator been acting effectively.

In October 2023 Cllr Alan White, Leader of Staffordshire County Council, and I wrote to Ms Pow when it became known that the air quality data which the Environment Agency had been collecting and publishing for a number of years was flawed and could not be relied upon. Our Councils had long expressed concern about the effectiveness of the Agency's regulation of this site and this debacle was the final straw, leading us to call for a public inquiry.

With respect, the response received is wholly inadequate and misrepresents the reality of the situation. Ms. Pow maintains that she has confidence in the Environment Agency and in its regulation of the site, "the fact that the situation there has improved significantly" and that our request for a public inquiry is not "necessary".

Unfortunately, these statements are erroneous and refuted by this Council.

Cont'd

The noxious odour emanating from this site remains the single most complained about issue by residents of this Borough. The lived experience as evidenced by many of our residents clearly shows that the noxious odour is still a very real problem and far from being resolved. The Agency's own air quality data shows that this winter the community have continued to be exposed to H₂S levels which are routinely above the recognised "annoyance threshold". Given that this reflects the product of almost three full years of regulation EA, it cannot reflect performance in which any of us should consider acceptable for our communities.

Our local MP Aaron Bell has also been tirelessly raising the issues of Walleys Quarry with the Environment Agency and Government Ministers over a long period.

At a recent meeting of this Council, our elected members unanimously disagreed with the conclusions of Ms. Pow. In fact, a motion to admonish the Minister and Environment Agency for failing to support this Council's request for a public inquiry was resolved. Subsequently Cabinet agreed to escalate the matter to the Prime Minister.

Ms Pow says she knows how important it is to have confidence in the measurements of hydrogen sulphide at Walleys Quarry taken by the EA, but such confidence is clearly misplaced. Furthermore, her claimed confidence in the EA appears to be contradicted by DEFRA's decision that its officials need to provide "expert technical assistance" to the EA on this matter.

I am therefore writing on behalf of my Council to request you to reconsider your decision and commence a public inquiry into this matter. For the avoidance of doubt, our elected members have no confidence in the Environment Agency and consider that a public inquiry is not just necessary, but essential. We are confident that if so minded, such an inquiry could be managed in such a way which to as avoid any conflict with any other legal processes initiated by the Environment Agency in relation to the site.

Finally, I would invite you to meet with representatives of this Council and myself as a matter of urgency to discuss our ongoing concerns and those of our residents regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Simon Tagg
Leader

simon.tagg@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 3 – NUL Key Performance Indicators

NULBC		Information	Measurement	MMF	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023
KPI 1	COMPLAINTS	Complaints reported to NULBC	Number		87 Number of unique properties reporting complaints = 50 Rating 0 = 0 complaints Rating 1 = 2 complaints Rating 2 = 2 complaints Rating 3 = 12 complaints Rating 4 = 14 complaints (16.1%) Rating 5 = 21 complaints (24.1%) Rating 6 = 36 complaints (41.4%) % of complaints reporting odour entering the property = 73 (83.9%) % of complaints reporting health effects = 63 (72.4%)	194 Number of unique properties reporting complaints = 82 Rating 0 = 0 complaints Rating 1 = 1 complaints Rating 2 = 4 complaints Rating 3 = 32 complaints Rating 4 = 31 complaints (16%) Rating 5 = 55 complaints (28.4%) Rating 6 = 71 complaints (36.6%) % of complaints reporting odour entering the property = 162 (83.5%) % of complaints reporting health effects = 143 (73.7%)	248 Number of unique properties reporting complaints = 112 Rating 0 = 0 complaints Rating 1 = 1 complaints Rating 2 = 4 complaints Rating 3 = 33 complaints Rating 4 = 45 complaints (18.1%) Rating 5 = 72 complaints (29.0%) Rating 6 = 93 complaints (37.5%) % of complaints reporting odour entering the property = 187 (75.4%) % of complaints reporting health effects = 184 (74.2%)
KPI 2		Complaints reported (daytime 07:00-23:00)	Number		71	169	219
KPI 3		Complaints reported (night-time 23:00-07:00)	Number		16	25	29
KPI 4		Highest number of complaints during the period	Date (number of complaints)		25/10/23 (13 complaints)	29/11/23 (36 complaints)	05/12/23 (27 complaints)

KPI 5	AIR QUALITY	Percentage exceedance Odour Annoyance Guideline (Hydrogen Sulphide 30-minute average)	%	MMF1	9	12	Awaited
				MMF2	0*	2	Awaited
				MMF9	7	12	Awaited
KPI 6		Monthly Average H ₂ S	ug/m3 over the month	MMF1	3.3	3.0	Awaited
				MMF2	1.2*	1.6	Awaited
				MMF9	2.2	4.7	Awaited
KPI 7	H ₂ S PEAK LEVEL	Level measured over a 5-minute period Date & Time	ug/m3	MMF1	64.90 ug/m3 (26/10/23 @17:15)	42.55 ug/m3 (04/11/23 @ 04:45)	Awaited
				MMF2	15.26 ug/m3 (15/10/23 @18:25)	56.12 ug/m3 (11/11/23 @ 15:40)	Awaited
				MMF9	69.59 ug/m3 (22/10/23 @22:10)	151.31 ug/m3 (30/11/23 @ 06:40)	Awaited
KPI 8	OFFICER ASSESSMENTS	Odour Rating - Officer odour assessment (5 minute)	Max Odour Rating		54 odour assessments 13 odour assessment detected landfill related odour of which 1 assessment had a maximum intensity rating of 4 (17/10/23)	7 odour assessments 7 odour assessments detected landfill related odour of which 3 assessments had a maximum rating of 3 (16/11/23 & 30/11/23)	27 assessments 11 assessments detected landfill related odour of which 3 assessments had a maximum rating of 4 (05/12/23, 13/12/23 & 13/12/23)

*Data from 1 October to 17 October 2023

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO

CABINET

16 January 2024

Report Title: Borough Local Plan Consultation Responses and Next Stages

Submitted by: Deputy Chief Executive

Portfolios: Strategic Planning

Ward(s) affected: All

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
To provide an update to Cabinet following consultation on the First Draft Local Plan and to set out next steps in the production of the Local Plan. To agree governance arrangements for agreeing the Final Draft Local Plan for consultation and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State.	
<u>Recommendation</u>	
That Cabinet:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the summary of the main issues raised to the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan which took place from the 19 June to the 14 August 2023 and the Council's initial response as set out in the Consultation Report (Appendix 1) 2. Authorises the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Strategic Planning Portfolio Holder, to recommend to Council at its meeting on the 24 July 2024 that it approves the Final Draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage), the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment and supporting documentation for public consultation in line with the approved Local Development Scheme 3. Subject to the outcome of consultation, and if no matters are raised that materially impact upon the Plan strategy, authorise the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Strategic Planning Portfolio Holder to submit the Final Draft Local Plan and supporting documents to the Secretary of State for formal examination by the end of 2024. 	
<u>Reasons</u>	
To provide an update on the work undertaken to date in respect of the Local Plan and to agree the next stages of plan preparation. To ensure that the process of adopting the Local Plan is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).	

1. **Background**

- 1.1** The Local Plan sets the vision and framework for how the Borough will grow up to 2040. It sets out targets for the number of jobs and homes to be delivered in the Borough and an overarching spatial strategy to guide development to sustainable locations.
- 1.2** Consultation on the Regulation 18 First Draft Local Plan ended on the 14 August 2023 after an 8-week consultation period. The consultation was held in line with the Council's approved Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). Appendix 1 includes detailed commentary on our approach to the consultation. The Council: -
- Published consultation documents online, alongside all the evidence base which supports the First Draft Local Plan. It also provided a frequently asked question (FAQ) webpage, and a video presentation was also made available on the website.
 - Made hard copies of the consultation documents available in local libraries and customer service centres.
 - Advertised the consultation exercise via press releases and social media channels.
 - Displayed site notices where there are site specific proposals included in the Plan. The site notices provided information about the consultation and how residents could submit comments to the consultation.
 - Enabled responses to be submitted, via a dedicated website but also by e-mail and letter to the Council.
 - Held 11 consultation exhibitions (drop in events) across the Borough providing information on the Plan, details of proposals relevant to the locations where events were being held and allowing attendees to ask questions of officer's present at the events.

2. **Issues**

First Draft Local Plan Consultation (19 June until 14 August 2023)

- 2.1** During the consultation the Council received: -
- 5,159 individual comments from 1,378 consultees currently registered on our consultation portal.
 - 13 comments on the Sustainability Appraisal from 11 consultees currently registered on our consultation portal.
 - 18 comments on the Habitats Regulation Assessment from 14 consultees currently registered on our consultation portal.
- 2.2** There have also been four recorded petitions submitted to the consultation, these include: -
- "Request NULBC to Review Housing Targets for Local Plan". As at the 04 January 2024, 1,857 people had signed the online petition (this petition was also considered at Full Council on the 26 July 2023).
 - "Save your Newchapel and Harseahead Green Belt from housing development" (sites NC77 and NC13) with 88 signatures currently.

- “Housing proposals at Red Street, High Carr Farm, Talke Pitts, Butt Lane, West Avenue and Congleton Road”. This petition claims that infrastructure cannot support the proposed level of development in such a small area and alleges that there are no plans for additional schools or GP surgeries. It contains over 500 signatures.
- ‘Save Hassell Street Car Park’ submitted by several local businesses and their patrons on Hassell Street, Newcastle included with over 450 signatures.

2.3 A consultation report has been prepared (attached at Appendix 1) that sets out the process by which the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan was held and the main issues and themes identified by the consultation. The report also sets out the Council’s initial response to those themes that have been identified.

Consultation Themes

2.4 In respect of consultation on the First Draft Local Plan, the following key themes have been identified:

Theme	Initial Council Response
Comments regarding the consultation process on the First Draft Local Plan	The consultation was held in line with the Council’s Statement of Community Involvement. The consultation report (appendix 1) details the process undertaken on the First Draft Local Plan.
That the overall housing numbers should be recalculated and are either too high or too low	The position on the overall housing numbers is informed by evidence in the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (2023). The position is also informed by the Council’s ongoing housing monitoring position. The Council has commissioned consultants Turley’s to prepare an update to the 2023 study and undertake a check on the overall housing and employment numbers. The update to the study will consider consultation responses received to the First Draft Local Plan, any additional evidence and will also consider the implications of revisions made to the National Planning Policy Framework in December 2023.
That brownfield sites should be prioritised in the Plan	The Council has undertaken a call for site opportunities (including a dedicated brownfield call for sites stage) which has informed its Strategic Housing and Employment Availability Assessment and subsequent site selection work.

That further work is needed to understand the infrastructure requirements of the Local Plan	Alongside the First Draft Local Plan, an Infrastructure Delivery Plan was prepared and formed part of the evidence base for the draft Plan. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be updated to support the Regulation 19 Final Draft Local Plan.
Concerns expressed over the need and justification for Green Belt release	The Council has published a few studies in relation to work on the Green Belt including Green Belt Assessment (Parts 1, 2 & 3) and a note on the Council's initial position on Exceptional Circumstances related to the justification for Green Belt release.
Further feedback on the strategic employment sites	The Council included three strategic locations in the draft Plan. These sites were not proposed as allocations in the First Draft Plan and views were sought on the principle of allocating strategic sites in the Plan and then also on the site options themselves. Now that this information has been received, the Council will make a decision on the principle of including one, or a number of strategic locations, in the Plan in the Final Draft Local Plan.
Further feedback on the sites proposed for allocation in the Draft Plan	The Council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Plan.
Detailed feedback on policy wording in the Draft Plan.	The Council will review the suite of policies in the Draft Plan in the light of consultation responses received and any changes evidence / wider circumstances, including a revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework published on the 19 th December 2023.

Next Steps

2.5 The consultation report in Appendix 1 summarises the responses received to the First Draft Local Plan and in addition identifies further work that may need to be carried out to address some of the issues raised to inform the Final Draft Local Plan. The Council has or is in the process of commissioning further evidence on the Local Plan to take account of consultation responses and / or updated evidence for the following work areas: -

- Housing and Economic Needs Assessment
- Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- Habitats Regulations Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Equality Impact Assessment)
- Strategic Employment Needs Assessment

- Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment / Water Cycle Study
- Viability Assessment
- Strategic Transport Assessment

2.6 Alongside the above, the planning policy team will also be working on the following activities associated with the Local Plan: -

- Reviewing and responding to consultation responses made to First Draft Local Plan
- Ongoing Duty-to-Co-operate discussions
- Monitoring
- Work on housing land supply
- Work on Green Belt and Exceptional Circumstances
- Updating the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment and Site Selection work including considering site deliverability, availability and suitability.
- Updating the Local Plan in readiness for the Final Draft Local Plan, including policies and sites.

2.7 The Local Development Scheme (“LDS”) (2023-2026) was approved by Cabinet in October 2023 and sets out the programme for producing the Local Plan. The LDS confirms that the intention is to prepare the Regulation 19 Final Draft Version of the Local Plan by the summer of 2024. Subject to approval at Full Council on the 24 July 2024, the Final Draft Local Plan will then be consulted on for the statutory period of six weeks. Following the end of the consultation and assuming that no issues emerge to challenge the overall integrity of the planning strategy, the Final Draft Local Plan, its evidence base and comments received (at Regulation 19 stage) will be packaged up and submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination by the end of 2024.

2.8 The Regulation 19 consultation stage is a more formal stage and invites representations on whether the Final Draft Local Plan meets the tests of soundness set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and is legally compliant. Consultation responses at Regulation 19 stage are sent to the Secretary of State on submission of the Plan for consideration by the Inspector as part of a future examination of the Plan. The Inspector is also provided with a summary of the main issues raised at Regulation 18/19 stages as well.

2.9 Prior to the Full Council meeting on the 24 July 2024, the Final Draft Local Plan will also be considered at an Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee (in early July at a date yet to be confirmed) and any comments fed into the Full Council meeting.

3. Recommendation

3.1 Notes the summary of the main issues raised to the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan which took place from the 19 June to the 14 August 2023 and the Council’s initial response as set out in the Consultation Report (Appendix 1).

- 3.2** Authorises the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Strategic Planning Portfolio Holder, to recommend to Council at its meeting on the 24 July 2024 that it approves the Final Draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage), the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment and supporting documentation for public consultation in line with the approved Local Development Scheme.
- 3.3** Subject to the outcome of consultation, and if no matters are raised that materially impact upon the Plan strategy, authorise the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Strategic Planning Portfolio Holder to submit the Final Draft Local Plan and supporting documents to the Secretary of State for formal examination by the end of 2024.

4. Reasons

- 4.1** To provide an update on progress made with the Local Plan and to agree the next stages of plan preparation. To ensure that the process of adopting the Local Plan is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

5. Options Considered

- 5.1** The Council has already expressed its clear intention through its LDS and through the progress on the Local Plan to date that it intends to put in place a comprehensive set of up-to date planning policies for the Borough.
- 5.2** The option of not to proceed with the Local Plan and to cease work is not considered a reasonable option as;
- The Council has a statutory duty to prepare development plan documents.
 - To ensure that the existing development plan is updated so that our planning decisions reflect current policies and best practice
 - The possibility without a forward supply of development sites that the Council fails to demonstrate sufficient sites to ensure an appropriate housing land supply which may then have implications for decision taking in the borough.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1** In accordance with section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) the Council has a statutory duty to prepare planning policies and maintain an up to-date development plan. Secondary legislation contained in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 provides additional guidance on Plan making.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1** The Local Plan will be supported by an Equality Impact Assessment. This will consider how development proposed and planning policies impact on different groups within the community.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

- 8.1 The preparation of the Local Plan is resourced through the Planning Policy budget.

9. Major Risks & Mitigation

- 9.1 Changes in National Policy, Legislation and Guidance - The Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act now has Royal Assent. The Act will have implications for the formulation of future Local Plans. The Government has outlined that Councils have until 30 June 2025 for old style Plans to be submitted for examination (to be adopted by 31 December 2026).
- 9.2 On the 19 December 2023, the government published a revised National Planning Policy Framework. The implications of changes made through the revised National Planning Policy Framework will be kept under review during the development of the Final Draft Local Plan.

10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

- 10.1 As the Local Plan is primarily focused on the use of land, overall levels of growth and the relationship to the environment and infrastructure then several of the UN Sustainable Development Goals will overlap with the aims of the Plan.



11. Key Decision Information

- 11.1 This report provides an update on the Borough Local Plan. The Local Plan will affect all wards in the Borough.

12. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

- 12.1 Cabinet – 6 June 2023 – Cabinet decision to consult on the First Draft Local Plan - [Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 6th June, 2023, 2.00 pm – Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council \(newcastle-staffs.gov.uk\)](https://newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/agenda-for-cabinet-on-tuesday-6th-june-2023-2-00-pm)

- 12.2** Cabinet – 17 October 2023 – update following consultation on the First Draft Local Plan and consideration of Local Development Scheme - [Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 17th October, 2023, 2.00 pm – Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council \(newcastle-staffs.gov.uk\)](#)

13. List of Appendices

- 13.1** Appendix 1: Consultation Report

14. Background Papers

- 14.1** Local Development Scheme (2023 – 2026) - [Local Development Scheme 2023-2026 \(newcastle-staffs.gov.uk\)](#)



Newcastle-Under-Lyme Local Plan 2020-2040



First Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation Report 2024

Contents

1. Introduction	5
2. Consultation Documents.....	5
3. Consultation Process.....	5
4. Consultation events	7
5. Responses to the Consultation	7
Annex 1: Main Issues and Initial Council Response	12
1. Consultation	12
2. Introduction	14
3. Context.....	15
4. Vision and Strategic Objectives.....	17
5. Approach to Policies	21
6. Planning for Sustainable Development.....	23
7. Policy PSD1: Overall Development Strategy	24
8. Policy PSD2: Settlement Hierarchy	29
9. Policy PSD3: Distribution of Development.....	32
10. Policy PSD4: Development Boundaries and the Open Countryside	36
11. Policy PSD5: Green Belt and Safeguarded Land.....	39
12. Policy PSD6: Health and Wellbeing.....	42
13. Policy PSD7: Design	48
14. Climate and Renewable Energy	51
15. Policy CRE 1: Climate Change.....	52
16. Policy CRE 2: Renewable Energy	54
17. Housing	56
18. Policy HOU1: Affordable Housing	57
19. Policy HOU2: Housing Mix, Density and Standards	61
20. Policy HOU 3: Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	67
21. Employment.....	69
22. Policy EMP1: Employment	70
23. Retail	74
24. Policy RET 1: Retail	75
25. Infrastructure and Transport	77
26. Policy IN1: Infrastructure	79
27. Policy IN2: Transport and Accessibility	87
28. Sustainable Environment	94
29. Policy SE1: Pollution, Contamination and Amenity	95

30.	Policy SE2: Flood Risk, Water Resources and Management	99
31.	Policy SE3: Water Resources and Water Quality	104
32.	Policy SE4: Open Space, Sports and Leisure Provision.....	107
33.	Policy SE5: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	110
34.	Policy SE6: Historic Environment	114
35.	Policy SE7: Landscape	116
36.	Site Allocations.....	118
37.	Approach to Strategic Allocations.....	122
38.	Residential and Employment Allocations	123
39.	Glossary.....	133
40.	Appendix 1 Monitoring Framework.....	134
41.	Appendix 2: Employment Sites in Supply	135
42.	Appendix 3: Borough Council Car Parks in Asset Rationalisation Programme	135
43.	Appendix 4: First Draft Local Plan Site Allocations Maps	137
44.	AB2 (Strategic Location).....	138
45.	KL15 (Strategic Location)	143
46.	TK30 (Strategic Location)	149
47.	AB12 Land East of Diglake Street.....	158
48.	AB15 Land North of Vernon Avenue.....	160
49.	AB32: Land Nursery Gardens Audley	162
50.	AB33: Land Off Nantwich Road / Park Lane, Audley.....	165
51.	BL18: Clough Hall, Talke.....	167
52.	BL24: Land Adjacent 31 Bunbury Street, Talke.....	170
53.	BL32: Land at Congleton Road, Butt Lane.....	174
54.	BL8: Land Adj to roundabout West Avenue, Kidsgrove	178
55.	CH13: Castletown Grange, Douglas Road	182
56.	CH14: Maryhill Day Centre, Willmott Drive	183
57.	CT1: Land at Red Street and High Carr Farm	184
58.	CT20: Rowhurst Close	187
59.	KG6 William Road, Kidsgrove	188
60.	RC8: Land at Liverpool Road	189
61.	KL13: Keele Science Park, Phase 3	190
62.	KS11: Knutton Community Centre	194
63.	KS17: Knutton Recreation Centre	195
64.	KS18: Land North of Lower Milehouse Lane.....	196
65.	KS19: Knutton Lane	197

66.	KS3: Land at Blackbank Road	199
67.	LW53: Land Corner of Mucklestone Wood.....	201
68.	LW87: Former Petrol Station, Eccleshall Road.....	203
69.	MD29: Land North of Bar Hill	204
70.	NC13: Land west of Bullockhouse Road.....	207
71.	NC77 Bent Farm, Newchapel	215
72.	SB12: Land Adjacent to Clayton Lodge	226
73.	SP11: Former Keele Municipal Golf Course	226
74.	SP12: Site off Glenwood Close	241
75.	SP2: Cheddar Drive	249
76.	SP22 Former Playground, Off Ash Grove	250
77.	SP23 Land at Cemetery Road	250
78.	TB19 Land South of Newcastle Golf Club.....	260
79.	TB23 Land West of Galingale View	263
80.	TB6: Former Pool Dam Pub Site	268
81.	TC22: Marsh Parade.....	269
82.	TC40: Car Park, Blackfriars	269
83.	TC45 York Place.....	270
84.	TC7: Land bound by Ryecroft.....	271
85.	TK10: Land at Crown Bank	272
86.	TK17: Land off St Martins Road.....	273
87.	TK27: Land off Coppice Road	274
88.	TK6: Site at Coalpit Hill, Talke	275

1. Introduction

1.1. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council undertook consultation on the First Draft Local Plan 2020 - 2040 from June through to August 2023. This followed consultation on an Issues and Strategic Options document published in 2021/22.

1.2. This consultation statement sets out in respect of the First Draft Local Plan: -

- The stakeholders invited to take part in the consultation
- The consultation and publicity methods used
- The material that was subject to consultation
- A summary of the main issues received
- An initial response from the Council to the main issues raised.

1.3. The Council is required to consult with stakeholders at different stages of developing a Local Plan; the first of which is under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Regulation 18 (preparation of a local plan) requires the Council to notify stakeholders that it is preparing a plan and to invite them to make comments with their views on what the plan should contain. There is flexibility in how the initial stages of consultation and plan preparation can take place.

1.4. The Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) ¹ sets out how the Council will involve sectors of the community in the planning process. The SCI has been followed in undertaking the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan.

2. Consultation Documents

2.1. The Council consulted on the following documents: -

- First Draft Local Plan (2020 – 2040)
- Interim Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Equality Impact Assessment)
- Interim Habitats Regulations Assessment

2.2. The Council also published various evidence-based documents online. The draft proposals (draft allocations and designations) were also made available to view via an online First Draft Local Plan Policies Map².

3. Consultation Process

3.1. Consultation on the First Draft Local Plan took place from Monday 19th June to close of business hours on Monday 14th August 2023. Comments were invited on the First Draft Local Plan, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). In addition to the consultation documents, a formal notice and comments form was also published. An interactive map showing the draft proposals was also published on the Council's website.

¹ <https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/downloads/download/142/statement-of-community-involvement>

² <https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-plan>

- 3.2. Consultation comments could be made using a dedicated online consultation portal (Keystone Objective), via email to the Planning Policy team or by post to the Council Offices at Castle House, Barracks Road.
- 3.3. The First Draft Local Plan, copies of the HRA and SA alongside copies of comment's forms and a formal notice were made available online and distributed in paper copy to the following libraries:
- Newcastle Library, Castle House, ST5 1BL
 - Clayton Library, ST5 3HW
 - Silverdale Library, ST5 6LY
 - Talke Library, ST7 1RA
 - Kidsgrove Library, ST7 1BS
 - Knutton Library, ST5 6EB
 - Audley Library, ST7 8DB
 - Loggerheads Library, TF9 4NX
- 3.4. The Council maintains a database of stakeholders for planning policy consultations. The Statement of Community Involvement includes details as to how to register and become a member of the planning policy database. The council has also published a privacy notice as to how it will use personal data in relation to planning policy matters³. The Statement of Community Involvement also lists several 'specific' and 'general' consultees⁴ with representatives of relevant groups present on the planning policy consultation database.
- 3.5. Statutory consultees and consultees who had signed up to the Planning Policy mailing list received email / letter notification when the consultation went live. E-mail notifications were also sent to Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council Councillors, all Town and Parish Councils in the Borough and Members of Parliament (MPs) whose constituencies lie partly or wholly within Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council's administrative area.
- 3.6. The consultation was promoted through a variety of means. These included:
- Via social media: -
 - A total of 4 Twitter posts
 - A total of 7 Facebook posts.
 - Updates on the Council website's latest news webpages.
 - A video of a Power Point presentation published on the Council's website to explain the Local Plan process. A separate page including a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page was also released online.
 - A press release.
 - Site notices posted at physical locations where there were site specific proposals included in the Plan. The site notices provided information about the consultation including a link to how comments could be submitted to the consultation.

³ [Planning policy privacy notice – Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council \(newcastle-staffs.gov.uk\)](https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/planning-policy-privacy-notice)

⁴ General and specific consultation bodies and Duty to co-operate bodies are set out in Regulations 2 and 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

4. Consultation events

- 4.1. The council held a total of 11 ‘drop in’ consultation events where officers were available to answer questions and distribute consultation forms etc. Table 1 (below) lists the respective consultation events and the number of confirmed attendees at each event.

Event	Date	Number of attendees who completed a ‘sign in’ sheet
Silverdale (Library)	22 June 2023	79
Kidsgrove (Town Hall)	28 June 2023	237
Ashley, Loggerheads (Oddfellows Hall)	05 July 2023	40
Audley (Methodist Church)	12 July 2023	191
Madeley (Madeley Centre)	13 July 2023	39
Keele (Village Hall)	20 July 2023	62
Chesterton (Holy Trinity Church)	27 July 2023	57
Silverdale (Methodist Church)	02 August 2023	72
Newcastle-under-Lyme Library (by appointment only)	03 August 2023	11
Bradwell (Bradwell Lodge Community Centre)	08 August 2023	7
Guildhall (NUL Town Centre)	10 August 2023	19

Table 1: List of consultation ‘drop in events’

- 4.2. Most of the ‘drop in’ events were held for two hours between 5pm and 7pm. The exception was the event at Newcastle-under-Lyme Library on 3rd August where an appointment could be made to speak to a planning officer between 10am – 6pm.
- 4.3. Copies of the Draft Local Plan, Policies Booklet, SA, HRA, leaflets, posters, FAQs and comment response forms were made available at all events.
- 4.4. Copies of the Draft Local Plan in large print were also made available upon request.

5. Responses to the Consultation

- 5.1. A total of 5,159 comments were received from 1,378 respondents during the consultation period. Furthermore, a total of 18 comments, from 14 respondents were made to the Habitats Regulations Assessment and 13 comments from 11 respondents were made to the Sustainability Appraisal.
- 5.2. The significant majority of responses received to the First Draft Local Plan were made via e-mail followed respectively by letter and the online consultation portal (web). Figure 1 (below) shows the % breakdown by method.

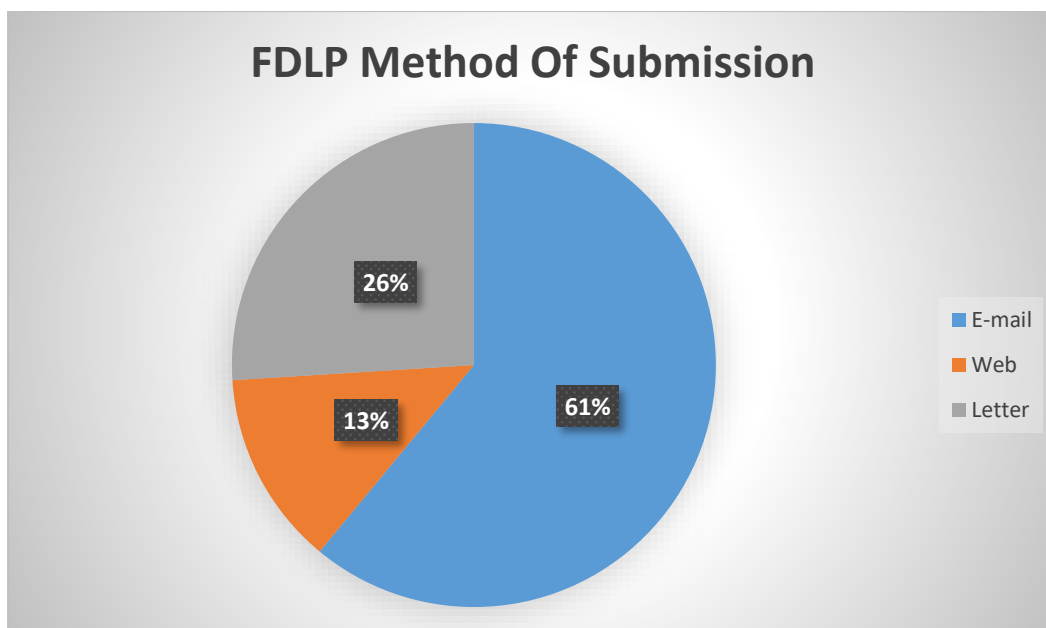


Figure 1: Method of Submission to the First Draft Local Plan.

5.3. Table 2 below presents a breakdown of comments made to individual parts of the First Draft Local Plan consultation document: -

Section	Number of Comments
Newcastle-under-Lyme First Draft Local Plan 2020-2040 - Overall Document	73
Consultation	50
How to respond to the consultation	10
Introduction	23
Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment	10
Current Development Plan	5
Neighbourhood Plans	6
Stages of development of the Local Plan	6
Context	17
Vision and Strategic Objectives	47
Vision for the Borough	11
Strategic Objectives for the Borough	27
Approach to Policies	115
Planning for Sustainable Development	18
Policy PSD 1: Overall Development Strategy	75
Policy PSD 2: Settlement Hierarchy	26
Policy PSD 3: Distribution of Development	68
Policy PSD 4: Development Boundaries and the Open Countryside	47
Policy PSD 5: Green Belt and Safeguarded Land	54

Policy PSD 6: Health and Wellbeing	36
Policy PSD 7: Design	25
Climate and Renewable Energy	13
Policy CRE 1: Climate Change	40
Policy CRE 2: Renewable Energy	26
Housing	13
Policy HOU 1: Affordable Housing	45
Policy HOU 2: Housing Mix, Density and Standards	48
Policy HOU 3: Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	13
Employment	14
Policy EMP 1: Employment	15
Retail	7
Policy RET 1: Retail	10
Infrastructure and Transport	18
Policy IN 1: Infrastructure	58
Policy IN 2: Transport and Accessibility	39
Sustainable Environment	11
Policy SE1: Pollution, Contamination and Amenity	25
Policy SE2: Flood Risk, Water Resources and Management	19
Policy SE3: Water Resources and Water Quality	13
Policy SE4: Open Space, Sports and Leisure Provision	36
Policy SE5: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	22
Policy SE6: Historic Environment	16
Policy SE7: Landscape	18
Site Allocations	380
Approach to Strategic Allocations	11
Table 4: Strategic Locations	410
Residential and Employment Allocations	76
Table 5: Proposed Residential and Employment Allocations	2921
Glossary	5
Appendix 1: Monitoring Framework	6
Supporting Information	1
Appendix 2: Employment Sites in Supply	9
Appendix 3: Borough Council Car Parks in Asset Rationalisation Programme	29
Appendix 4: First Draft Local Plan Site Allocations Maps	43
Total	5,159

Table 2: Breakdown of individual comments to the consultation document

- 5.4. As can be seen above, over 3,000 comments or nearly 65% of all responses were received to tables 4&5 of the consultation document relating to draft strategic locations / allocations to the Plan. It is therefore clear that a large proportion of responses related to draft sites / strategic locations in the Plan.

5.5. There have also been four recorded petitions to the consultation: -

- “Request NULBC to Review Housing Targets for Local Plan”. As at the 04 January 2024, 1,857 people have signed the online petition (this petition was considered at Full Council on the 26 July 2023).
- “Save your Newchapel and Harriseahead Green Belt from housing development” (sites NC77 and NC13) with 88 signatures currently.
- “Housing proposals at Red Street, High Carr Farm, Talke Pitts, Butt Lane, West Avenue and Congleton Road”. This petition claims that infrastructure cannot support the proposed level of development in such a small area and alleges that there are no plans for additional schools or GP surgeries. It contains over 500 signatures.
- ‘Save Hassell Street Car Park’ submitted by several local businesses on Hassell Street, Newcastle included over 450 signatures

5.6. In the annex to this consultation report, the council has identified the main issues raised on a site and / or policy theme basis. All comments have been noted and the analysis of consultation responses will continue in the drafting of the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan. It is also important to note that it is the planning matters / issues raised that are considered on an ongoing basis in the development of the Local Plan and not just the volume of responses received on individual subject or site.

5.7. Figure 2 (below) highlights the sites and / or strategic locations which received the highest proportion of responses. Given that respondents could make observations on a number of sites in a single response then there are limitations to this approach. It is also the case that the analysis below does not include petition numbers and as such, the data included in figure 2 is indicative and for illustration only.

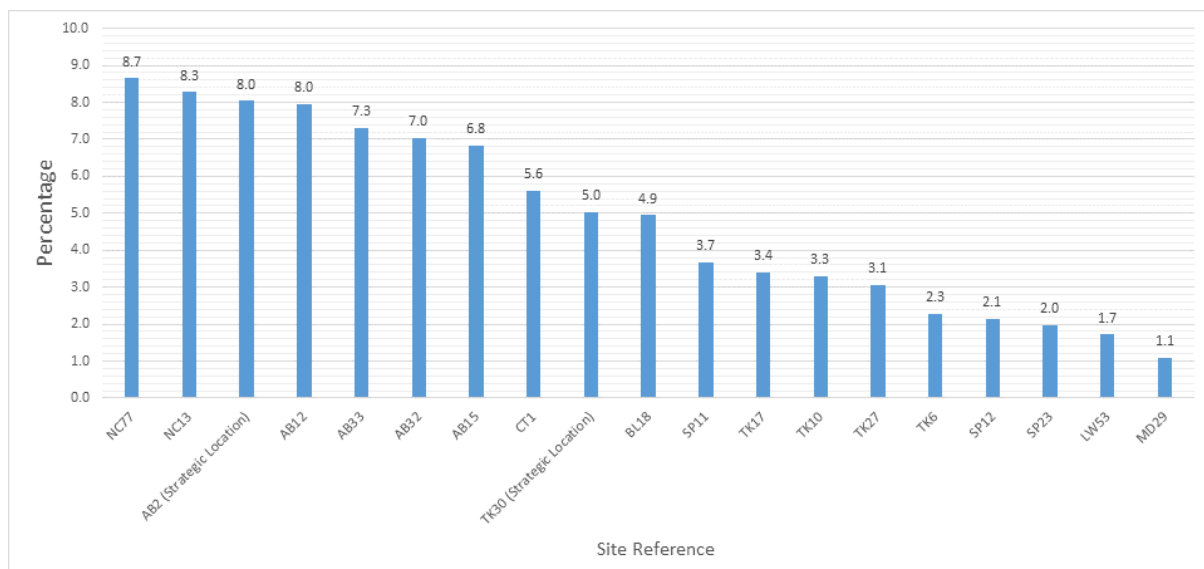


Figure 2: Indicative proportion of responses to sites / strategic locations
(Where the response resulted in over 1% of total responses)

5.8. Information was also received from site promoters during the consultation regarding draft allocations / strategic locations, sites discounted through the initial site selection process and / or completely new sites (called ‘omission’ sites). The Council will reflect on this

additional information in continuing to implement the site selection process for the Local Plan.

5.9. Annex 1 to this report sets out the main issues raised to the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan and the council's initial response. It should be noted that a revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on the 20 December 2023 whilst this document was being prepared. As such, references to the National Planning Policy Framework in Annex 1 refer to the previous iteration of the Framework unless specifically stated. The Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan will be prepared in line with the revised NPPF (December 2023).

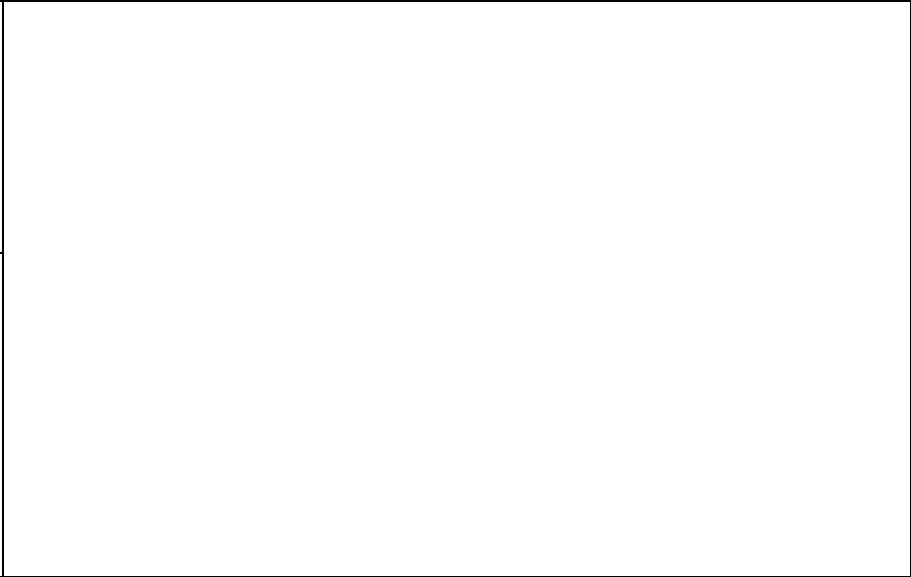
Annex 1: Main Issues and Initial Council Response

1. Consultation

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Consultation document is not written in a way that is accessible.	<p>The process of undertaking the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan is set out in the covering consultation report. The consultation has been undertaken in line with the council's Statement of Community Involvement ("SCI"). Copies of the consultation documentation were provided in Libraries / customer service centres and made available at the consultation 'drop in' events.</p> <p>Responses to the First Draft Local Plan consultation were accepted through the consultation portal but also via e-mail and in letter form. The consultation was held for an eight-week period between June and August 2023 to allow residents to engage appropriately with the process. Comments made to the First Draft Local Plan had to be received in written form to count as a recognised comment to the consultation and this was made clear during the consultation process. The consultation webpages included a dedicated webpage on evidence-based documents. The First Draft Local Plan also included a section recognising the status of Neighbourhood Plans in the borough.</p> <p>In respect of the growth directions, the sustainability appraisal notes that option 6 'hybrid approach' had been progressed as it represents a balanced approach that seeks to support sustainable patterns of development across the borough.</p>
Consultation portal difficult to navigate	
Consultation should not have been conducted during summer break to allow as many resident concerns to be listened to as possible.	
Unable to download document	
Given recent statements by the Secretary of State which suggests changes to the planning system. Many local authorities have put their local plans on hold. Why has NUL continued with their consultation process?	
The staff at the events had little knowledge, often directed consultees to the information boards or one member of staff.	
Staff did not make notes of people's comments at the consultation events	
Although there were some councillors present there was no declaration of their attendance	
No mention of Neighbourhood plans in consultation process.	
Unclear how comments from this Issues and Options consultation have been taken into consideration for the Draft Plan consultation.	
Regulation 18 notice had the incorrect consultation details	
Consultation not advertised	
The number of documents associated with the consultation is overly complicated and time consuming.	
Local Plan refers to multiple documents which are not linked from the report and are not always available on the evidence page	

Audley Parish - We note that the consultation is taking place in the summer over the holiday season, which is not best practice. The document states that it is based on 'evidence documents, ongoing Duty-to-Cooperate discussions, and the responses to the Issues and Strategic Options document'. However, we could not find any summary or analysis of the outcomes of previous consultation or of how previous representations have informed the current document.

Keele Parish - The previous "Issues and Options" consultation outlined 6 possible "growth directions" for the Borough, none of these are referred to in this draft of the local plan, so it is not clear how the previous consultation was used in developing the plan. This undermines the Issues and Options consultation and raises concerns about the consultation process in general. This plan should not only acknowledge the earlier consultation process, but also identify the "growth direction" chosen, and the reasons for its selection.



2. Introduction

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Local Plan will consider the need for new homes alongside the need for associated infrastructure	<p>The Local Plan will set out the vision and framework for how the borough will grow up to 2040. The Plan will set out targets for the number of jobs and homes to be delivered in the borough and a spatial strategy to guide development in the most sustainable locations. The Plan is supported by an Infrastructure Delivery Plan, which considers the infrastructure implications of the Plan and the policies contained within it.</p> <p>The introduction section to the First Draft Local Plan includes a section on Neighbourhood Plans in the borough and will be updated in the Regulation 19 version of the Plan to reflect the most up to date position at that time. The introduction also provides background on the decision, in January 2021, to withdraw from the Joint Plan arrangements with Stoke-on-Trent City Council to prepare a single Local Plan for the Borough. Following the consultation, the Plan will be reviewed in the light of consultation responses and additional evidence. On the 19 December 2023, the government published a revised National Planning Policy Framework. The implications of changes made through the revised National Planning Policy Framework will be kept under review during the development of the Final Draft Local Plan.</p>
The First Draft Plan repeats national guidance which could simply be referenced in the supporting paragraphs. This would ensure a more simplified, easier to read document.	
The Borough has been without a Local Plan for over a decade, and the decision to stop the preparation of a Joint Local Plan in January 2021 is not fully explained.	
The Inspector will only consider valid Regulation 19 stage representations at the Examination in Public, and previous representations will not be considered, although references may be made.	
The environmental health issue at Walley's Quarry needs to be resolved before any more houses are built.	
Keele and Silverdale parishes are also completing their Neighbourhood Plans.	

3. Context

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Active travel (such as walking to the shop or school) would be compromised with higher levels of car dependency resulting from development taking place in out-of-town locations (including Green Belt land) – physical inactivity & air pollution (with due regard to 3.5 & 3.9) would worsen consequently.	<p>The First Draft Local Plan has been supported by a suite of evidence-based documents such as a site selection report which has sought to evidence decisions made in relation to the proposed allocation of sites in the Borough.</p> <p>The Local Plan is also supported by an Infrastructure Delivery Plan, which considers the infrastructure implications of the Local Plan.</p> <p>The council will review detailed comments / suggestions on the context chapter of the Plan at the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan. For example, this will look to revise the map of Cheshire East shown on Figure 1 and paragraph 3.7 in response to the comments made by Cheshire East and Natural England, respectively.</p>
The prevalence of excess weight & obesity in the Borough, when viewed alongside the healthy weight priority in the Staffordshire Joint Health and Wellbeing strategy 2022-2027, would indicate that leaving some open green space (with exercise areas) between developments would be beneficial for healthy activity.	
Cheshire East Council - The boundary of Cheshire East is shown incorrectly in Figure 1, which only shows the former boroughs of Congleton and Crewe & Nantwich without the former Macclesfield Borough	
The extent of development proposed at Audley / Bignall End and Red Street (plus other highlighted areas) brings into question how the educational needs of children moving into the area will be met. This is compounded by the lower levels of educational attainment in the Borough & difficulties in recruiting teachers.	
Given the lower levels of unemployment in the Borough, how can the destruction of natural habitats and wildlife be justified to develop warehousing, especially given the existing warehousing being developed in Tunstall	
Why there has been a lapse of time between local plans being implemented, allowing for private landowners to run amok with proposals for development on their land.	
Recognition is noted of the increased numbers of over 65's in the population & that this ought to affect many policy choices.	

The level of housing growth highlighted (as evidenced by the Housing & Economic Needs Assessment) & its alignment to the Standard Method would not support any increase in job creation.	
The 2021 census shows a decrease in population. Why is the need for housing so high & why are there not more high density, imaginative proposals for brownfield sites?	
Site specific comments to NC77: Loss of greenbelt, subsidence & mining legacies, flora & fauna impacts, recreational value, infrastructure including schools & healthcare services, traffic & road network repercussions as well as worsened air pollution.	
Interest rates & inflation could impact on the demand for housing. Lower salaries mean rental prices are currently unaffordable to many people.	
Site specific comments to NC13: The council is urged to review its targets for new housing in the Borough to reflect the actual need (both in number and type of dwellings). Reflecting on neighbourhood & Borough specific housing needs surveys undertaken allied to the constraints of the Green Belt (& it being developed only in exceptional circumstances). Reductions in population forecasts, the nature & character of the rural settlements, delivery rates of new homes over the last decade should all be factored in.	
Development would further limit the access to greenspaces, potentially increasing the health needs of the area.	
Natural England - paragraph 3.7 should be amended to reflect there being a single RAMSAR site in the Borough as well as the respective position re: SSSI status.	

4. Vision and Strategic Objectives

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Vision statement should be prepared for each settlement.	The council will consider the vision and strategic objectives in the light of the feedback provided by consultees following the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan. This process will also take account of any updates in relevant Borough Council / Country Council strategies. A decision was taken in January 2021 to withdraw from the joint Plan with Stoke-on-Trent City Council. There continues to be ongoing engagement with the City Council in developing the Local Plan.
Vision should reference the role the Borough should play in contributing to the growth of the region.	
The vision statement purely focuses on new homes and jobs as deliverables. The language in relation to other issues is weak. The vision statement should indicate how the Plan will positively affect the borough. The vision statement in Eden local plan is much more comprehensive.	
The vision / strategic objectives should refer to built heritage and culture.	
Support for the principles set out in paragraph 4.1 regarding brownfield land delivery.	
Support for emphasis on neighbourhood plans.	
More consultation is needed on the Local Plan vision.	
Several of the proposed allocations / proposed strategic locations contradict the vision and strategic objectives.	
Loss of Green Belt is not consistent with several of the strategic objectives.	
Natural England - note the support for a brownfield site first approach. Brownfield sites can have a high ecological value that should be considered through the Local Plan.	
National Highways – agree in principle to the vision and objectives of the draft Local Plan.	
Historic England – would welcome a specific reference to the historic environment and the need to protect and enhance the significance of the local historic environment.	
Environment Agency – SO-IV – support the objective to deliver significant reduction in carbon footprint. Regarding “Greener Construction”, what would be the criteria for deciding that the viability/deliverability tests are met?	

Staffordshire County Council – SOVII It is noted that there is a strategic objective specifically in relation to Kidsgrove. There does not appear to be a general objective around sustainable travel for other areas within Newcastle under Lyme.	
Waterways should be acknowledged as significant blue/green infrastructure. The waterway also forms part of the historic environment.	
Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent City Council Integrated Care Board - Whilst it is appreciated that the Local Plan is supported by an Infrastructure Delivery Plan, the desire to ensure that critical infrastructure elements are both resilient and adaptable could feature within the overarching objectives.	
Staffordshire Police – SO-III - It is recommended this be amended to 'which draw in visitors and create safe vibrant centres. Strategic Objective SO-V - It is recommended this is amended to 'and to provide aspirational housing, which is well designed, safe, secure and adaptable'. A sense of safety and security are integral to sustainable communities.	
Stoke-on-Trent City Council - supportive of the vision, strategic aims and objectives within the draft Plan and the moves to meet the Council's needs within its own boundaries and adding to the range of employment sites within the functional economic market area.	
How will Newcastle and Stoke work collaboratively, to maximise connectivity between North Staffordshire and the HS2 hub at Crewe? Collaborative working between the two local authorities will help to develop greater clarity around future development opportunities and help to attract more inward investment and jobs, into the region. The North Staffordshire conurbation is effectively one economic and social unit and would therefore benefit from the one single coordinated Local Plan.	
SO-I The final phrase "where possible" in relation to sustainable construction and sustainable transport should be deleted. Suggest that 'where possible' be replaced by 'unless demonstrably not possible'.	

SO-I - The Local Plan does not support objectives that support the special character of the local area.	
SO-II - concerned at the regional reference and the implied scale of development of 'growth for the region'.	
SO-III - Agree with reference to more town centre accommodation so that they become a vibrant centre.	
SO –III - The Ironmarket has a particular attractive layout but the whole town is degraded by several empty shops	
SO-IV - the final phrase after the word 'construction' should be deleted.	
SO-IV should be re-written, so that 'greener construction' is always required not just where it is 'viable and deliverable'. The plan should encourage aspiration to best practice construction standards and should include a requirement for maximising the use of recycled materials.	
SO-IV - The objectives show zero commitment to zero carbon	
SO-VI - should be re-worded as follows: [Note: text in brackets to be added] SO-VI Support the vitality of rural villages, preserving and enhancing the special character which is valuable to each local community whilst enabling balanced growth (through site allocations, infill development and the redevelopment of previously developed sites where available) to improve affordability and to provide choice in housing types for local people	
SO-V - do not know what is intended by 'aspirational housing'. If used in the final document, it should be clearly defined.	
SO-VII - concerned at the encouragement of (undefined) 'balanced growth'. This objective could be seen to encourage the development of new housing in and around all villages.	
SO-VIII - The local plan should reflect the outcomes of neighbourhood plans.	
SO-XII - This should stop after the words 'Green Belt'. Reference to exceptional circumstances in the objective should be removed as the Green Belt is protected by national legislation.	

Two additional Strategic Objectives should be added: - SO-X111 - That the vitality of industrial villages should be supported, including their special historic character. SO-X1V - That the outstanding regeneration of redundant housing and commercial building in industrial villages and other brownfields where previous industrial development creating contaminated land which has made development unviable without remediation in the district, should give priority over non-contaminated brownfields.	
A strategic objective should be added to refer to meeting the identified housing (including affordable housing) and employment requirements in the borough.	
The Plan should reflect the fact that it shares a functional economic area with Stoke-on-Trent City Council and therefore should be prepared using a joint approach	
Audley Parish - lack of mention of built heritage or of culture in general	

5. Approach to Policies

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Natural England - advise that it would be useful for the plan to include reference to the Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land. Soil is a vital resource for society, and policies should minimize disturbance and preserve ecosystem services during construction. These issues are interconnected with other policy areas like renewable energy, climate change, green infrastructure, biodiversity net gain, flood schemes, and development design. The Defra's Code of practice is recommended for sustainable soil use on construction sites.	<p>The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act received Royal Assent on the 26 October 2023. The Act introduces a new category of planning policies (National Development Management Policies). The National Development Management Policies require regulations to be brought into force before they are implemented. The council will review the progress of the introduction of National Development Management Policies, alongside any other material considerations. On the 19 December 2023, the government published a revised National Planning Policy Framework. The implications of changes made through the revised National Planning Policy Framework will be considered during the development of the Final Draft Local Plan</p> <p>The council will review the need for any additional planning policies in the Plan in the light of consultation responses received and any new evidence or change in circumstances.</p>
Staffordshire County Council - The plan should include a policy on parking and cycle standards to ensure safe parking levels within development sites, based on land use and local setting, to protect the highway network from safety issues.	
Support the council's decision to continue plan-making despite consultations and uncertainty. Note the council's intention to include more detailed development management policies, such as self and custom build, community facilities, and amenity, which adds to the plan-making process. The plan should extend the proposed plan period. Cost implications for community facilities and local amenities should also be considered.	
This indicates that the Local Plan focuses on strategic matters and detailed development management will be subject to later stages of the plan.	
Comments regarding the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill and potential impact on the Plan.	
Concerns about the impact of inflation on construction, viability and affordability.	
The plan should extend the opportunities for the specific designation of land for Self and Custom House Building (CSB) housing in the proposed area-based planning system, using Design Codes and following the recommendations of the Bacon Review 2012 (included in rep).	

Give the significant shift in demographic spread the council should include specific policies for provide for both small scale (Lifetime homes) and larger scale housing (Retirement village) solutions for older people.	
During the plan period, private and public sector finance may be tight and under threat, so land use planning and site allocation decisions should prioritise community gains as a clear part of the allocation process.	

6. Planning for Sustainable Development

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
No mention in the Plan to Biodiversity Net Gain	<p>The First Draft Local Plan in draft policy SE5 “Biodiversity and Geodiversity” references Biodiversity Net Gain. It is noted that since the consultation on the First Draft Plan, there has been some additional information released on Biodiversity Net Gain by Central Government including the confirmation of its legislative introduction in January 2024 for larger development sites and April 2024 for smaller sites. The final proposed policy approach will be reflected in the Final Draft version of the Local Plan.</p> <p>The Local Plan is supported by a suite of evidence-based documents including the consideration of infrastructure through the preparation of an Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The site selection methodology prepared by the council will continue to be implemented and will take account of consultation responses received to the First Draft of the Local Plan.</p>
Change town centre uses into housing proposals	
Welcome commitment to sustainable development which combats climate change and secures carbon reduction.	
Canals fall within the glossary definitions of open space and Green Infrastructure	
Developers should build out what they have permission for already before considering new sites for development.	
Services and facilities are oversubscribed.	
Concerns regarding the infrastructure implications of the Plan	
Objections to the loss of Green Belt and objections to several sites proposed in the Plan.	
United Utilities – need to consider proximity of sites to wastewater treatment works. Reference to agent of change considerations.	

7. Policy PSD1: Overall Development Strategy

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>Cheshire East Council - it is not specified whether the requirement for one or more strategic employment sites is included in the minimum 69ha employment land or is in addition to it.</p> <p>It will be important for the boroughs housing and economic strategies to align.</p> <p>The implications of the strategic sites could be wide ranging, and there may be a need for further consideration of the alignment between the economic and housing strategies as well as wider commuting/travel to work patterns and transport implications.</p>	<p>The council's evidence for the approach set out in Policy PSD1: Overall Development Strategy is included in the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (Turley's, 2023). The Housing and Economic Needs Assessment has considered some of the initial outputs from the 2021 Census, where possible, and in line with planning guidance.</p> <p>The council has commissioned consultants Turley's to prepare an update to the 2023 study, informed by consultation responses to the First Draft Local Plan and any new and additional evidence.</p> <p>On the 19 December 2023, the government published a revised National Planning Policy Framework. The implications of changes made through the revised National Planning Policy Framework will be taken into account during the development of the Final Draft Local Plan.</p> <p>The council included three potential strategic locations in the draft Plan. These sites were not proposed as allocations in the draft Plan however views were sought on the principle of allocating strategic sites in the draft Plan and then also on the site options themselves. The council will consider the responses received to both the principle of development and the individual locations including from neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies and determine the appropriateness of allocating one or more major employment sites.</p>
<p>Staffordshire Moorlands District Council - Newcastle Borough Council has previously asked if the District Council would be able to accommodate any of your housing requirement within our District and the Council responded saying this would not be feasible at this point in time.</p>	
<p>Stafford Borough Council - Stafford Borough Council is supportive of the vision, strategic objectives and planning for sustainable development. It is useful to provide a place-specific emphasis to provide more clarity associated with the approach for housing delivery and options for employment growth. Following this consultation period, as further evidence is prepared for the Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan, the Borough Council would value future engagement on details. Stafford Borough are unable to accommodate additional housing provision from your area.</p>	
<p>The council should review its targets for new housing in the Borough in the emerging Local Plan, to greater reflect the actual need (both in number and type of dwellings), recognising that the central Government formula only produces a notional starting figure. The review should take into consideration the most up to date population demographics from ONS (Office for National Statistics) (Office for National Statistics) (Office for National Statistics) and others, the various Housing Needs Surveys that have been undertaken throughout the Borough and the various</p>	

Neighbourhood Development Plans within the Borough, as well as accepting the planning constraints imposed by the Green Belt. We believe that the above approach acknowledges the exceptional circumstances that exist including: - falling population, Green Belt, housing supply and delivery, impact on the rural character of the borough and wildlife.	
Local Planning Authorities are required to use the Standard Method to calculate housing requirements in all but exceptional circumstances, contained at paragraph 61 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2021. This method has been criticised from several different quarters: The reduction in population and marginal increase in the numbers of households is exceptional and requires proper research and analysis. The most recent census figures, showing a decrease in the local population, are not being used (0.5% drop in population from 2011 – 2021). There is no justification for an increase in housing or use of the Green Belt.	
The Plan should update its Housing and Economic evidence	
Data on empty homes should be considered.	
The Plan should consider and recognise the role of Newcastle-under-Lyme as part of the wider joint housing and economic area with Stoke-on-Trent. Stoke-on-Trent City Council area includes more brownfield sites.	
Impact of the decision re HS2 on the overall numbers required.	
Concerns over the approach to housing land supply in the Plan. The Plan also needs additional housing evidence on supply including a housing trajectory	
As set out in the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) (para 69a) at least 10% of the housing requirement should be accommodated on sites no larger than one hectare or demonstrate strong reasons for not achieving this target.	
The development strategy pursued by the council in previous years has consistently fallen below the Standard Method.	

There is no clear evidence to show how proposed student residential developments will not simply meet the future growth requirements of the University, or how the growth of the University will be met within the Plan Period (including whether this will have an impact on the take up of established residential properties for student use).	
The calculations should include / consider the contribution of windfall sites – not just as a buffer for non-delivery.	
A higher level of growth would support the baseline forecast of jobs growth, as identified by the Housing and Economic Needs Study and Experian (Turley, 2023), and deliver the labour force necessary to support any reasonable level of job growth. It would also allow flexibility to accommodate the identified needs of other authorities, as part of statutory requirements under its Duty-to-Cooperate.	
The ambition to make a success of the local economy, including the growth proposed through both the Keele Deal / Keele Growth Corridor and the Towns Fund will generate housing need above the minimum requirement established through the Standard Method which, combined with limited supply evidenced by past under-delivery, means that housing will continue to become difficult to access and may lead to the need to provide for more homes.	
The overall housing requirement needs to reflect on affordable housing needs in the Borough and whether the overall levels of housing development need to be increased to reflect this. The local affordable housing needs as established through the council's evidence base amounts to a net annual need of 278 affordable homes per annum. This equates to 77.65% of the overall annual housing requirement, which suggests that the overall housing requirement for the Borough may need to be higher.	
The policy does not make adequate provision for elderly residents through older persons accommodation.	

The strategy is unambitious and will neither support the needs of the population nor underpin accelerated job growth in the Borough. The strategy does not support even a baseline forecast of jobs growth, as identified by the Housing and Economic Needs Study and Experian or deliver the labour force necessary to support any reasonable level of job growth. There is a need to align jobs and housing.	
The plan should consider the allocation of 20% of the housing requirement for additional flexibility.	
The number of houses proposed in the Local Plan to be built on green sites in the Borough is disproportionately greater than the number proposed for non-green sites, and this therefore needs to be addressed.	
Plan covers period 2020-2040. We are already mid-2023. Plan due to be accepted end of 2024, so dwellings will have to be built over the remaining 15 years.	
The economic assessment should reflect a longer period (up to 2040) rather than being based on more short-term assessments.	
The draft local plan has no economic strategy. The overall vision refers to jobs but makes no mention of targets of the types of jobs	
The Local Plan also needs to ensure that development is proportionate to the area in which it is proposed	
There is an inadequate explanation of the reduction to 50 hectares for employment uses in criteria 2 of the policy (from 69 hectares) in this document and the evidence base.	
Employment site promoted at White Rock, Chesterton	
Question the justification for strategic employment site justified given the presence of nearby existing employment sites.	
Oppose the development of strategic employment sites in the Green Belt. None pass sustainability tests	
Object to the loss of Green Belt / Greenfield land.	
Brownfield sites should be the priority.	

No need for the larger scale strategic employment sites. No evidence of need for such provision in the Borough.	
If the council goes forward with formally allocating some or all the potential strategic employment sites that have been identified, then there will be a need for a commensurate uplift in the housing requirement to ensure that housing and employment growth is aligned.	
Criteria 4 of the policy needs to be redrafted to reference the role that other windfall development will have in meeting development needs	
Audley Parish - APC notes the growth proposals for housing and employment. It is less clear how this fits in to a wider strategy for regeneration of the wider conurbation. Whilst the Plan relates specifically to the Borough, it is necessary to take a wider view to ensure that regeneration occurs on brownfield site in the wider conurbation, rather than planning for the Borough in isolation, so relying more on greenbelt and greenfield development within the Borough.	
Silverdale Parish – disagree with distribution of development around Keele and Silverdale.	
Keele Parish - It has been suggested that the census fall might be due to 'statistical outliers and/or be the result of the census taking place at a time when students at Keele University were not present'. Whilst measures to control the pandemic may have impacted on the number of students in the area, they were required to complete the census for their term time address.	

8. Policy PSD2: Settlement Hierarchy

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Staffordshire County Council - Development proposals should maximise the use of existing resources and infrastructure to allow jobs, homes and other facilities to be located close to each other and be accessible by public transport. Enhancements to Active Travel corridors within the strategic centre and surrounding area should also be encouraged. Opportunities are set out within the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan 2021-2031 (LCWIP).	<p>The settlement hierarchy was informed by several evidence base documents including the Rural Area Topic Paper (2021) and Retail and Leisure Study (2019). The settlement hierarchy seeks to group settlements informed by levels of services and facilities etc. Comments on the settlement hierarchy will be reflected upon in preparing the Final Draft of the Local Plan. It should be made clear that the settlement hierarchy is different from the retail hierarchy which is used for the purposes of assessing the suitability or otherwise of retail development schemes. It is the retail hierarchy (policy RET1) that includes reference to Neighbourhood and District Centres.</p> <p>Areas such as Wolstanton, Porthill, Bradwell, Maybank, Chesterton, Silverdale. For the purposes of emerging policy PSD2, these centres would form part of the strategic centre of Newcastle-under-Lyme for the purposes of the First Draft Local Plan.</p>
The Draft Local Plan focuses on growth in the Strategic Centre, Urban Centre and Rural Centres. It does not seem to specifically acknowledge the importance of sustaining and growing the Neighbourhood and District Centres e.g. Wolstanton, Porthill, Bradwell, Maybank, Chesterton, Silverdale or any others referred to in Core Spatial Strategy ASP5. Silverdale and other industrial villages should not be confused with Newcastle under Lyme, which has its origins in the Royal Charter.	
The Local Plan should recognise that settlements that currently do not have services could expand to include those services if new development is allocated in those areas.	
The hierarchy of centres plan is a granting of permission for development to take place even outside any planned or stated boundaries within Parish and Neighbourhood Plans.	
The role of changes in the bus service(s) should be reflected in the settlement hierarchy	
Support for NUL as a strategic centre	
The wording of policy PSD 2 could be amended to make it clear that residential use is supported in the Strategic Centre as set out by policy PSD3	
Support for the designation of Kidsgrove as an urban centre	
Under the urban centre category – it should be made clear that Kidsgrove incorporates Talke and Butt Lane.	

Support for Rural Centres to meet some of the development need within the Borough	
Audley Neighbourhood Plan makes provision for proportionate growth	
The designation of Audley as a rural centre is in direct conflict with strategic location AB2.	
Audley is a ward with a very high level of Green Belt, and this designates its character. It is also composed of many distinct villages that are currently discreet. Any further development will destroy these characteristics and be detrimental to the health and well-being of its parishioners.	
Miles Green should be regarded along with Audley and Bignall End as part of the identified Rural Centre under Policy PSD 2	
Betley & Wrinehill are defined in the Local Plan as a Rural Centre this designation raises concerns as some of the facilities and infrastructure within the Parish are at or close to capacity and there is no scope to expand them.	
The composition uses and economic weight of the University, alongside Keele, create a settlement that is geographically, economically and functionally different from other Rural Centres in the settlement hierarchy.	
Keele Village (and University Hub) has been designated as a Rural Centre. Whilst we are pleased that this could result in protection of the rural and historic character, the village itself contains little in the way of facilities beyond the primary school and pub, all the other necessary facilities for a rural centre being based on the university campus. Outside of university term time this would inevitably result in a reduction of the facilities available, and for elderly residents' facilities available on the university campus are not easily accessible, often requiring a vehicular journey.	
Keele and Keele University can accommodate a greater level of housing growth which will catalyse regional economic growth	
Keele Parish - We note that although no discussions have taken place with Keele Parish Council, Keele Village (and University Hub) has been designated as a Rural Centre.	

In relation to 'Other Settlements and Rural Areas' the Spatial Strategy of the Plan should also recognise that there may be clusters of villages that provide a range of services for that area within reasonable travelling distance of each other, so villages may need to be grouped together. These areas might be able to sustainably support a substantial level of development but may not have all the services within one village	
What is the justification for the scale of development in rural settlements?	
Betley Balterley & Wrinehill Parish Council - as a Rural Centre this designation raises concerns as some of the facilities within the Parish	

9. Policy PSD3: Distribution of Development

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Natural England - Development in Betley & Wrinehill will need to ensure that foul and surface water does not impact on the Midland Meres & Mosses - Phase 1/ Betley Mere SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) Loggerheads is close to Burnt Wood SSSI and several areas priority habitat. Any sites coming forward in this area should follow the mitigation hierarchy in line with Policy SE5: Biodiversity and Geodiversity.	<p>The Local Plan reflects work in testing and refining several spatial options. The distribution of planned growth set out in the First Draft Local Plan (in Policy PSD3) is currently the preferred spatial option. The policy will be reviewed in the light of consultation responses and new evidence.</p> <p>Draft policy PSD3, in the supporting information referred to a public appeal at Baldwins Gate (reference 21/01041/OUT). This application was granted planning permission on appeal. The outcomes of this appeal and other relevant commitments and completions will be reflected in the preparation of the Final Draft of the Local Plan.</p>
Historic England - When considering the most appropriate locations for development we urge you to consider how the historic environment may be impacted by the location of proposals. The SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) process ensures that reasonable alternative sites are considered so that the harm to heritage can be avoided / minimised.	
Maer and Aston Parish Council - Maer and Aston Parish Council disagrees with the target figure of 500 additional homes for the Loggerheads rural centre	
Policy wording should refer to a minimum rather than 'in the order of'	
Betley Balterley & Wrinehill Parish Council - as a Rural Centre this designation raises concerns as some of the facilities within the Parish	
Propose that the wording should be changed from '...in the order of...' to '...no more than....'	
The Borough approach ignores the reality that the housing market is wider than the borough boundaries.	
Support for the largest proportion of identified need being directed to Newcastle-under-Lyme, in line with its role as the Strategic Centre at the top of the settlement hierarchy.	
Silverdale – concerns over the density of development and associated implications.	
Silverdale – local infrastructure cannot sustain the amount of development proposed. The size of the new community is beyond the capacity of Silverdale to integrate the emerging communities	

Scale of development directed to Keele / Silverdale is a concern.	
Silverdale - It could be argued that this section is misleading as it suggests that the bulk of the new homes (4,800) will be in the strategic centre of Newcastle, which would support the vision of brownfield development and urban development of the town centre. However, it can only be assumed that this number includes 1,214 houses planned within the parish of Silverdale, as it is no longer designated as a separate district centre.	
Only 900 homes are proposed for urban centre (Kidsgrove), which is too low based on the evidence. Policy PSD2 recognises that Kidsgrove benefits from services and facilities and Kidsgrove railway station	
The policy wording should clarify that Talke forms part of Kidsgrove for the purposes of this policy. Concern over the level of development proposed for Talke / Kidsgrove.	
It does not appear that the approach advocated by Policy PSD 2 has been followed through in Policy PSD 3 in respect of distributing development to Rural Centres in an evidence-based way	
The Borough Council should look again at the impact that new homes would have on the rural centres listed in the document (infrastructure, local countryside and wildlife).	
Any uplift in housing should be directed to the rural centres.	
Audley – level of development proposed does not preserve the rural nature of villages. Concerns over impact on local highways and infrastructure.	
The proposed site allocations, when considered alongside commitments and completions exceed the number proposed in the spatial distribution policy for Audley.	
Audley – several site promoters support the level of development proposed Audley and the figure could be uplifted further.	

Madeley – concerns over the existing infrastructure the village have and any ability to accommodate any further development.	
It is unclear how the 200-home guide requirement was determined as being the appropriate amount of development for Madeley & Madeley Heath (in addition to Betley & Wrinehill). There is no assessment of local needs across the different rural centres, nor might an assessment of what quantum of housing be appropriate in each taking account of constraints and both existing infrastructure provision and future needs.	
Madeley – site promoters are of the view that Madeley and Madeley Heath have the infrastructure required to be a greater focus for new development.	
Loggerheads – concern over the level of infrastructure. The 500 allocated to Loggerheads is too much. Recent expansion of the village has placed a strain on local infrastructure. Concerns over the accessibility to services and facilities in Loggerheads.	
Loggerheads is being asked to provide a disproportionate number of dwellings compared to nearby villages such as Audley and Madeley. This will lead to the urbanisation of the village.	
Loggerheads – site promoters have indicated that in their view Loggerheads is an appropriate area for growth.	
The policy mentions proposals to accommodate development at Keele and Keele University. Keele University has called for better quality homes to be built in the area, which will encourage staff to be based in the local area, reducing the numbers commuting from across the region and beyond.	
The growth of Newcastle-under-Lyme and Keele are complimentary to each other, and this growth is supported as part of the overall distribution of development.	
The identification of Baldwins Gate as a Rural Centre is supported. However, it remains unclear as to why this has not translated to apportionment of homes, unlike other equivalent or less well served Rural Centres which have been apportioned homes within Policy PSD 3.	

The councils Viability Assessment shows that the south of the Borough is more likely to be able to accommodate viable development which includes affordable housing. In addition to this, it is not constrained by Green Belt.	
Baldwins Gate is an area that needs an improvement in infrastructure including bus services.	
The appeal decision at Baldwins Gate for 200 dwellings needs to be reflected in the Plan	
Support for new housing for key workers in the local rural economy Should PSD 3 include an allowance for other rural areas under an additional clause (e)? This should not allow such settlements to atrophy by policies that do not allow any new development. There can be proposals that because of their type and make up will improve the overall sustainability of settlements.	
Keele Parish - It could be argued that this section is rather misleading as it suggests that the bulk of the new homes (4,800) will be in the strategic centre of Newcastle, which would support the vision of brownfield development and urban development of the town centre.	
Recognise that Keele University has called for better quality homes to be built in the area, which will encourage staff to be based in the local area, reducing the numbers commuting from across the region and beyond. Appreciate that this would require some Greenbelt release which is supported subject to requirement that 30% is affordable housing	
Loggerheads Parish Council proposes that instead of the 142 dwellings that the abovementioned sites amount to, Loggerheads Parish will consent to 49 dwellings based on infill of 7 dwellings per year, over the next 7 years. Proposes the wording of ' <i>...in the order of...</i> ' is changed to ' <i>...no more than....</i> '.	
CPRE Staffordshire - We question the justification for the scale of development proposed for allocation in the Rural Settlements.	

10. Policy PSD4: Development Boundaries and the Open Countryside

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>Historic England - it should be clear that appropriate development is required which protects the significance of heritage assets, including their setting. It may be worth including some additional information about how to deal with development affecting heritage assets within the open countryside, as well as issues relating to historic farmsteads and how to safeguard these assets. It may be worth including some additional information about how to deal with development affecting heritage assets within the open countryside, as well as issues relating to historic farmsteads and how to safeguard these assets.</p>	<p>The council will review the policy wording and approach in the light of consultation responses received. The Local Plan will look to review boundaries at the strategic, urban and rural centres level. The Final Draft Local Plan will also consider the policy approach to village envelopes as included in policy H1 of the 'saved' policies in the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council Local Plan (2003). The approach in the Final Draft Plan will also be informed by extant 'made' Neighbourhood Plans.</p>
Staffordshire County Council – reference should be made to policy IN2 Transport and Accessibility in criteria 4 of PSD4. Para 6.24 - reference should be made to a Town Centre Car Park Rationalisation Strategy to demonstrate no longer a local need.	
The use of settlement limits to arbitrarily restrict suitable development from coming forward on the edge of settlements would therefore not accord with the positive approach to growth required by the Framework. The policy wording as currently drafted only allows for development in a narrow set of circumstances (i.e. replacing existing dwellings, previously developed land, re-use of existing rural buildings etc.) and does not allow for sufficient flexibility to respond to changes of circumstance such as a shortfall in the Councils five-year housing supply position.	
Policy should be reframed to avoid the use of footnotes in the policy.	
Concerned that settlement boundaries can so easily be changed.	
Representations received to change development boundary in various locations	
Representations received to amend village envelope boundary at various locations	
Settlement boundaries should be drawn around proposed allocations and sites that have come forward on countryside location sites in recent years.	

It is essential that this policy is applied to any proposed allocations in the Local Plan	
Support for the Betley and Wrinehill (joint) development boundary in principle.	
Policy is too vague	
Link of policy to the policies map should be made clearer. Policy map is not clear enough	
Danger that the policy approach being more restrictive than Green Belt policy (limited infilling within villages)	
Not clear whether allocated sites in the Local Plan outside development or settlement boundaries will be restricted. Additional clarity on the approach should be added to the supporting text.	
The council policy officers ought to discuss rural policy formulation with their development management team to understand the existing and growing scope and extent of permitted development and prior approval regimes for many rural building and especially agricultural ones (Class Q conversions of barns to dwellings) to promote limited and organic new development in the countryside	
No assessment of small plots and infill sites – for example in Keele.	
Criteria 4 - Self-build should be encouraged as part of allocated sites rather than a policy approach	
Criteria 4b – need to ensure that existing employment sites in the Green Belt can expand.	
Re-building rural buildings (4e) - unclear what 'rebuilding' entails 4f might have the same effect re new for old.	
Criteria 4 (h) on affordable housing / self-build should only apply on land adjacent to an identified settlement rather than in the 'open countryside'	
Criteria 4(h) will help ensure that rural housing needs are met, and rural communities remain sustainable	
Criteria 4 – need to ensure alignment between policy criteria 4 (H) and policy HOU 1.	
Criteria 6 – Importance of agricultural land for crops, animals and food.	

Criteria 6 - recognition should be given that on allocated sites considerations related to agricultural land quality will not apply.	
Para 6.24 - asset rationalisation process will there be the opportunity to consider alternative proposals in addition to windfall housing options and how might infrastructure providers best engage in this process?	
Para 6.25 - more information required as to brownfield sites which have been looked at.	
Staffordshire and Stoke integrated care board - In respect of the car parking provision and asset rationalisation process will there be the opportunity to consider alternative proposals in addition to windfall housing options and how might infrastructure providers best engage in this process?	
Audley Parish Council - We are not sure from the map in the draft Policies Booklet whether the settlement boundaries For Audley and Bignall End have been amended to include the proposed site allocations or whether the site allocations are outside of the boundary.	
Loggerheads Parish Council - is concerned that defined boundaries, which were given effect in 2019 but backdated to 2013, can so easily be changed to accommodate what is the suspected approval of planning application 23/00002/OUT for up to 200 dwellings at Muckleston Wood Lane.	
CPRE Staffordshire - Is too vague, A clear definition is important here, we think that you are going well beyond national or accepted policy here. There seems to be a direct conflict between Policy HOU1 and PSD4 which needs to be resolved between their respective authors. We think that PSD4 is seriously flawed	

11. Policy PSD5: Green Belt and Safeguarded Land

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Representations from the development industry in support of the Keele Inset boundary	<p>The council has prepared / commissioned detailed evidence on Green Belt matters including Green Belt Assessment (parts 1, 2 & 3) and in respect of exceptional circumstances. The council will reflect on the comments made in respect of the overall policy approach and detailed wording in the Final Draft Local Plan.</p> <p>On the 19 December 2023, the government published a revised National Planning Policy Framework. The implications of changes made through the revised National Planning Policy Framework will be taken into account during the development of the Final Draft Local Plan. This will also consider the case for exceptional circumstances justifying changes to existing Green Belt boundaries in the Plan.</p>
Disagree with Keele inset boundary and the basis of the assessment. No local consultation.	
All villages washed over in the Green Belt within the borough should be examined as per Keele.	
Representations from the development industry advancing the inclusion of additional sites to the Plan and amendments to the Green Belt boundary	
The case for exceptional circumstances has not been proven	
Disagree with Green Belt allocations in the Local Plan	
The case for exceptional circumstances has been proven - The "exceptional circumstances" can be found in the accumulation or combination of circumstances, of varying natures, which entitle the decision maker, in the rational exercise of a planning judgment, to say that the circumstances are sufficiently exceptional to warrant altering the Green Belt boundary.	
Reduction of Green Belt land is not acceptable. Maintenance of Green Belt land is strongly supported.	
Insufficient Green Belt land is being included as an allocation in the Plan	
Support from the development industry for safeguarding land to respond to future demand. National policy is clear on the need to ensure that Green Belt boundaries will not need to be altered at the end of the plan period (currently 2040).	
Need further reassurance that safeguarded land (if required) is land not allocated for development at the present time.	
Need to ensure alignment between policies PSD 4 and PSD 5.	
Rather than compensation, Green Belt should not be developed on	

Criteria 4 of Policy PSD 5 could be amended as follows: 4. The construction of new buildings within the Green Belt should be regarded as inappropriate, unless it is one for the exceptions listed within national planning policy or for Rural Exception Sites (but excluding Entry Level/First Homes Exceptions Sites) in accordance with Policy HOU 1.	
No consideration has been given to removing other tight knit village envelopes out of the Green Belt that would maximise the use of previously developed brownfield sites currently viable for development and enclosed within a village boundary so no expansion would be incurred, but due to the villages being washed over in Green Belt they are excluded from this plan.	
United Utilities - UUW requests the support of the council for future investment in infrastructure to be able to expediently respond to the infrastructure needs You will need to ensure that your Strategic Flood Risk Assessment identifies any sites that are in a location that is at risk of flooding from a reservoir and ensure that this is considered in your site-specific comments within Chapter 15. UUW can provide this in future	
Betley Balterley & Wrinehill - the Parish Council urges the Borough council to take measures to protect the wider Green Belt across the Borough.	
CPRE Staffordshire - We regret that you have not indicated the settlements for which you intend to prepare boundaries in the Regulation 19 document - and have found no reason for this omission.	
Keele Parish - Statements within this policy appear contradictory as we cannot see how 2a (removal of the Golf Course from the Green Belt) can co-exist with statements 3,4,5 & 6. We strongly object to the removal of Keele Golf course from the Green Belt (SP11 & SP12) and will comment	

on this later in the response under site allocations, along with SP23 and TB19.	
---	--

12. Policy PSD6: Health and Wellbeing

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Sport England - For all developments, apply Active Design Guidance 10 principles to create an active environment. Within criterion d also incorporate sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields. The addition of the above to criterion d, ensures that the whole spectrum of places to undertake formal and informal physical activity is covered. Sport England also notes the inclusion open spaces identified in the Open Space Strategy though there could spaces which are newly created or unfortunately missed off which should also be covered. A caveat should therefore be included to capture this.	The council will review the policy wording and approach in the light of consultation responses received. This will include ongoing and detailed engagement with Staffordshire County Council regarding the matters raised.
Policy requires more information regarding a mechanism for policy to be achieved (including retrospectively)	
Very limited sports and recreational areas in borough (e.g. Loggerheads)	
Out of town housing developments increase car dependency which increases obesity in the area	
The high number of asthma sufferers may not be due to obesity but because the borough is surrounded by major road networks – M6, A500, A34	
Support the inclusion of a specific policy on health and wellbeing, but we would like to see more specific reference to actions and principles that will support and enable healthier outcomes for residents	
Proper infrastructure such as GP / Dentists for residents of new housing developments have not been mentioned in policy	
Would like to see a much wider scope in the policy, including emphasis on green infrastructure (not just spaces), paths, quality of public realm and support for active travel	
Staffordshire Joint Wellbeing Strategy aims to address the 4 priorities and these benefits come from the Green Belt therefore building should not take place on GB if council prioritises health and wellbeing	

Whole Plan Viability Assessment (April 2023) does not allow for Building for a Healthy Life standard as part of its building costs assumptions.	
We suggest that paragraph 6.31 is currently reads as requiring the provision of new facilities and should be amended to include the improvement of existing accessible routeways such as towpaths.	
There is also opportunity to promote cross border improvements of accessible routes such as towpaths. Working with Cheshire East Council, Shropshire Council and City of Stoke-on-Trent to improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity for communities living close to the borders and seeking sustainable commuting options into the borough or local leisure for residents within the borough for improved health and wellbeing would promote the Vision and Strategic Objectives.	
Policy should be supported by a Health Impact Assessment	
Policy refers to rapid and full HIA – neither are defined in the policy	
Wording of policy unclear	
It would seem unreasonable and disproportionate for a planning application for individual dwelling to have to undertake a full Building for a Healthy Life assessment and indeed it is not designed for such use.	
Staffordshire Police - Fully support requirement for housing developments to achieve Building for a Healthy Life Standard (or as updated). Policy PSD6: Health and Wellbeing 1c “Welcome the reference to ‘safe’ as it relates to walking and cycling. It is the expectation that this would relate as much to the avoidance of opportunities for deliberate harm (and the fear of crime) as it does accidental harm.	
Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Integrated Care Board - The delivery of more accessible and adaptable dwellings will of course go some way to preventing falls within the home which is a prevalent and often overlooked issue in the over 65 population. Similarly providing minimum standards both internally and externally for all housing will contribute to the prevention of mental health problems and the promotion of recovery as documented within studies	
Duplication of policy with PSD7 - Criteria 1b and 1c would be best incorporated into Policy PSD 7	

Policy appears vague as to what is required to be addressed through health impact assessment	
Do not agree with a separate SPD being drafted as it would leave a policy vacuum.	
Argue that development proposals go against the policy approach set out here.	
Staffordshire County Council - The first sentence begins with 'Supports public health initiatives and encourages healthy lifestyles and environments it is therefore not clear to what the support applies to.	
Staffordshire County Council - i. Subsection a. -We support the intention of including Health Impact Assessments (HIA) with development proposals and would like to discuss with you how this could best be implemented	
Staffordshire County Council - ii. Subsection b. "We support the requirement to meet Building for a Healthy Life Standard in new development. The Plan should also incorporate similar standards for non-residential development, including employment sites.	
Staffordshire County Council - Iii Sub section c. "The intention that development should provide opportunities for healthy living and promote mental wellbeing is supported, and we would also suggest including specific reference "maintain independence" However, in terms of how this is delivered the policy refers to good housing design. It is felt that 'good' in this context is subjective and should be defined more clearly. The Policy here would also benefit from referring to minimum standards agreed by NUL planners, and specifically to key criteria such as development providing access to healthy food growing spaces e.g. regular public transport access, community gardens & orchards and access to/protection of green space more generally.	
Staffordshire County Council - iv. Subsection d. It is not clear how the Plan would define 'unnecessary losses of green space, its implication is that at some point it becomes necessary to lose green spaces for development. The intention to protect green and open spaces is supported but the Policy should be reworded to make that clearer. The	

<p>policy would benefit from more focus on green and blue spaces, acknowledging the health benefits of protecting and enhancing existing spaces as well as promoting the introduction of new green and blue spaces with development.</p>	
<p>Staffordshire County Council - v. Subsection e. "Access to sports facilities and opportunity for recreation and leisure are essential for healthy lifestyles. However, it is not clear what constitutes "appropriate access" as set out in the policy. The Policy would benefit from clarity here about how new development can provide and support access to sport and recreation. We would be keen to see a focus on equity of access (e.g. free/affordable, all age/all ability) for physical activity and sport.</p> <p>vi. Subsection f. We acknowledge the Policy supports schemes that encourage life-long learning and skills training as these will help resident access jobs and improved earnings. We would also welcome specific reference to good jobs and meaningful activity, as these are evidenced to have a positive impact on health and wellbeing. Please also see comments in relation to Employment and Skills Plans in the Employment section of our response.</p>	
<p>Staffordshire County Council - Subsection g. Creating the conditions to help people to make healthy choices that will help adults and children reach a healthy weight is a public health priority, as set out in the Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027. To deliver this priority, the County Council and partners have implemented an initiative called Better Health Staffordshire. Better Health Staffordshire will address the factors driving excess weight, as well as promote healthy eating and active lifestyles, through the implementation of a whole systems approach (WSA).</p>	
<p>Staffordshire County Council - Sub points i to iii seek to control the opening of new hot food takeaways. This aligns with the healthy and safe communities' Planning Practice Guidance.</p> <p>Subpoint i. seeks to control the opening of takeaways based on their proximity to schools, which is supported in principle. In relation to the distance and time restrictions prescribed we believe these require</p>	

<p>further consideration. The Plan therefore should consider what the issues are around proximity of takeaways to schools and whether differing approaches are justified between primary and secondary.</p> <p>Subpoint ii. seeks to reducing the clustering of hot food takeaways in the town centres of Newcastle and Kidsgrove by setting out that no more than 2 hot food takeaways can be located adjacent to each other. Whilst this may be appropriate for design and place making initiatives its ability to control overall numbers of takeaways is questioned.</p> <p>Subpoint iii. is supported in requiring HIAs (Health Impact Assessments) for all applications for hot food takeaways. With regards to the supporting information in paragraphs 6.31 to 6.44 it is felt that more emphasis and signposting is needed to relevant evidence to support Policy PSD6. Paragraph 6.2 should refer to Borough Council committing to implementing the Better Health Staffordshire initiative and Staffordshire's "healthy weight" priority via the Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board.</p>	
<p>United Utilities - UUW wishes to note that development proposals on water catchment land can have an impact on water supply resources and therefore we recommend that you include a policy which identifies the need to engage with the statutory undertaker for water to determine whether any proposal is on land used for public water supply catchment purposes.</p>	
<p>Audley Parish - would like to see a much wider scope in the policy, including emphasis on green infrastructure (not just spaces), paths, quality of public realm and support for active travel.</p>	
<p>Silverdale Parish - There is evidence of greater health inequalities in Silverdale (AECOM report 2023 Silverdale Parish Council) than found elsewhere in the borough. These health inequalities should be taken into account when decisions are made to allocate land for large housing estates putting additional pressure on health and community services in one ward.</p>	
<p>Loggerheads Parish – policy is currently too vague</p>	

Keele Parish - Some of the Green Belt areas that are included in the allocated sites are close to existing housing settlements and could be developed to provide cycling, walking trails designed specifically to motivate younger adults and children.	
---	--

13. Policy PSD7: Design

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Staffordshire County Council - Development proposals should take account of the Staffordshire Residential Design Guide (and any updated version) which provides local guidance on Street and footway layouts for housing layouts. Please note this document is presently under review to ensure greater alignment with the National Model Design Code and Guidance.	The council will review the policy wording and approach in the light of consultation responses received and relevant guidance introduced as a result of revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework published on the 19 December 2023.
The design policy should incorporate the BREAM / Passivehaus standards mentioned in Climate Policy so that these standards are met	
Staffordshire Police - It is recommended that it is amended to read as follows – “Developments should ensure high levels of passive surveillance of streets, spaces and parking, including appropriate lighting, and making sure that the site layout and design minimises opportunities for crime, anti-social behaviour, and minimises the fear of crime. Design should incorporate Secured by Design Principles”.	
Policy PSD 7 refers to new development according with National Design Code, National Design Guide and any local design codes. This creates a potential for conflict between the requirements of codes at a national and local level, as they could contain variations and could therefore be incompatible with one another on specific items.	
There is not a need for smaller developments to undertake a design review not, is there sufficient resources for these to be undertaken by a developer	
National Gas Transmission would like the policy to include “taking a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to development including respecting existing site constraints including utilities situated within sites.” This is because the increasing pressure for development is leading to more development sites being brought forward through the planning process on land that is crossed by National Gas Transmission infrastructure.	
Criteria 1b and 1c to be included in Policy PSD7	

Design matters may cause unnecessary delay at outline stage, and it may be more appropriate for them to be considered through full applications or reserved matters stages. Evidence that this requirement is needed at this stage?	
Include a definition of the Design Review process within the supporting text and/or the Glossary in Chapter 16.	
Policy PSD 7 would benefit from additional text that directs applicants to a Design Guide or a Design Code prepared in accordance with the principles set out in the National Design Guide	
Often design principles are not fulfilled. Some authorities have designated land for self-builders to encourage diversity of design and innovation	
The idea of placemaking where residents are actively involved in shaping communities where they live sounds good but what about proposed developments active members of communities are against? E.g. SP11	
Historic England - The policy could specifically reference the historic environment and design considerations which may be relevant, including for example in Conservation Areas, as well as reference specific evidence base documents including but not exhaustive to Landscape and Townscape Character Assessments, which will aid prospective developers in understanding what is local character and local distinctiveness.	
Greater emphasis on green design and infrastructure and quality of the public realm, in its own specific clause. Also, more emphasis on pedestrian and cycle connectivity	
The date of the National Design Guide is 2021. The National Model Design Code was a consultation document and is no longer relevant.	
Policy PSD 7 repeats the requirements for housing developments to achieve Building for a Healthy Life standard. This should be addressed either in Policy PSD 6 or Policy PSD 7, not both	
Design principles should encourage use of renewable and low carbon technologies	
Paragraph 6.48 regarding an early-stage design review of large and complex sites should be mandatory rather than just encouraged.	

Part 5 should add that the public realm should be a place where passive surveillance should be promoted. Canal corridors should be included from the outset within the design principles stages and consultation with the Trust should be sought in the early stages to guide development on a case-by-case basis.	
Design In clause 2, massing (d) should be added to (a)	
National Grid - NGET advocates the high standards of design and sustainable development forms promoted through national planning policy and understands that contemporary planning and urban design agenda require a creative approach to new development around high voltage overhead lines and other NGET assets. Therefore, to ensure that Design Policy PSD7 is consistent with national policy we would request the inclusion of a policy strand such as: “x. taking a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to development including respecting existing site constraints including utilities situated within sites.”	
Part 5 should add that the public realm should be a place where passive surveillance should be promoted. Canal corridors should be included from the outset within the design principles stages and consultation with the Canal and Rivers Trust should be sought in the early stages to guide development on a case-by-case basis	
Audley Parish - In clause 2, massing (d) should be added to (a). There should be far greater emphasis on green infrastructure and quality of the public realm, in a specific clause. More emphasis could be made of pedestrian and cycle permeability and connectivity. Far greater emphasis should be placed on support for green design. Overall, the design policy lacks ambition. The date of the National Design Guide is 2021. The National Model Design Code was a consultation document and is no longer relevant.	
Silverdale Parish – SP11, 12 and 23 contradict this policy	
Keele Parish - We note that other authorities have designated land for self-builders to encourage diversity of design and innovation.	

14. Climate and Renewable Energy

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Building out of town development will increase car travel which will increase fossil fuel usage and air pollution	The council will review the policy wording and approach in the light of consultation responses received. The council has declared a climate emergency and the policy approach within the Local Plan can support many of the ambitions around responding to climate change related matters going forward.
With climate change so important, greenfield sites must be the last feasible option to prevent flooding	
How is NUL ensuring all new housing development are low carbon in line with the UK's net zero strategy	
Council has stated there are 1000 empty homes in Newcastle, refurbishing these will use less carbon and be in keeping with the council's vision of reducing carbon footprint	
Wording needs to be stronger to ensure the policies are seen as obligatory rather than optional.	
It is unclear what the council has done from since it declared a climate emergency regarding sustainable building development.	
United Utilities - currently evaluating all land owned by U UW within local authorities that could be used for renewable energy and developing a list of candidate sites. U UW would welcome discussion with NUL over this	

15. Policy CRE 1: Climate Change

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>CRE1 refers to many aspects of other national regulations. It is established practice that other regulatory regimes must operate separately to this planning regime. Reference to the Building Regulations should therefore be deleted. Instead, the policy should be amended to add the locational context of Newcastle-Under-Lyme and how this relates to climate change requirements.</p>	<p>The council will review the policy wording and approach in the light of consultation responses received and any other relevant evidence. This will include the relationship of local plan policy with other regulatory regimes including building regulations.</p>
<p>CRE1, 5: related to provision of adequate space for physical protection measures however it is not clear what this requirement is aimed at which will make it challenging for applicants to demonstrate compliance.</p>	
<p>Tree planting measures will take many years to be effective against climate change and therefore does not negate the removal of existing mature trees.</p>	
<p>Reference should be added to walkable neighbourhoods (reducing the need for car use), including mixed use, retention of local facilities, support for home working and ease of pedestrian movement</p>	
<p>Environment Agency - We encourage you to identify climate change as an overall Development Plan priority. Policies within the local plan should align with national net zero targets and mitigation policies. We note the detail within this policy in respect of water efficiency standards but would suggest this be better placed within the Water Resources policy section and be cross referenced here.</p>	
<p>Historic England - We would recommend a clause that considers the role of the historic environment within the climate change agenda and how measures need to be appropriate in the context of the historic environment to protect the significance of heritage assets including their setting, as well as the need to consider appropriate retrofitting of heritage assets. There should be a reference in the reasoned justification to the historic environment and climate change.</p>	
<p>Natural England - Our mapping system shows that the plan area includes areas of peat -a few of these areas are part of RAMSARs, SSSIs or are a</p>	

Site of Biological Importance (SBI) but there are other areas that have no protection at all. Peatlands are our largest natural carbon stores, and it is essential that these are protected and restored where possible. We would advise including within this Policy protection of peat.	
United Utilities - sustainable surface water management should be a critical element of the policy.	
Audley Parish - Reference should be added to walkable neighbourhoods and green materials/ construction	
Silverdale Parish – SP11, 12 and 23 contradict this policy	
Keele Parish - The district heat network at Keele University is currently very limited.	

16. Policy CRE 2: Renewable Energy

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
The phrase <i>“should provide for at least 10% of their energy needs”</i> should be deleted as it is insufficiently strong and substituted with <i>the phrase “must provide at least 10% of their energy needs”</i> .	The council will review the policy wording and approach in the light of consultation responses received and any changes in national planning policy / guidance.
Staffordshire Police - CRE2, 5: “Associated development and buildings such as access roads, fencing and lighting must be designed to minimise its visual impact whilst ensuring public safety and without compromising site security”. Should be noted in policy that associated development does not compromise site security.	
Scope to ensure solar capture is provided as a condition of building works	
United Utilities - United Utilities is assessing all land within local authorities for renewable energy use and developing a list of potential sites. Aligning site selection with local, regional, and national policies is crucial. As part of preparing a new local plan, we welcome discussing the delivery of renewable energy sites and new opportunities.	
Environment Agency - We welcome the inclusion within the Policy that all major developments should provide for at least 10% of their energy needs from renewable or low carbon energy generation on site unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate that having regard to the type of development and its design, this is not feasible or viable. – However, given the climate crisis, would a more ambitious target be more appropriate?	
Historic England - additional detail will be required in the reasoned justification text and how heritage is being considered in relation to proposals for other types of renewable energy technologies.	
The Canal and Rivers Trust, in our response to the Issues and Options Consultation for this draft plan suggested the inclusion of an Energy Statement with proposals. This would enable the consideration of all potential sources of energy so the selection of the lowest feasible carbon option could be made on a case-by-case basis. The inclusion of the need for Energy Statements would be a useful inclusion within the policy and	

supporting text in providing renewable and zero-carbon sustainable development. This would improve the aspiration of this policy, whilst providing a clear means of achieving the aims of the policy. It would also provide a means of monitoring the success of the percentage aims of the policy and may even allow the percentage to be more aspirational	
Natural England - We advise changing this paragraph to: "Habitats and species of International, National and local importance." In line with paragraph 175 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)."	
CPRE Staffordshire - It is unclear what the council has done since it declared a climate emergency in 2019	

17. Housing

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
No need for more houses on the Borough	The council will review the policy wording and approach in the light of consultation responses received. The First Draft Local Plan was supported by detailed evidence including the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (2023). This considered matters such as the approach to overall housing requirements but also the housing needs of different groups of people / society including the requirement for affordable housing. The council has commissioned evidence in the form of an update to the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment to help inform the council's policy approach in the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan.
The local plan should help to deliver accommodation for older and disabled people and the specific needs of other groups.	
Should be insisting on Lifetime Homes standard which ensure homes are adaptable and suitable.	
Need to provide a mix of new homes to support local communities	

18. Policy HOU1: Affordable Housing

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Direct conflict between HOU 1 and PSD4 which needs to be resolved.	<p>The council will review the policy wording and approach in the light of consultation responses received. The First Draft Local Plan was supported by detailed evidence including the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (2023). This considered matters such as the approach to overall housing requirements but also the needs of different groups of people / society including the requirement for affordable housing. The council has commissioned evidence in the form of an update to the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment to help inform the council's policy approach in the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan.</p> <p>The First Draft Local Plan was supported by a viability study (2023). The intention is to update the viability evidence for the regulation 19 version of the Local Plan.</p>
Reference to older persons housing should be made with respect of affordable housing	
The Council should look to provide an element of flexibility in implementing the policy based on prevailing market conditions and site-specific viability considerations.	
Criteria 1 of the policy sets affordable housing percentages. Question whether the percentages identified are realistic and viable.	
The location of the brownfield sites in the high and low value zones should be confirmed to ensure the correct percentage of affordable units is applied, subject to viability.	
The policy should implement a blanket 30% affordable housing policy for all sites across the Borough, unless a site-specific viability appraisal suggests otherwise	
Staffordshire and Stoke integrated care board - The delivery of more accessible and adaptable dwellings will of course go some way to preventing falls within the home and provide a greater degree of independence for an ageing population therefore this approach is supported. Also contributes to the prevention of mental health problems.	
It is also noted that the policy does not make explicit reference to other forms of supported housing, including housing which meets the needs of people with a learning disability and autistic people. It is recommended this is incorporated at the next stage.	
Broadly supportive of affordable housing percentages A higher percentage of affordable homes is required	
As the population of the Borough is declining and ageing, then affordable housing should provide for single people and couples.	
Question the reduction from 30% to 15% for brownfield sites in low value zone	

Criteria 1a should be amended to indicate a percentage of affordable housing on Green Belt sites	
Criteria 2 of the policy requires the affordable housing to be whatever the Councils Housing Team decide to request. The policy should allow for flexibility and negotiation that reflects the site location and characteristics and not just the most up to date evidence of local housing need.	
Draft Policy HOU1 heavily restricts the delivery of notable affordable housing products, including affordable rent and shared ownership. Reassured to see that Part 2 of Draft Policy HOU 1 does allow for the tenure split to be discussed on a site-by-site basis and be appropriately evidenced to demonstrate local needs.	
Criteria 3 of the policy suggests that on-site affordable housing should be provided. In relation to providing off-site provision, it is unclear how off-site affordable housing could be secured through a planning application and Section 106 agreement relating to a different site, and therefore it is unclear what a developer would need to do to show compliance with the policy. Payment in lieu of affordable housing is the more typical approach to securing funds for affordable housing delivery elsewhere.	
Criteria 3 allows some flexibility concerning off-site affordable provision. The document refers to 'exceptional circumstances. Examples of exceptional circumstances should be provided in the policy.	
Part 4 of Draft Policy HOU1 seeks to secure affordable housing in perpetuity - There is currently nothing in the NPPF (2021), or within Planning Practice Guidance, that requires all affordable housing to be secured in perpetuity. Affordable housing should only be secured in perpetuity on rural exception sites.	
Criteria 6 – not clear what fair dispersal means - A better option would be for policy to refer to the need to balance the needs of registered affordable housing providers to manage tenure and distribution of dwellings against the benefits of pepper potting across the sites.	
Part 7(b) of Draft Policy HOU 1 should allow applicants to demonstrate local affordable housing needs for rural exception sites through sources	

such as the housing register and affordability indicators, in addition to local needs assessments and neighbourhood plan evidence bases which are already listed in the draft policy.	
Criteria 7(c) requires that exception sites only come forward where there are no other suitable and available sites within the Development Boundary of the village or rural centre. This is an unreasonable expectation and would frustrate the delivery of affordable housing.	
Part 7(e) states that an exception site should not exceed a maximum of 1 hectare in line with the definition of a small site. While footnote 7 specifies that in the context of Exception sites, small is defined as a site which should not exceed whichever is the lesser of 5% of the number of dwellings within the main built-up area of the village or 1 hectare, the Draft Local Plan Glossary does not set out what a small site is.	
Clause 7(G) contains too much uncertainty that will hinder the process of delivery. A developer will only undertake a FH scheme if they have available land, a landowner willing to sell at a reduced price and most importantly a strong belief that these homes they pay to build will be sold to a first home buyer. If there is in due course insufficient demand, then any linked S 106 will ensure these homes are then offered to an RSL.	
First Homes (FH) have the benefit for a developer in that they can be administered without the necessary involvement of an RSL, this makes them easier and simpler to administer and deliver. Their protection in perpetuity can be supported by a section 106 undertaking.	
It is assumed from the supporting text the Council intend to apply only the national First Homes eligibility criteria to First Homes within the authority area. This reflects the emphasis on entry-level homes outlined in paragraph 72 of the NPPF and demonstrates the Council's commitment to securing and supporting homes for first time buyers.	
Reference to £250,000 in paragraph 8.2 is not reflective of what a first-time buyer can afford.	
Dispute some of the boundaries for the high value area – for example Clayton, Westlands and Thistleberry should be included.	

Viability assessment does not appear to have tested products for older persons housing, and this should be made clear in the policy.	
If the points being made in the footnotes are substantial enough to need to be referenced in the policy, surely it is substantial enough to be included within the policy itself.	
Lack of emphasis on shared ownership products and social housing for rent.	
No support for a report to be verified by the council's own viability report simply because this ends up with a developer paying twice for reports because the council would require their reports to be paid for by a developer in addition to their own. The paragraph should read: <i>"Where it has been demonstrated with robust justification that the proportion of affordable housing sought would not be viable, the maximum proportion of affordable housing will be sought that does not undermine the development's viability. Financial viability assessments conforming to an agreed methodology from a list of at least 5 agreed assessors prepared by the council will be required. These will be paid for and instructed by applicants."</i>	
Audley Parish - emphasise the importance of affordable housing policy being applied consistently through the development management process	
Keele Parish - Should 1a be amended to indicate a percentage of affordable housing on Green Belt sites?	

19. Policy HOU2: Housing Mix, Density and Standards

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board - delivering healthcare within settings such as care homes and extra care facilities requires a collaborative approach.</p> <p>To deliver services within concentrated locations there will be, in some cases, the need to consider expansion of primary care estate capacity to accommodate the series of additional roles required to provide the multi-disciplinary team support needed for this service.</p>	<p>The council will review the policy wording and approach in the light of consultation responses received. The First Draft Local Plan was supported by detailed evidence including the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (2023). This considered matters such as the approach to overall housing requirements but also the needs of different groups of people / society including the requirement for affordable housing. The council has commissioned evidence in the form of an update to the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment to help inform the council's policy approach in the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan. This will consider matters including housing standards and homes for older people.</p> <p>Additional evidence on housing space standards will be collected for the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan.</p> <p>The approach in the final draft of the Local Plan will also be informed by revisions made to the National Planning Policy Framework which was published on the 19 December 2023.</p>
<p>Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board – It is also noted that the policy does not make explicit reference to other forms of supported housing, including housing which meets the needs of people with a learning disability and autistic people. The ICB understands that DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) are commissioning independent research to understand the size, cost and demand of this sector with findings due towards the end of 2023. It is recommended that these findings are incorporated within the Plan</p>	
<p>The use of the word 'should' and not 'must' is supported. It provides the flexibility necessary.</p>	
<p>Criteria 1 The Councils approach to optimising densities is discussed in paragraphs 5.11 - 5.15 of the Exceptional Circumstances for Green Belt Release (2023) report.</p> <p>There seems to be a difference in the density being sought and paragraph 5.13 of the Green Belt exceptional circumstances report. Furthermore, this means that more greenfield / Green Belt release will be needed to meet the requirements in the rural areas. Recommend that they are reviewed to ensure that they are appropriate for each area / site, and that the evidential basis is clear.</p>	
<p>Criteria 1 should be amended as follows: 1. Residential development proposals will be expected to achieve the following net densities, unless</p>	

the considerations outlined at criteria 2 indicate that an alternative residential density would be more appropriate	
Criteria 1 - The density formula could work against balanced and diverse new housing across the Borough – different densities in urban and rural areas.	
Criteria 1 - The Local Plan must reassure residents that more housing per hectare will not produce poorly designed, inferior homes and environments	
Criteria 1 - The reference to density requirements in neighbourhood plans is welcomed, but should be amended to refer to densities or 'other design requirements'	
Criteria 1 - the first sentence of criteria 1 should be amended as follows: [Note: text in brackets to be added] 1. Residential development proposals will be expected to achieve the following net densities (unless the considerations outlined at criteria 2 indicate that an alternative residential density would be more appropriate);	
Criteria 1 of this policy is compromised by the loss of the District Centre category - With Silverdale included in the Strategic Centre of Newcastle the proposed development of 40 – 50 dwellings per hectare.	
Criteria 3 - suggested that either criteria 3 is amended to simply require housing mix or be provided in accordance with the latest evidence of need	
Criteria 3 – not clear whether this is a requirement or a guide	
Criteria 3 - Provision needs to be made in an ageing community for Pensioners bungalows	
Criteria 3 - The thresholds as set out regarding tenure mix and percentage of bedroom mix should not be arbitrarily applied. Flexibility will be important in the application of the policy.	
Criteria 3 should be amended to simply require housing mix to be provided in accordance with the latest evidence of need or site-specific considerations / constraints.	

Criteria 3 - Additionally, and instead of the use of the word 'bungalow' can this be replaced with 'housing suitable for older people'. This will allow for lifetime homes.	
Criteria 3 - The market mix tested within the Viability Appraisal differs significantly from that set out in criteria 3	
Criteria 3 requires all major housing development sites to contain a mix of types and sizes including for elderly people. However, this requirement would have implications for smaller development sites of 10 units as such small sites may not be able to deliver elderly accommodation in the form of bungalows etc if there are other design constraints that need to be considered	
Criteria 3 of this policy references the need to consider the specific housing needs of older people. It is unclear what is meant by the wording 'having regard to location and site size' within the policy. Further details and explanation about this should be provided in the supporting text.	
Criteria 3 - The prescribed mix in the policy is unduly restrictive and would prevent the delivery of aspirational houses on smaller sites	
Criteria 3 - The evidence within the HENA supports the decision to have 75-80% of new residential development as houses, with the evidence suggesting a requirement of 76% as houses. However, the HENA caveats this, and states that this data continues to represent only illustrative modelling using available evidence and should not be prescribed as an explicit requirement for all sites given the need to respond to changing market demands, local context and viability factors.	
Criteria 3 - If general density prescriptive requirements are imposed in such matters, and which we consider are best left as general guidance (rather than strict policies!) and the marketplace	
Criteria 4 - National Described Space Standards – should consider transitional arrangements	
Criteria 4 - There are concerns that the blanket application of the NDSS across all residential development, including affordable tenures, will undermine the viability of many development schemes. It is not essential for all dwellings to achieve these standards to provide good quality living.	

For affordable housing, there may be instances where achieving NDSS is impractical and unnecessary.	
Criteria 4 - At present the Draft Local Plan evidence base does not justify the need to apply NDSS across all residential development in the terms of the planning practice guidance – Need, Viability and Timing	
Criteria 4 - We would suggest amendment of clause 4 to refer to 'meet or exceed' Nationally described space standards.	
Criteria 5 - With just 9% of the housing stock in England having basic access features, we know that too many disabled and older people are living in unsuitable housing, which can impact on their ability to live independently. This is why inclusive, accessible homes are a must for everyone	
Criteria 5 - supports this policy and recommends that all new homes meet Building Regulations M4 Category 2 accessible and adaptable standard homes to meet the needs of disabled and older people in Newcastle-under-Lyme	
Criteria 6 requires major developments and specialist housing for older people 10% There may be a need to differentiate between Part a) and part b) of M4(3) technical standards. The glossary may be an appropriate place to set this out as a definition, or it could be appropriately referenced via a footnote.	
Criteria 6 - recommends that 10% of all new homes meet Part M4 (3) Standard (wheelchair user dwelling) irrespective of being major developments or specialist housing	
Criteria 6 of the Draft Policy requires major residential developments and specialist housing for older people to provide 10% of the dwellings as Building Regulations Part M4 (3)(2)(a) wheelchair adaptable dwellings. Opportunity is taken to remind the council of the viability implications of such policies	
Criteria 7 - Amend point 7 Specialist housing for older people or people with special need will be supported provided that: a. (delete) b. It is designed to meet the requirements of residents with a particular focus on social, physical, mental and / or health care needs; and c. The scheme	

has good access to public transport, healthcare, shopping and other community facilities for its residents, their visitors and on-site workers The above amendments would provide a more positive policy support for much needed older persons housing	
Criteria 7 - why is justification required, A developer will only build a costly C2 development for older people if they believe there is a market.	
Policy addition There is growing evidence that many people wish to grow more of their food at home and in a trend for organic food. Modern housing layouts neither provide for allotments to serve their residents or for gardens of sufficient size to allow for more than minimum play and recreation space.	
It is notable that the viability study tested 5 scenarios for residential development. None of these included 1-bed units, nor all of M4(3) dwelling costs. This can all impact on viability.	
The Parish Council at Madeley are concerned to ensure that the relevant housing need is met. The trend within Madeley Parish has been for developments of larger family houses to be constructed and provided for ownership and/or shared ownership schemes in respect of the provision for affordable housing elements. The Parish Council consider that the housing need in the area is for increased availability of social rental properties as families are finding themselves forced to leave the area due to a lack of availability of suitable properties which is detrimental to the development of family units within the Parish boundaries.	
The policy is not clear as to whether sheltered housing and extra care housing would fall into the definition of C2 or C3 or not or whether the Council is supportive of sheltered, extra care as well more specialist older persons housing such as care homes.	
It is unclear what the status of the footnotes are. Any potential for confusion or misunderstanding in policy wording should be avoided.	
Audley Parish - The reference to density requirements in neighbourhood plans (Clause 1) is welcomed but should be amended to refer to densities or 'other design requirements. The reference to neighbourhood plans in clause	

3 is also noted. We would suggest amendment of clause 4 to refer to 'meet or exceed' Nationally described space standards.	
Keele Parish Council - Point 1 of this policy is compromised by the loss of the District Centre category.	
As any development of Keele Golf Course would be a major development can we assume that this policy would result in 40% of the homes being 1-2 bedroomed and 20-25% being bungalows or flats?	
Regarding point 7 we would expect all development in the Borough to be sustainable and therefore provide "good access to public transport, healthcare, shopping..."	
We would like to know the evidence that will be sought to justify the need for Class C2 accommodation and how "good access to public transport etc" will be assessed.	
Bradwell, Porthill, Maybank and Wolstanton Parish - There is not enough about diversity of house supply (particularly affordable and smaller properties).	

20. Policy HOU 3: Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Environment Agency - The intentions of this policy may be better delivered through the allocation of specific sites to support the Gypsy/ Traveller communities.	<p>The council prepared evidence in the form of a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment and an interim Gypsy and Traveller Interim Site Selection Report (2023) for the First Draft Local Plan. The council will build upon the initial evidence base and inform the council's policy position in the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan.</p> <p>The approach in the final draft of the Local Plan will also be informed by revisions made to Planning Policy for Traveller Sites which was published on the 19 December 2023.</p>
Environment Agency - Land use in this respect could be considered highly vulnerable or more vulnerable in terms of its flood risk classification, depending upon the permanent /temporary nature of the associated pitches.	
Environment Agency - Sites should have regard for the protection of groundwater and ensure appropriate provision of utilities and services including foul drainage arrangements to minimise pollution to the water environment and avoid proliferation of non-mains drainage	
Policy wording section 2.g: "Make provision for waste to be stored appropriately for disposal and be collected in an efficient manner" – this should also include provision for recycling.	
Historic England - welcome the reference to heritage. If the Council decides to allocate sites we will respond specifically at that time.	
Staffordshire Police - It is recommended that reference to the document Places we are proud of A Short Guide to Providing and Managing Sites for Gypsies and Travellers (National Policy Advisory Panel on Gypsy and Traveller Housing, 2021) is included in related documents	
A site already exists at Cemetery Road	
Criteria 1 - note that in 2020, the Borough Council and Stoke City Council conducted an assessment which confirmed that for the period 2020/21 through to 2036/37, 8 permanent pitches would be needed. To date planning permission for 4 pitches has been given, plus approval for 1 other pitch. It is regrettable that the Borough Council is still not able to identify a complete complement of sites and this issue remains outstanding.	
The new local plan should ensure suitable provision for future sites, to prevent future contested planning applications in unsustainable rural locations. Concerned at the rejection of all suggested sites.	

Support future location of traveller sites which are only in sustainable locations - close to public transport, local amenities and urban services.	
The site should be considered for transit provision – reference made to the position in Warrington	
Maer & Aston Parish – Supports that Blackbank cannot be expanded due to location	

21. Employment

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Opportunities could exist in utilising warehousing developments to accommodate solar panels, rather than taking up additional land for this purpose	The council will review the policy wording and approach in the light of consultation responses received. The First Draft Local Plan was supported by detailed evidence including the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (2023). This considered matters such as the approach toward and need for additional employment land in the Borough. The council has commissioned evidence in the form of an update to the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment to help inform the council's policy approach in the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan.
Historic England - Recommendation made to reference to the role of heritage tourism and how it can be beneficial for economic development as well as to assist in maintaining heritage assets.	
Opposition to the inclusion of strategic employment sites as a component of the overall development strategy (regarding PSD1)	
Inclusion of the strategic employment sites would far exceed the identified hectareage of local need. The availability of existing premises & the scale of proposals and units is also questioned. In-commuting from outside the Borough allied to transport network issues (including road safety, pollution & construction vehicles movements) were highlighted. Impacts on neighbouring housing & existing residents. Infrastructure pressures & loss of countryside. Serve to attract high carbon industries.	
Keele Science Park is regarded as an asset to the Borough & its extension would provide highly skilled jobs, as well as taking advantage of its links to the Borough's strategic core in terms of travel and economic benefits. Opportunities also to create high quality design and satisfy the aspirations of business as well as facilitate high-value economic growth.	
The employment sites in Appendix 2 are welcomed & will allow economic growth in the Borough. The absence of such sites would make the area less desirable, offer few job prospects and not attract outside investors	

22. Policy EMP1: Employment

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Perceived vagueness of policy wording leaves the Council vulnerable to inappropriate development.	The council will review the policy wording and approach in the light of consultation responses received. The First Draft Local Plan was supported by detailed evidence including the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (2023). This considered matters such as the approach toward and need for additional employment land in the Borough. The council has commissioned evidence in the form of an update to the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment to help inform the council's policy approach in the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan.
Identifying sites for industrial or commercial development is essential for the Boroughs future prosperity and a mix of sites, differing in size and location, should feature in the Local Plan. New strategic employment sites should avoid a piecemeal or ad hoc approach to development by adopting a masterplan approach, which should be vetted by the Council prior to commencement of any works.	
The area might not be any further advanced industrially/economically than it was ten years ago, under the current Development Plan. Additionally, the work force is heavily weighted in favour of 'clean' industries un/semi-skilled industries.	
Provision should be made at the outset for at least two strategic employment sites. With reference to representations made elsewhere, the preferred sites in this regard should be AB2 and KL15	

<p>Employment development more generally should not be on Green Belt land. Significant opposition to development on AB2 for reasons including it is unlikely to generate significant employment for the residents of the borough. The proximity to the M6 with links to Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Merseyside and the West Midlands means it is more likely to pull in a workforce from those areas than from the borough given the limited public transport options. Site will significantly increase the flow of traffic in and around an area that is already regularly problematically congested and has a knock effect to the local roads of the village (Audley). Exceptional circumstances for its development do not exist. Would create low skilled & low paid jobs and the suggested number of roles that would be established is felt to be exaggerated. Automation may take over these roles in the medium term. The challenges of this site as highlighted in the Local Plan Issues & Options are valid. There is not an under-supply of employment land or broader employment issues in the Borough. If HENA implies a need for between 36.5 and 68.8 hectares of employment land, why are strategic options which far exceed these figures being considered? Other development such as Chatterley Valley are already coming forward. Uses would be carbon intensive. Flood risk. Unsustainable location on the edge of the Borough.</p>	
<p>Greater recognition should be made of the changes that occurred because of COVID, on home working and the need for very local facilities to support home-based (or partly home-based) workers.</p>	
<p>The policy has an urban focus & an additional clause should be added to support agricultural diversification and agri-business. There should also be recognition of the importance of micro and small business development, including creative and knowledge-based activities. Much economic activity is based on SMEs (Small to Medium Enterprise).</p>	

Staffordshire County Council - The policy wording should place a greater emphasis on the requirement for high quality sustainable transport connections.	
Staffordshire County Council - No recognition is made of the needs of freight and the requirement for local planning authorities to plan for freight. The site AB2 is for distribution/manufacturing and therefore consideration of adequate lorry parking and welfare facilities will be critical. It is noted that there is a proposal for lorry parking associated to this site within the employment site assessment report, however the policy should contain wording requiring lorry parking/welfare facilities for large employment sites to ensure consistency for future sites/applications that come forward during the plan period.	
Support for the growth ambitions of Keele University, including the extension to the Science Park as referred to via site reference KL13, and the details expressed in the University's Masterplan. It is felt this would bring high skilled jobs and support the Borough's Local Plan strategic objective of growing employment.	
Strategic employment locations (if allocated) are likely to take a significant time to be built out and would not come forward within the period of a referred to business' expansion plans (which would be needed in the very early stage of the Local Plan time horizon). It is considered those strategic sites would be more likely to fulfil a different employment need; relating to more logistical employment uses.	
Whilst there is no objection with a policy which supports the expansion and intensification of existing employment sites, it is considered that in the absence of an allocation for White Rock (area defined on a map) as a designated employment site, this policy would be unsound. Technical reports to highlight the mitigation of ecology and contamination issues on the site are also provided. Arguments made as to open space accessibility improvements & the stance on Green Belt.	
Employment sites in the local area of Audley & Bignall End have been mismanaged previously and these under-utilised areas should be	

revisited in the first instance. Reductions in the population further justify this stance.	
<p>Audley Parish - APC would like to see greater recognition of the changes that occurred as a consequence of COVID, in particular on home working and the need for very local facilities to support home-based (or partly home-based) workers.</p> <p>The policy does have an urban focus. An additional clause should be added to support agricultural diversification and agri-business.</p> <p>There should also be recognition of the importance of micro and small business development, including creative and knowledge-based activities.</p> <p>Much economic activity is based on SMEs.</p>	

23. Retail

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Historic England - We recommend including a reference to the role of heritage tourism and how it can be beneficial for economic development as well as to assist in maintaining heritage assets.	The council will review the policy approach toward retail, commerce and retail centres in the light of consultation responses received in preparing the regulation 19 version of the Local Plan and other relevant evidence.
Village retail is a must for elderly people & in reduction of pollution in travelling into town.	
More parking provision is needed for businesses especially if Audley village is to grow further in size.	
Over time, shopping has evolved, with people preferring local supermarkets and internet shopping. Most villages have sufficient shops that are just local small outlets, and this is quite sufficient for most villages in the area.	
The plan should focus on renewing town centres, converting above shops or empty buildings, and reducing antisocial behaviour by incorporating residential areas and improving public transport links.	
Audley Parish – Policy seemingly based on outdated assumptions	

24. Policy RET 1: Retail

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
The need for more shops is questioned due to the existence of 20-30 vacant shops in Hanley and Newcastle.	The council will review the policy approach in response to the issues raised through the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan. It is intended that evidence on retail boundaries will be prepared to support the proposals contained within the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan.
Policy not easy to understand for the public.	
Newcastle and Kidsgrove, once popular shopping and coffee spots, require extensive work to revive their vibrancy, attract visitors, and create attractive apartments.	
Concerns on the impact that the Roebuck Centre and Castle Walk have had on the historic town centre.	
No reference to Wolstanton Retail Park and how the Plan would relate to changes to the Retail Park.	
Rural centre car parks are often full. More traffic would make it worse.	
Policy RET1 should acknowledge that there are the bones of a local centre alongside the administrative boundary between the borough and the city of Stoke-on-Trent in Packmoor/ Newchapel. The proposals for Bent Farm include a small parade that would include a convenience store and other small-scale units which would add to this and thus create a Local Centre.	
Concerns that this policy is based on outdated assumptions. Use Class E includes retail but also a range of other uses. There is a current emphasis on diversification of high streets, a better policy heading may be “Town and Village Centres and High Streets”. High Streets rely on a mix of retail, food and drink, recreation, cultural uses, community facilities and other local facilities. Considering the importance of limiting negative impacts from out-of-town retail.	
The council should focus on providing more diverse retail options in Newcastle town centre, addressing vacant shops and stalls. They should oppose the development of new retail areas and preserve existing areas to drive foot traffic, as physical shopping declines due to the pandemic and online retail modernisation.	

<p>The section on retail in PSD 2 is confusing due to the absence of certain facilities for rural retail centres, such as Keele, which lacks the necessary facilities, it is not clear which facilities provided by the University and the village together make it a Rural Centre.</p> <p>Silverdale, recognised as a Retail District Centre, is consumed in other sections of the plan as part of the Urban Centre.</p> <p>A consistent settlement hierarchy and allocation are needed for the plan to be fit for purpose. More focus should be placed on urban strategic centre regeneration to encourage retail growth.</p>	
<p>Keele Parish - The Role and Tiers in Table 2 do not match those in the settlement hierarchy in PSD 2. Keele is missing altogether in this section, as it obviously does not have the retail facilities needed for a rural retail centre. If this is the case, then it is not clear which facilities provided by the University and the village together make it a Rural Centre.</p>	

25. Infrastructure and Transport

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>Suggestions as to how emissions could be curbed via highways improvements in Kidsgrove. As part of this, electric vehicles can be incredibly supportive to the energy infrastructure in the local area with the progress being made on vehicle to grid technology. Public transport's important role in utilising hybrid & electric technologies is also highlighted, with prospective sanctions for those highly polluting vehicles that remain.</p>	<p>The First Draft Local Plan was informed by transport and infrastructure evidence including the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The council will update the IDP to inform the proposals included in the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan.</p> <p>It is intended that additional transport evidence will be commissioned and prepared to inform the policies and approach to allocations in the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan. This will include a Strategic Transport Assessment.</p> <p>A level 1 strategic flood risk assessment was prepared in 2019. This document will be updated to inform the regulation 19 version of the Local Plan.</p>
<p>National Highways -Sites have been identified from the Policies Map that may have the potential to impact the operation of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in the area. Should any of the sites be allocated in the final Local Plan, further assessment work may be required to ascertain the impact (including the cumulative consequences) on the SRN and to determine the need for mitigation. Recommendation is made that a Strategic Transport Assessment (STA) be produced to support the development of the Local Plan. Allied to this, establishing a Transport Working Group (TWG) to agree the methodology, assessments and infrastructure requirements to aid the plans development & adoption would be beneficial. Engagement with surrounding districts in identifying the most strategic, high-level schemes will be valuable through mechanisms such as Statements of Common Ground.</p>	
<p>United Utilities - Support is requested of the Council for future investment in infrastructure to be able to expediently respond to the infrastructure needs. Important to ensure that any required upgrades and expansions to protected areas (such as Green Belt & Open Countryside) can be made to meet the infrastructure requirements of proposed future development in the region and future environmental drivers. The Environment Act 2021 places an obligation on sewerage undertakers</p> <p>England to secure a progressive reduction in the adverse impacts of discharges from storm overflows to reduce the impacts on the environment and public health. Policy wording for this & to provide wider</p>	

support for water and wastewater infrastructure investment that is beneficial to the environment, biodiversity, watercourses and growth is advocated.	
United Utilities - The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will need to ensure it identifies any sites that are in a location that is at risk of flooding from a reservoir.	
Concerns at the pressures on existing infrastructure, such as highways, public transport & GP services. Individual development needs have not been fully assessed to understand that the relevant infrastructure is available to support them & that it could be viable for existing communities.	
Audley specific issues highlighted include parking difficulties given the narrow streets & traffic issues being exacerbated by the recently reduced public transport services to the village. Over-subscribed schools & at capacity doctors and dentists.	
Newchapel & Mow Cop specific issues (regarding Site Refs NC13 & NC77) include: –Infrastructure including sewage capacity, public transport (including the benefits of improved connectivity to Kidsgrove Railway Station), wider green infrastructure (including carbon capture), traffic & road network repercussions (such as at Pennyfields Road), plus over-subscribed doctors & primary schools. Proposals do not accord with Local Plan policies IN1, IN2 & SE1. Consider development at Talke Pits & only look to bring forward development in is locality once other options have been exhausted.	
Silverdale Parish - Site Allocations for SP11, SP12 and SP23 have considerable implications for infrastructure, and it is difficult to envisage development occurring without major improvements and new roundabouts	

26. Policy IN1: Infrastructure

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>Recognise the need to secure the funding of infrastructure that is directly related in scale and kind, and which is necessary to make development acceptable in planning terms. However, it is noted that the local healthcare trusts often request contributions towards healthcare provision, however such contributions should be justified and transparent. On this point, the Council should consider recent case law in Worcestershire in formulating a policy for the provision of healthcare contributions and what such contributions should contribute towards, taking account of the statutory framework for funding NHS services. The Council's approach to securing healthcare contributions and what those contributions can be used for should be clearly set out in Local Plan policy so that it is clear and transparent to health care providers, developers, elected Members and residents.</p>	<p>The First Draft Local Plan was informed by transport and infrastructure evidence including the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The council will update the infrastructure delivery plan to inform the proposals included in the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan. Additional transport evidence will be prepared to inform the proposals and policy approach included in the Plan.</p>
<p>Audley specific issues highlighted include: Road infrastructure is not suitable for an increase in local & commercial traffic; parking limited with location suggestions for increased provision – will there be measures to mitigate the extra demand?; further EV (Electric Vehicle) charging points required; public transport is very limited – will new development improve this?; greater waiting times & potentially reduced standards for medical services; provisions required from the local authority to reflect an increased population and help guard against issues such as anti-social behaviour worsening; provision for additional pensioner bungalows, the need for improved footpath & road maintenance; brownfield sites should be built on before Green Belt land; capacity at the Severn Trent water treatment plant off Alsager Road; adversely affect flood risk & climate change impacts (exacerbated by the geology of the area and the number of springs); capacity of existing services and where would any new school & medical facilities be located (with reference to para 20 of the NPPF & the proposals for TK30 & CT1)? – will this further impact the Green Belt?; the village needs high-speed broadband; will the electricity supply cope with serving the new dwellings?; appropriate access on to proposed</p>	

<p>residential sites is problematic; cumulative harm with areas such as Red St; harm to wildlife & historic hedgerows; increased pollution & air quality issues; recreational value of sites; who will be employed in AB2 – likely travel from further afield; availability of similar warehouse schemes nearby; low value jobs; amenity impacts with 24 hour operations; capacity of J16, M6 & scope for rat runs through the village; proposals driven by developer aspirations rather than a local need; warehousing unit development does not fit with the wider green agenda.</p>	
<p>Environment Agency - Welcome the detail within this policy that requires development to provide contributions towards or direct provision of flood prevention and surface water drainage. The need is highlighted for new development to contribute toward the upgrade and / or maintenance of existing flood prevention schemes where there is a direct / indirect benefit from these being in place. Financial contributions should also extend toward the running of flood warning and flood alert services.</p>	
<p>Keele & Silverdale specific issues highlighted include Doctor & teacher recruitment could be challenging, even if new facilities are developed. School place availability & getting medical appointments are also concerns. More investment would be required as a minimum, with it essential that the appropriate infrastructure is in place for any development to be successful. The large number of houses currently planned for the former Keele Golf Course and its environs will overload not only the existing transport infrastructure, but also utilities, education and health care. Flooding & nitrate issues. Silverdale has two main roads through the village –i.e. Mill Street/High Street and Newcastle Street/Church Street/Sneyd Terrace. The origins of these roads date from 1850s and have not been widened since and do not have the capacity for widening. The current retail area known as the Parade is already too small (with limited parking) & Silverdale itself is not large enough to cope with development of the scale proposed. What level of disruption can be expected during the building of houses and the necessary infrastructure?</p>	

<p>Transport planning is dependent on historic information covering the period from 2011 and other data for 2016. It is difficult to detect any meaningful comment that explains how infrastructure within the western wards of Keele, Thistleberry and Silverdale will be enhanced to facilitate the growth in population over 2020-40. The Infrastructure Baseline report (2021) mentions, for example, improvement to Silverdale Pumping Station, but for social infrastructure and physical infrastructure there is no detail at the district level. A direct assessment of the implications of the net allocations at Keele, University and Silverdale on traffic flows at A525 and B5368 during the current consultation might alleviate concerns about potential traffic congestion in the future.</p>	
<p>TB19 (Land South of Newcastle Golf Club): Kingsbridge Medical Practice states their own operational situation and the implications of potential development. It is asserted that the Council / Local Plan / Developer / ICB will need to provide full funding for the necessary expansion of the practice because of TB19 being developed. This includes equipment, furnishing and any associated expenses. Recruiting additional staff may be a challenge also. If support for expansion is not provided consideration would be given to moving their practice boundary to exclude the development.</p>	
<p>Loggerheads specific issues highlighted include Limited employment opportunities in the village means significant out-commuting; poor bus services; development in this locality does not align with the transport & accessibility policy of the Local Plan.</p>	
<p>With specific reference to Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), it is asked that greater consideration is given to ensure that CIL contributions are properly applied to relevant planning applications. Based on the overall scale and scope of development which has taken place within Loggerheads Parish over recent years, what is the threshold for integrating improvements, enhancements and augmentations to infrastructure, amenities, and services? The reference to an existing Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) is noted, but cannot see how this is relevant to Loggerheads Parish or where it has been applied?</p>	

Furthermore, there is not mention within this policy of plans to develop Retail Outlets, sports and recreation facilities, parks and play areas or car parking. A copy of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, with specific reference to Loggerheads Parish, is requested as soon as practicable.	
This policy will in the future be an important consideration for proposals that could increase the use of facilities or affect assets, in particular parts 4 and 7. These elements of the policy should look to be retained within the final version.	
The document is silent on whether a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is intended (or not intended) to be introduced. No reference is made to HS2 nor is its route reflected on the interactive map.	
Agree with the statement given in paragraph 11.3 that “good infrastructure planning is essential to achieving a high quality of development” and welcome the adoption of an Infrastructure Development Plan. The Local Plan should make it clear that developers will be expected to contribute to the cost of improving or replacing existing infrastructure and enforce the policy through Section 106 agreements.	
No mention of carbon or other emissions anywhere except in the supporting information, which is especially significant given the Council has declared a climate emergency.	
Policy IN 1 does not recognise the role that 100% affordable housing schemes make towards affordable housing provision. There is no scope currently to reduce the level of planning obligations for 100% affordable housing where viability is an issue. There needs to be greater policy direction to allow registered providers to reduce their planning obligations. Further policy criteria & guidance is explicitly highlighted as suggested amendments to address these issues.	
Greater clarity is needed on how the infrastructure pressures will be addressed in practice.	
The level of infrastructure work is needed be calculated before deciding on which sites are the most appropriate (both individually and combined	

when in one settlement/community)? This mismatch will impact on both the viability of any development and on the local community.	
Suggest that in paragraph 4 the reference to 'Health care provision' is linked to the Glossary definition of 'Infrastructure' and expanded upon (within the Glossary) to make clear that health provision extends beyond GP capacity. As of the 1 July 2022 the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICS was established and formalised as a legal entity with statutory powers and responsibilities. Statutory ICSs are comprised of two key components: integrated care boards and integrated care partnerships. It should be noted that infrastructural requirements can span across the various partner services, such as primary care networks (including physical and digital infrastructural requirements) and therefore the term health should be understood in this context from both a policy and decision-making perspective.	
CT1 (Land at Red Street and High Carr Farm, Chesterton): Appropriate levels of infrastructure support for a development of the size proposed is going to be impossible, especially in school places and primary healthcare.	
Red Street, Chesterton, Bignall End, Talke and Bradwell specific issues highlighted include in addition to the problem of the full schools in the area, additional houses will place further strains on the other facilities such as doctors, Library and Community Centre. Additional houses will impact adversely on the road system & safety. The roads through the area have road calming measures installed, indicating an already present problem with traffic volume. Increased pollution made worse by removal of hedges and trees which promote Co2 absorption and reduce pollution levels. Concerns as pedestrians have not got access to footpaths and local buses no longer create a network to adjoin the villages.	
Historic England - Would welcome a reference to the historic environment within Clause 4 and how improvements to heritage assets, public realm improvements, local distinctiveness art and interpretation etc. would be beneficial to a local area.	

Whilst 4c mentions drainage, there needs to be a commitment to ensure that where major development sites link to existing drainage that may be inadequate that there is procedure which guarantees funding to improve the existing drainage system. Where relevant, inspection of current drainage will be necessary before planning permission is given for major new housing.	
Kidsgrove specific issues highlighted including making sure that suitable and satisfactory infrastructure is in place for any new housing or business sites, e.g. schools, health and medical services, public transport, well maintained roads, public services.	
Gladman support the policy's intention to secure developer contributions for infrastructure and facilities, subject to viability. Would also welcome an inclusion into the supporting text for negotiation regarding contributions when a development is rendered unviable by a proposed planning obligation. This ensures this policy is not restrictive and has an appropriate level of flexibility to allow sustainable development sites to come forward.	
United Utilities - Any growth needs to be carefully planned to ensure new infrastructure provision does not cause any unexpected delays to development delivery. The full details of the development proposals are not yet known. For example, the detail of the drainage proposals or the water supply requirements. As a result, it is important to highlight that in the absence of such detail, it cannot be fully concluded the impact on infrastructure over a number of 5-year investment periods and therefore, as more detail becomes available, it may be necessary to co-ordinate the timing for the delivery of development with the timing for delivery of infrastructure. Recommendation is made to include a development management policy with suggested wording to IN1 to this effect, as well as requiring applicants to provide drainage strategies for foul and surface water. For strategic sites, early consideration should be given to the infrastructure strategy as part of the preparation of the local plan and to ensure a co-ordinated approach to delivery.	
Site specific comments to NC13 (Land West of	

<p>Bullockhouse Road, Harriseahead): Infrastructure including sewage capacity, public transport (including the benefits of improved connectivity to Kidsgrove Railway Station), wider green infrastructure (including carbon capture), traffic & road network repercussions (such as at Pennyfields Road). Proposals do not accord with Local Plan policies IN1, IN2 & SE1. Consider development at Talke Pits & only look to bring forward development in this locality once other options have been exhausted.</p>	
<p>Residents concern as to the potential impacts on traffic flows, construction congestion, inconvenience and noise, impact on local services and effects on the natural habitats for wildlife, when there is perceived to be no information to discuss. If site proposals had been provided that show plans for the development site illustrating road layouts, screening proposals, transport link proposals, Section 106 payments (which can be used for improving or preserving local amenities during and following development), actual school placement numbers and provisions to provide these places, alongside the projected increase in footfall to local shops, pubs / restaurants and facilities, then there would be a discussion on the finer points of a plan, less stress for locally affected residents, less stress for councillors faced with irate locals at any consultations and, most likely, a balanced and more contextually objective consultation. This complete contextual and transparent consultation outcome will also provide a comprehensive list of Developer Contributions for a site, or a collection of sites in any affected area, and where the money will be used, again minimising discussions and delays in pre-application advice as well as maintaining transparency and integrity for NULBC and other local authorities. Reference is also made to the perceived deficiencies and ambiguities of the Local Plan evidence base including the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Implications of the residential & commercial development within Audley are difficult to discern especially for the communities affected. A lack of mitigation & abatement measures including those from the promoters of AB2. The site at AB2 has very limited potential for sustainable transport facilities as</p>	

no bus or train service will invest in new services until a demand has been identified and proven to meet their service provision criteria. The developer of any site should be mandated to provide this information to enhance the consultation with residents of the local area.	
Policy IN1 seems contradictory and not in line with expert thinking on energy efficiency or getting to grips with solutions. Making electricity an all-encompassing fuel resource might not be the answer, given the limitations and capacity of the National Grid. Using up reserve fossil fuels in the short-term is not a sustainable solution either. Until local and national authorities can come to grips with improving public transport, especially in rural areas, people will continue to use their cars.	
The housing shortage is a national problem, which every Council has an obligation to provide a solution to this crisis. The local plan should be robust and have a clear evidence-based indication of how it can provide the housing numbers as required. It may therefore be necessary, as an exceptional circumstance, to utilise part of the greenbelt to fulfil these obligations. Wider points regarding the purpose and review of Green Belt and its merits as a designation are also made. Those areas across the country that are actively farmed should be ring-fenced to protect the future of green spaces and farming industries and to protect the ability to produce the nation's own food sources.	
Natural England - Welcome the inclusion of green infrastructure and biodiversity net gain within this policy and advise that a link is also made to the Nature Recovery Network.	
Loggerheads Parish - With specific reference to Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), Council asks that greater consideration is given to ensure that CIL contributions are properly applied to relevant planning applications.	
CPRE Staffordshire - The document appears to be silent on whether a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is intended (or not intended) to be introduced.	

27. Policy IN2: Transport and Accessibility

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>Audley specific issues highlighted include: Provision for additional pensioner bungalows, better village centre parking, the need for improved footpath maintenance, road safety (including for existing residents, pedestrians & cyclists on narrow highways such as Park Lane, Moat Lane and Barthomley Road) and capability to cope with increased traffic levels (what steps will be taken to mitigate this?) including wider accessibility to services & facilities impacts & concerns at reduced public transport availability. Construction traffic & large vehicle movements, (including at M6 & A500 junctions) if AB2 were to be developed. Doctor & dentists at capacity. Greater carbon footprint impacts, pollution, flood risk and climate change issues.</p>	<p>The First Draft Local Plan was informed by transport and infrastructure evidence including the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The council will update the infrastructure delivery plan to inform the proposals included in the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan. Additional transport evidence will be prepared to inform the proposals and policy approach included in the Plan.</p>
<p>The emphasis on sustainable and active travel (walking and cycling) is welcomed. A particular concern, however, is over the need for better public transport in rural areas.</p>	
<p>Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce are developing a business case to open a new rail station on the West Coast Mainline at Etruria Valley, close to the new Etruria Valley Link Road, just to the east of the A500 and accessed off Lowfield Drive. The west side of the proposed station would sit inside the boundary of Newcastle under Lyme. We wish to identify this site as an opportunity for a transport hub and associated facilities within the Local Plan. Would welcome collaboration with Stoke with regards to infrastructure to maximise connectivity between North Staffordshire and the HS2 hub at Crewe.</p>	
<p>Loggerheads specific issues highlighted include Limited employment opportunities in the village mean significant out-commuting, with the distance to main centres such as Newcastle & Crewe making travel by car the only option. Very limited public transport options (both in scheduling and places it links to). Very limited local services that are easily accessible and, in many cases, require a car journey. S106 payments for granted planning applications remain outstanding in some cases (with it queried</p>	

as to what the Council will do to address this) and there has been no fresh infrastructure provided to satisfy increased demands from new development and is therefore contradictory to some aspects of this policy. Development in this locality does not align with the transport & accessibility policy of the Local Plan.	
Loggerheads Parish - Council requests detailed information as to how the abovementioned considerations can be retrospectively applied to Loggerheads Parish, and detailed information concerning how these can be implemented for the benefit of Loggerheads Parish going forward.	
With specific reference to LW53, support is given to the aim of this draft Policy, but it is again considered contradictory in terms of its selection as a preferred site and the proposal to expand Loggerheads further by building additional dwellings within the village. It is also pointed out that the draft Integrated Transport Strategy is focused exclusively on the urban core areas of Newcastle and Kidsgrove, has little if any reference to or relevance for rural communities, is now largely out of date (published 2015) and is of itself not consistent with the policy IN2 proposed in the draft plan.	
The Draft Plan proposes to place a significant number of houses in the surrounding locality of Red Street, Chesterton, Bignall End, Talke and Bradwell which all draw on the same road networks & this brings into question road safety (through the narrow roads, absence of pathways for pedestrians & exacerbated existing speeding vehicle issues) as well as flows of traffic onto the A500 & A34, and the limited public transport options.	
National Highways - The points set out in the policy are welcomed and acknowledgement is given that all developments likely to generate significant traffic will be accompanied by a Transport Assessment and a Travel Plan.	
The policy will be an important consideration for proposals that could increase the use of the Canal & River Trust's facilities or affect their assets, in particular parts 6 and 7. Accordingly, they would wish these	

elements of the policy to remain within the final version of the Local Plan.	
Advances in transport technology could influence the sustainability of sites going forward owing to reduced greenhouse gasses & pollution. This should be factored into consideration of development sites.	
The existing road network for commuters from the proposed site CT1 (Red St, Chesterton) is already saturated. The proposed development will simply add to existing congestion, pollution and the use of "rat runs" through surrounding urban areas.	
Position stated that there was nothing to object to in the Local Plan as far as it directly affected the Neighbourhood Plan area. Wider issues such as entry & exit routes to the Chatterley Valley distribution centre, traffic restrictions associated with the Bus gate, air quality management areas, development of sites in Talke, were all highlighted in terms of the desired avoidance of increased vehicle movements in May Bank, Bradwell & Wolstanton. Request also made for further clean air and pedestrian safety measures at Porthill and May Bank.	
Staffordshire Police - Suggested amendments to the policy (Section 4d) & supporting text (Para 11.12) to refer to secure parking for cycles, and safe cycle and footpaths with all routes necessary and serving a specific function or destination.	
Historic England - A clause should be inserted relating to the need to protect and enhance the significance of heritage assets including their setting and how this policy will address transport proposals which have the potential to affect the historic environment. There may also be opportunities through re-routing road networks away from heritage assets or walking and cycling initiatives that could better reveal the significance of heritage assets and these opportunities should be considered.	
HS2 services will feed into Crewe and the importance of employment development land being adequately served by public transport is highlighted. Reference is also made to the Chamber developing a business case to open a new rail station on the West Coast Mainline at	

<p>Etruria Valley, close to the new Etruria Valley Link Road & part of the Centre 500 development. The west side of the proposed station would sit inside the boundary of Newcastle under Lyme. It is also advocated that this site should be identified as an opportunity for a transport hub and associated facilities within the Local Plan. Collaborative working with Stoke City Council to maximise connectivity in North Staffordshire is suggested and reference made to Saved policies from the current development plan & a submitted site location plan in providing further context, background and argument.</p>	
<p>Once further evidence is provided and an assessment is made as part of the next iteration of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), changes may be required, as the approach to dealing with air quality impacts on European designated sites is progressed.</p>	
<p>Provision of bus services must be an explicit factor in the setting up of new houses & employment development. This should include requirements for some employers to provide or fund a small bus service</p>	
<p>Staffordshire County Council - The policy should place a greater emphasis on sustainability and ensuring that good active travel and public transport links and modes of transport are a priority when looking at new developments and strategic allocations. Various suggested amendments made to Points 1, 3 & 5 of IN2 for added clarity & minimising ambiguity in interpretation.</p>	
<p>Staffordshire and Stoke Intergrated Care Board - Would like to suggest that in paragraph 4 the reference to 'Health care provision' is linked to the Glossary definition of 'Infrastructure' and expanded upon (within the Glossary) to make clear that health provision extends beyond GP capacity. To deliver the joined-up support required to meet the needs of the local population using primary care networks, it should be noted that infrastructural requirements can span across these partner services (including physical and digital infrastructural requirements) and therefore the term health should be understood in this context from both a policy and decision-making perspective.</p>	

Point 1a needs considerable clarification e.g. how will development be located to minimise travel if it is not co-located with employment, what is meant by sustainable modes of transport? Point 2 Keele Parish Council will read with interest any Transport and Travel Assessment plan for development on the former Golf Course (Site ref: SP11) and its environs, as it cannot be seen how the planned scale of development can be achieved without impacting on the safety, capacity, and efficiency of the local road network. The Integrated Transport Strategy and the Staffordshire Bus Service Improvement plan should be included in the evidence base for the Plan, as empirical evidence shows a declining rather than improving service. It would also be helpful if the Plan were to outline how the Borough and/or County propose to encourage more commuters to use the bus and what evidence they might have that such measures would be successful.	
Support for the draft wording of this policy, with it considered that the site of which they have an interest (Land off Birchenwood Way) making use of the existing pedestrian and cycling links on Birchenwood Way, which provide access to the nearby services and facilities in Kidsgrove.	
Whilst the stress placed throughout the draft Plan on the importance of using public transport is welcomed, the document does not pay sufficient attention to the challenge of using public transport	
Under the accessibility heading, the draft document does not refer to parking spaces being reserved for drivers with disabilities.	
The proposed site of NC13 would cause an unacceptable highway safety problem, including the T junction from High Lane to Pennyfields and Chapel Lane.	
Policy IN2 seems contradictory and not in line with expert thinking on energy efficiency or getting to grips with solutions. Making electricity an all-encompassing fuel resource might not be the answer, given the limitations and capacity of the National Grid. Using up reserve fossil fuels in the short-term is not a sustainable solution either.	

Request for detailed information as to how the various considerations highlighted can be retrospectively applied to Loggerheads Parish, and detailed information concerning how these can be implemented for the benefit of Loggerheads Parish going forward.	
Recent developments at Heritage Park, Silverdale, has increased traffic travelling through the village. The road surfaces are of poor quality with little maintenance. Local public transport is limited. Significant problems parking close to GP services, chemist and shopping facilities. Student numbers exacerbate parking problems. Emergency service vehicles at times are obstructed by the number of parked cars etc. Identification of land within the village for additional car parking facilities should be considered. Any development should include up grading the road system throughout the village.	
The council needs to complete a thorough transport assessment of the A500 near to junction 16.	
The promotion of sustainable transport options within Policy IN2 is welcomed. However, the policy could go further and include provision for a sustainable transport hub within the proximity of Keele University to provide a range of transport options to support movement to, from and within the University Growth Corridor. Plans should also take on board the need to create a more accessible and inclusive Public Transport Network, moving away from the East/West lineage of the existing system, and using the Local Plan to open up links to the North and South of Keele University, supporting more circular public transport solutions that link the Urban Villages to core employment sites and amenities, for example the Hospital, and the Keele Campus, ideally opening up public transport access between the A525 and the A53.	
This policy will in the future be an important consideration for proposals that affect the canal and rivers that could increase the use of our facilities or affect our assets, in particular parts 4 and 7. Response from Canal and Rivers Trust.	
Natural England - The Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) has identified that air pollution, in particular from traffic, could impact Habitat sites. The	

<p>next stage of the assessment will require further evidence. Once the evidence is provided and an assessment is made, changes may be required as the approach to dealing with air quality impacts on European designated sites is progressed</p>	
<p>Keele Parish - Point 1a needs considerable clarification, how will development be located to minimise travel if it is not co-located with employment, what is meant by sustainable modes of transport? Other than cycling or walking all transport uses some form of power/fuel. Are some considered more sustainable than others?</p> <p>Point 1f appears to be almost wishful thinking when large scale developments are planned, as most households now have 2 vehicles, and this is bound to have significant impact on existing road networks.</p> <p>Point 2 Keele Parish Council will read with interest any Transport and Travel Assessment plan for development on the former Golf Course and its environs, as we cannot see how the planned scale of development can be achieved without impacting on the safety, capacity, and efficiency of the local road network.</p> <p><i>From Newcastle's Integrated Transport strategy 2015: "In the AM peak the reliability of journeys into Newcastle Town Centre along A525 Keele Road has deteriorated from 14% to 24%"</i></p>	
<p>Bradwell, porthill, Maybank and Wolstanton Parish - The Local Plan discusses the importance of public transport yet offers no solutions to the very poor local transport.</p> <p>The Forum also wants to be reassured that the entrance and exit for the Chatterley Valley distribution centre can cope with the staff and vehicle movements. Additionally, the vehicle access arrangements for new sites at Talke on the A14 will not introduce more vehicles in to Brodwell Residential Area or the Wolstanton High Street.</p>	

28. Sustainable Environment

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
More houses and warehouses should not be placed by villages as people move there for nature, safety, and child-rearing.	The council has declared a climate emergency. The Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan will be supported by a raft of evidence to inform consideration of the topic of sustainable environment.
Concerns as local infrastructure and services are already oversubscribed.	
Local transport needs to improve if residents are expected to reduce car use.	
Clause 12.30. Golf courses should be excluded from this measurement. Golf is an elitist activity that is for private members and should not be counted or considered when calculating public services and green space.	

29. Policy SE1: Pollution, Contamination and Amenity

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>Environment Agency - Policy SE1 focuses on air quality, but it should equally prioritise protecting groundwater and improving water quality for human health and the environment. It is suggested that separate policies should be created to address specific issues like land contamination, air quality, and water quality, as the current policy headings lack clarity.</p>	<p>The council will consider the comments raised in preparing the next iteration of the Local Plan, the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan.</p>
<p>Environment Agency - If a development site has potential contamination of soils and groundwater, a Preliminary Risk Assessment is required for any planning application. Developers are advised to follow the Land Contamination Risk Management framework provided in LCRM.</p>	
<p>Environment Agency - Rep contains significant information regarding the Borough's Groundwater & contaminated land situation and history.</p>	
<p>Environment Agency - Consider using the National Quality Mark Scheme for Land Contamination Management to ensure that land contamination risks are appropriately managed. For more information, visit GOV.UK's contaminated land pages, and refer to publications on groundwater protection positions and protection zones (SPZs).</p>	
<p>Environment Agency - To assess risks to controlled waters from a site, refer to the Guiding principles for land contamination. Local authorities can advise on risks to other receptors, such as human health.</p>	
<p>Environment Agency - The following (taken from Wyre Forest DC local plan adopted 2022) is an example of clear and concise policy wording for your consideration. "Development proposals will not be permitted where the land is contaminated (*As defined under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990) and not capable of appropriate remediation without compromising development viability or the delivery of sustainable development. For sites where land contamination is suspected, an adequate site investigation survey will need to be prepared (by a competent person) to demonstrate that land contamination issues have been fully addressed or can be addressed through the development".</p>	

Concerns that development at the Keele golf course could exasperate flooding and lead to contamination and pollution due to old mine workings.	
Concerns over increased air pollution due to new developments.	
Canal and Rivers Trust - The Trent & Mersey Canal, located in Kidsgrove Town Centre, is crucial for green and blue infrastructure in the borough. Its Green Flag status highlights the need for protection from development impacts, construction processes, and long-term effects like lighting and water discharges. Policy SE1 addresses these concerns, but there is a need to address the impact of invasive species	
Any development which would result in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats should be refused? If a habitat is irreplaceable, a compensation strategy would be little recompense.	
What is the definition of "significant"?	
Public transport must improve to make it a viable option. Services have recently been reduced.	
Proposed development especially AB2 will increase air light and noise pollution.	
It is unclear why "amenity" is included in the title, as the policy does not really address amenity.	
CT1 would significantly add to the levels of pollution and remove the "green lung effect provided by the existing land.	
Staffordshire Police - The benefits that external lighting can provide in relation to security and safety is welcomed, although it is recommended that the phraseology is improved. Currently it reads, "Ensure that any proposals where external lighting is required, a lighting scheme will be required for the security and to achieve working activities which are safe". The following would be a better alternative "Ensure that any proposals where external lighting is required, a lighting scheme will be required for security and to promote safe activity".	

<p>Historic England - Under clause 1, we welcome the reference to the historic environment and would request that the wording relates to the significance of heritage assets through its setting. Rather than the current wording, the clause should relate to "heritage assets" rather than "historic buildings" to ensure all types of heritage assets are considered. It will also be relevant under other sections such as noise considerations. The policy should consider all contexts in which there could be an effect for the historic environment.</p>	
<p>Natural England - We welcome this policy but advise that there may be occasions where individual developments will be unable to mitigate for their impacts and a more strategic approach will be more appropriate. For Habitat Sites for example Site Nitrogen Action Plan (SNAP) are sometimes used. Further information can be found here: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6140185886588928</p>	
<p>The opening statement of this section begs the question what level of mitigation would be acceptable, how would the measures be assessed and what type of pollutants will be acceptable?</p>	
<p>Point 1a questions if polluting emissions and odours will be known at development permission granted and if mitigation plans will be effectively implemented, without the Air Quality Action Plans mentioned in Point 1b.</p>	
<p>On Point 2c we would like to highlight that the development of the former Keele Golf Course will do anything but "protect and enhance ecosystems and the green infrastructure network to assist in the absorption of air pollutants"</p>	
<p>Baseline conditions need to be known to measure effectiveness of the policy.</p>	
<p>Silverdale Parish - Development planning on or near land affected by contamination of Walleys Quarry is a much greater issue than given space in the Draft</p>	
<p>Audley Parish - It is unclear why 'amenity' is included in the title, as the policy does not really address amenity. For site AB2, there would clearly be</p>	

difficulties in complying with this policy, due to impacts of light, noise and on-air quality	
<p>Keele Parish - The opening statement of this section begs the question what level of mitigation would be acceptable, how would the measures be assessed and what type of pollutants will be acceptable?</p> <p>Point 1a raises the question of whether polluting emissions and odours will be known at the time of development permission being granted, and whether the proposed mitigation will be effectively implemented e.g. Walley's Quarry.</p> <p>Without the Air Quality Action Plans referred to in Point 1b it is impossible to comment on this.</p> <p>The comments on Point 2 of IN2 apply here with regard to transport, but on Point 2c we would like to highlight that the development of the former Keele Golf Course will do anything but:</p> <p>"Protect and enhance ecosystems and the green infrastructure network to assist in the absorption of air pollutants"</p>	
<p>Bradwell, Porthill, Maybank and Wolstanton Parish - Porthill, Wolstanton and May Bank were designated one of 5 Air Quality Management Areas in the Borough in 2018. The Forum would like to arrange a meeting with the Council's Environmental Health officer and Highways to discuss the latest readings and the need for further clean air and pedestrian safety measures at Porthill and May Bank.</p>	

30. Policy SE2: Flood Risk, Water Resources and Management

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Concerns over the impact of new development on flood risk and increased surface water flooding. Issues already exist in some areas.	The council will consider the issues raised from the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan in the preparation of the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan (the Final Draft Local Plan). The council is intending to update the level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (from 2019) to inform the proposals and policy approach in the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan.
Environment Agency - The heading for this policy duplicates elements of Policy SE3 (Water resources). It may be clearer to have separate policies for Flood Risk Management and for Sustainable Drainage.	
Environment Agency - The policy is quite long and seems to duplicate some parts of the NPPF and NPPG guidance. It should have more regard to and focus on specific local Newcastle Under Lyme flood risk requirements linked to your Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).	
Environment Agency - The SFRA identifies Lyme Brook as the primary fluvial flood risk in Newcastle Under Lyme, affecting the town centre, including Brook Lane and the Poolfields area, Silverdale, Knutton, Cross Heath, and Clayton. The SFRA identifies some areas as high risk (cumulative impact assessment) Lyme Brook catchment, with some recommendations. You should consider including the SFRA recommendations into your policy.	
Environment Agency - Easement: Recommendation C of the 2019 Level 1 SFRA mandates a minimum 8m development easement near main rivers for essential maintenance access. This requirement applies regardless of floodplain extent. An Environmental Permit is required for development within this 8m strip. If the site is above a culverted main river watercourse, an 8m easement is required, and the area above the culvert is considered a no-build zone.	
Environment Agency - Culverts: Section 4.9.4 of the 2019 level 1 SFRA mandates development efforts to naturalise urban watercourses by reinstating natural channels and restoring floodplains. This will improve biodiversity net gain, amenity, and reduce flood risk. River Basin Management Plans provide detailed information on de-culverting and creating naturalised watercourses.	

Environment Agency - Floodplain compensation: The current section should require the compensation to be level for level and volume for volume. Alternative text below: In accordance with the Level 1 SFRA (10.2.1) applicant must provide level-for-level and volume for volume floodplain compensation, up to the 1% annual probability (1 in 100) flood extent with an appropriate allowance for climate change. Level for Level and volume-for-volume compensation must be undertaken where requested unless a justified reason has been submitted and agreed upon, which may justify other forms of compensation.	
Environment Agency - Modelling: While detailed modelling is a preferred option, we would only normally seek that on major development proposals (for both Main and Ordinary watercourses).	
Environment Agency - Climate Change: Policy text should include an updated allowance for climate change in FRAs, referencing the Gov.uk peak river flow map and climate change allowances. Your surface water section could also link to climate change peak rainfall allowances. Point 2b of the policy is confusing and should be split out to differentiate surface water from fluvial climate change design allowances.	
Environment Agency - Finished Floor Levels: The SFRA advises that as a minimum finished floor levels should be set 600mm above the 1 in 100 years plus climate change (design flood). These could be incorporated into policy.	
Environment Agency - Flood Defence Schemes: The following schemes are under investigation in the area and development contributions are being sought to secure funding for these initiatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyme Brook FRMS Newcastle under Lyme - Environment Agency. • Newcastle under Lyme Drainage Routes Strategy - Staffordshire County Council. The policy should ensure that all development benefiting from flood warning services and flood defences contributes financially to the flood warning service and/or flood defence maintenance. A link to Policy IN 1: Infrastructure could be made. Examples of flood risk management in	

adopted Local Plans can be found e.g. Wyre Forest DC Policy SP.31 – Flood Risk Management.	
<p>Sustainable Drainage - We would look for a commitment for clean roof runoff to be directed away from the sewer system and into infiltration drainage or other SuDS system.</p> <p>We consider any infiltration Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) greater than 2.0 m below ground level to be a deep system and are not acceptable. All infiltration SuDS require a minimum of 1.2 m clearance between the base of infiltration SuDS and peak seasonal groundwater levels. All need to meet the criteria set out here: Groundwater protection position statements - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).</p> <p>SuDS attenuation basins should normally be located outside of the 1% annual probability fluvial, with climate change, floodplain to avoid operational issues. (e.g. from the system flooding out during a flood event).</p> <p>Environment Agency - You may wish to also consider rural Suds and sedimentation control - to help meet Water Framework Directive objectives please see Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems.</p>	
Historic England - We would welcome the Council considering how the historic environment can be safeguarded within this policy and protection included to ensure that flood alleviation measures do not have a negative effect for the historic environment for example through issues such as waterlogged archaeology.	
<p>Natural England - We welcome this policy but advise that there may be occasions where individual developments will be unable to mitigate for their impacts and a more strategic approach will be more appropriate. For Habitat Sites for example Site Nitrogen Action Plan (SNAP) are sometimes used. Further information can be found here.</p>	
United Utilities - UUW supports Policy SE2's current approach but recommends addressing flood risk and surface water management separately. A separate planning policy for each matter would provide a clear process for new development regarding surface water management.	

<p>United Utilities - We recommend that policy SE2 requires applicants to submit a foul and surface water drainage strategy We wish to recommend the following wording for inclusion as policy in any future local plan: <i>"All applications must be supported by a strategy for foul and surface water management. Surface water should be discharged in the following order of priority:</i></p> <p><i>i. An adequate soakaway or some other form of infiltration system....."</i></p> <p>[The rep continues to provide more extensive policy and justification text for consideration]</p>	
<p>United Utilities - Flood Risk - UUW emphasises the importance of addressing all forms of flood risk in local plans, approving the current policy wording in Policy SE2. the following additional policy wording / explanatory text is recommended for inclusion as part of Policy SE2:</p> <p><i>"3. Sewer Flood Risk. The risk of flooding from any source must be considered. Applicants will be required to consult with the water and sewerage undertaker to confirm the nature and extent of any flood risk from sewers and reservoirs...</i> [The rep continues to provide more extensive policy and justification text for consideration].</p>	
<p>United Utilities - On-site Flood Risk: New development sites should consider existing public sewers at risk of flooding and previous flooding records. Site allocations could be affected by overland flow from public sewers. Early consideration of flood risk in design and development is crucial, ensuring no flood risk is displaced. Our initial assessment of sites identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites with an on-site modelled flood risk; - Sites with a record of on-site sewer flooding; and - Sites with a record of sewer flooding in the vicinity of the site. <p>Additional policy wording is suggested for each site allocated which is affected by sewer flood risk.</p>	
<p>United Utilities - We are particularly concerned by site reference BL24. Our modelling data identifies a level of flood risk. In the absence of information which confirms that this site is developable either in whole or part, we must register an objection to the allocation of this site.</p>	

<p>United Utilities - Reservoir Flooding: Newcastle-under-Lyme has multiple reservoirs with distinct flooding zones, indicating the extent of potential floodwater spread in the event of a reservoir failure.</p> <p>The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment should identify sites at risk of flooding from reservoirs and include them in site-specific comments in Chapter 15.</p>	
<p>Foul Water and Surface Water - UUW suggests that policy SE2 requires all applications to provide clear evidence of the thorough investigation of the surface water management hierarchy to prevent increased flood risk elsewhere.</p>	
<p>Point 2: Recent record levels of rainfall and flooding suggest that with the changing weather patterns resulting from Climate Change a 1% annual probability of flood does not seem realistic.</p>	
<p>Point 4: Keele Parish Council is concerned re Suds for large scale development projects. For these we consider a hydro-geological study should be undertaken, especially when there will be significant destruction of mature trees, that absorb significant amounts of ground water.</p>	
<p>New housing developments should be strategically located along major routes like the A34 to efficiently manage sewage, rather than in rural areas.</p>	
<p>Keele Parish - Point 2: Recent record levels of rainfall and flooding suggest that with the changing weather patterns resulting from Climate Change a 1% annual probability of flood does not seem realistic.</p> <p>Point 4: Keele Parish Council is concerned re Sustainable Drainage Systems for large scale development projects. For these we consider a hydro-geological study should be undertaken, especially when there will be significant destruction of mature trees, that absorb significant amounts of ground water.</p>	

31. Policy SE3: Water Resources and Water Quality

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>Environment Agency - Water stress: The Water Cycle Study dated 2020 indicates a moderate stress on water resources within the Borough but suggests that the proposed growth can be managed without resulting in water resource capacity issues.</p> <p>The latest report into Water Stressed Areas (July 2021) indicates the Severn Trent Area to now experience serious water stress. We recommend that further assessment be made to ensure capacity to support the proposed growth. Water stressed areas – 2021 classification - GOV.UK</p> <p>Your policy needs an update to reflect the above.</p>	<p>The council will consider the issues raised from the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan in the preparation of the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan (the Final Draft Local Plan). The council is intending to update the level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (from 2019) to inform the proposals and policy approach in the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan.</p>
<p>Environment Agency - Wastewater infrastructure: Your water cycle study should ensure that your strategic growth can be accommodated in consideration of wastewater infrastructure. To address a constraint in a development, it is crucial to show a solution, whether it is already programmed or a future infrastructure upgrade.</p> <p>WSC recommends a Phase 2 Water Cycle Study for water quality impact assessment, which is not yet part of the Local Plan evidence base, to ensure site appropriateness and deliverability.</p>	
<p>Environment Agency - The EA supports the inclusion of water efficiency standards in Policy CRE 1: Climate change and the tighter requirement for new residential developments to achieve a maximum usage of 110 litres pppd, but suggests it could be better placed within SE3.</p> <p>The tighter water efficiency standards can be justified with reference to the following guidance.</p> <p>Primary sources of evidence which might support a tighter water efficiency standard for new dwellings are:</p> <p>-The Environment Agency publication Water Stressed Areas final classification 2021 -</p> <p>We encourage you to also include policy requirements for grey water recycling and rainwater harvesting for new developments</p>	

Environment Agency -Waste water infrastructure -The water cycle study should consider wastewater infrastructure's capacity to accommodate strategic growth, focusing on local treatment works' ability to accommodate housing and employment growth, addressing physical capacity issues and environmental capacity issues.	
Environment Agency - Water Framework Directive: The Lyme Brook and River Lea, the main rivers affecting the Borough, have poor ecological status. The goal is to achieve 'good ecological status' by 2027, Policy should require development to improve waterbodies' ecological status. Suggested wording provided in the full representation.	
Environment Agency - Supporting Information: Section 12.19 /12.20 – We recommend your plan includes a section on where to find information on specific areas / catchments. Details of the WFD catchment can be found in rep.	
Environment Agency - Non-mains foul drainage: Suggest including text regarding non-mains foul drainage E.g. <i>“Development should follow the hierarchy (order of preference for foul drainage connection), as set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance. The Council requires non mains drainage proposals to assess the potential impacts upon water quality to ensure no detrimental impact on the water environment”</i> . (Wyre Forest adopted local plan).	
United Utilities - Groundwater Source Protection Zones: The Environment Agency has established Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) for groundwater sources, which are crucial for public drinking water supply. These zones indicate areas with risks from activities on or below the land surface, such as construction. The UUW strongly prefers development sites to be located away from sensitive groundwater protection areas, such as SPZ1. Clear policy wording is essential to mitigate the effects of development on groundwater environment and public water supply. UUW welcomes policy SE3: Water Resources and Water Quality but suggests additional wording could be included. [SEE REP FOR WORDING]	

United Utilities - Water Catchment Land: UUW recommends a policy identifying the need to engage with the statutory undertaker for water to determine if development proposals on water catchment land affect water supply resources. For wind energy proposals on water catchment land, applicants should locate development to minimize impact on public water supply through location, risk assessments, and mitigation measures. It is crucial to avoid new wind turbines on deep peat land and ensure that the statutory undertaker is informed about the location of catchment land in the borough. [REP INCLUDES SUGGESTED POLICY WORDING].	
United Utilities - Development next to Wastewater Treatment Works and Pumping Stations: UUW advocates for the identification of new sites, particularly housing, that are not near wastewater treatment works, in line with the NPPF. [ADDITIONAL POLICY WORDING IN REP].	
United Utilities - We wish to highlight that site BL3 (UNPREFFERED) is within proximity of Kidsgrove WwTW.	
Keele Parish - concerned that there is no explicit mention of nitrates and nitrate neutrality in this section	

32. Policy SE4: Open Space, Sports and Leisure Provision

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>Canal and Rivers Trust - The plan includes our network as open space, aligning with the borough's Vision and Strategic Objectives. Our canals support community health and wellbeing, and we consider parts 1 and 2 of policy SE4 important in future proposals. Cross border connectivity should not be overlooked in our network.</p>	<p>The council will consider the issues raised from the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan in the preparation of the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan (the Final Draft Local Plan).</p>
<p>Sport England - Sport England welcomes reference to the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Sport Pitch Calculator to help direct sports provision or contributions towards. However, it is vital that the Council should ensure that the PPS has been kept up to date, in line with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance</p> <p>The policy would be strengthened / be more effective by ensuring that policy states that it relates to open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields.</p> <p>It should be noted that not all playing field sites (including lapsed and disused) were captured in the PPS</p>	
<p>The policy is clearly explained apart from point D which is more ambiguous. For example, how would an objective assessment of the quality of any alternative provision be undertaken?</p>	
<p>We hope that the open space off Hoon Avenue, known locally as "Balls/Baldy's Field" will be designated as open land which cannot be developed. This site is ancient farmland and of considerable historic significance.</p>	
<p>Concerns that any major development includes provision of high-quality recreational space.</p>	
<p>Our client has no objection to draft Policy SE 4. 14.2. It is noted that this draft policy emphasises the importance of, and requires, new developments to provide sufficient open space. Therefore, housing allocations in the Local Plan must include sufficient land for open space, it is submitted that some of the land in our client's ownership lends itself to inclusion in the relevant adjoining housing allocations (TK10 and TK27), as open space.</p>	

As off-site open space contributions can often be an issue for affordable housing viability on 100% affordable housing schemes, it is suggested that 100% affordable housing schemes are excluded from this requirement of Policy SE 4.	
The policy should be expanded to address the quality of new facilities and open space provision in development, considering the National Design Guide and current facilities. It should be stronger on protecting facilities in rural areas and settlements.	
Staffordshire County Council - The appropriate location of Sports and Leisure facilities in proximity to the public highway will need to be fully considered and mitigating measures put in place to preserve the safety of the local highway network.	
Specifically on point 2 we would like to see published the criteria that will be used to assess applications and would hope to see that the views of the local community would also be sought, as they are the users of the space.	
The principle of accommodating open space requirements on site for major developments is agreed as part of good design. However, for elements such as provision for children and teenagers, the ability to contribute towards the expansion or improvement of a suitable existing facility should be included within the policy to allow for flexibility.	
The table lists guideline amounts of land per 1000 persons. These values should be increased to encourage Newcastle Under Lyme to be an area renowned for both green space, parks and leisure space which are well maintained.	
If the Council decide to set a minimum size for residential outdoor amenity open space, sports and leisure provision, there should be an exemption for older people's housing schemes so long as high-quality amenity space suitable for older people is provided on site".	
The Council should clarify off-site contributions for neighbourhood-wide facilities, using Sport England Facility Cost Guidance or similar guidance. It should also specify if maintenance costs for the first five years should	

be included, providing developers with greater certainty about the contributions they are likely to be sought.	
<p>Loggerheads Parish Council note that the Draft Local Plan has made no effort to follow these existing designations within existing Neighbourhood Plans:</p> <p><i>'LVV, which is known as 'Land off Market Drayton Road / The Burntwood Community Area</i> is presently subject to legal discussions between the Parish and Borough Councils with respect to its ongoing future, and the intention to have community-based amenities and facilities on the site. <i>1V2'</i> is privately owned land, which is designated as open space, with the only other acceptable use being for sports recreation facilities. Council requests the next iteration of the Draft Local Plan demonstrates an emphasis on echoing existing Neighbourhood Plans, many of which have been in place a lot longer than any Boroughwide Local Plan. There needs to be a longer-term plan for locations and infrastructure, and not a piecemeal approach on a site-by-site basis.</p> <p>SO-IX seeks to support the creation, inclusion and enhancement of sports and recreation facilities. The Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan, December 2020, stated that the support of strategic partners and key stakeholders would be given to assist the Parish Council in developing a 3g pitch facility. To date, this has not happened.</p>	
<p>Audley Parish - APC would like to see the policy expanded to deal with the quality of provision of new facilities and open space in development. The policy would allow for loss of sports facilities where benefits outweigh loss. This could allow very harmful and unsustainable development, especially in rural areas where there is a greater reliance on car journeys.</p>	
<p>Keele Parish - Specifically on point 2 we would like to see published the criteria that will be used to assess applications and would hope to see that the views of the local community would also be sought, as they are the users of the space.</p>	

33. Policy SE5: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>Environment Agency - We note the inclusion of a minimum 10% increase in BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain) and use of the most up to date metric. Our focus would be on blue infrastructure. We encourage the use of a natural capital approach to prioritise the use of nature-based solutions within all planning applications. We reiterate the importance of integrating green and blue infrastructure.</p> <p>The policy or text could reference the Local Nature Recovery Strategy as a key part of the evidence base.</p>	<p>The council will consider the issues raised from the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan in the preparation of the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan (the Final Draft Local Plan). The council will also respond to updated guidance and regulations relating to the practice and implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain in the borough.</p>
<p>United Utilities - UUW wish to discuss your approach to BNG delivery and strategic opportunities to support local nature recovery in preparation for your new local plan. Biodiversity measures should not be located directly over water and wastewater assets or where excavation onto the asset would require removal of the biodiversity.</p>	
<p>The policy is welcomed, though it is generic. It would be useful to recognise the role of neighbourhood plans in providing more locally specific policies on bio and geo-diversity.</p>	
<p>The Primary Legislation requiring mandatory Biodiversity Gain becomes effective from September 2023 - although the Environment Act 2021 does not appear to be mentioned at all in your document. The word "should" be used inappropriately in the consultation document despite there being a legal requirement which must be met. This really ought to be made clear in your proposed policy and the information supporting the policy.</p>	
<p>Natural England - We welcome the inclusion of net gain and offer the following suggestions:</p> <p>The use of a map in the plan ensures compliance with national planning policy and effectively demonstrates the relationship between development sites and biodiversity net gain opportunities.</p>	
<p>Natural England - The policy should outline the delivery and management of biodiversity net gain, prioritize habitat creation or enhancement, and the approach to onsite and offsite delivery. Natural England recommends</p>	

on-site provision for delivering gains close to loss areas, while off-site contributions may be necessary due to limitations or to meet biodiversity objectives. Further details could be provided in a supplementary planning document.	
Natural England - Monitoring: The plan should include monitoring requirements for biodiversity net gain, including specific indicators to demonstrate the amount and type of gain provided through development. Local Planning Authorities should collaborate with partners like the Local Environmental Record Centre and wildlife trusts to share data and consider long-term habitat monitoring requirements. Monitoring requirements should be clear on what is expected from landowners who may be delivering biodiversity net gains on behalf of developers. This will be particularly important for strategic housing allocations and providing as much up-front information on monitoring will help to streamline the project stage.	
Natural England - Designated Sites - We advise that the wording of paragraph 3, should be changed and instead of “safeguard and enhanced” the paragraph should state “conserved and enhanced”. We advise that reference should be made to the requirement for a project level Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) where a proposal could impact on a Habitats Site(s).	
Natural England - 12.32. This should be amended to “The Borough contains internationally, nationally and locally designated sites important for their biodiversity value.”	
Concerns over loss of biodiversity and habitats due to development of some allocated sites.	
The Local Plan should include a link to the Nature Recovery Network and Local Nature Recovery Strategy, or if Staffordshire LNRS (Local Nature Recovery Strategy) is unavailable for Regulation 19, reference the production timetable for its inclusion.	

<p>Criteria 2 of the policy currently does not reflect how BNG is expected to work in practice. The mitigation hierarchy aims to minimise biodiversity loss, allowing for on-site, off-site, registered, and statutory credit purchases as a last resort. The mandatory implementation of BNG in November 2023 raises concerns about the emerging market for off-site biodiversity provision, potentially leading to increased reliance on statutory credit for development.</p> <p>The Council must be aware of the launch of Biodiversity Metric 4.0 in March 2023.</p>	
<p>It is noted that £600 allowance is made for planning obligations inclusive of a BNG contribution. Page 32 of the Local Plan Viability Study 2023 - HBF would question this figure, as this is an emerging policy area and the market for off-site provision, and statutory credits are not yet known, it is noted that the Viability Appraisal allows £3500 for section 106 contributions per plot inclusive of £600 for BNG costs. Clearly this figure will need to be kept under review as BNG implementation progresses and a greater understanding of actual costs become available.</p>	
<p>There are significant additional costs associated with biodiversity gain, which should be fully accounted for in the Council's viability assessment, some of which are unknown at this time. It is important that BNG does not prevent, delay or reduce housing delivery. An update to the Viability Assessment will be needed to accompany the Reg 19 consultation.</p>	
<p>The Metric already accommodates the distance from the development site for proposed off-site BNG units. However, introducing a more rigorous sequential test could add unnecessary financial burden to development and contradict PPG (Planning Practice Guidance), as it is already accounted for within the Metric.</p> <p>The policy also removes the ability for BNG to be delivered in the NCA or for a developer to be able to use national statutory credits.</p>	

Unless the Council have an active strategy for delivering BNG within the Borough the requirement is unreasonable and contrary to national requirements and legislation. The Council should therefore remove the requirement and instead rely on national policy. Recommendation: Amend Policy SE1 point 2 as follows: 2. <i>Major development should calculate biodiversity net gain using the most up-to-date version of the Biodiversity Metric calculation. For minor developments, the latest small sites metric (or equivalent) should be used to calculate net gain.</i> Note: It is recommended to delete the rest of the text - from 'Biodiversity net gain' to 'Borough boundary'.	
Audley Parish – Policy is fairly generic, would be useful to recognise the role of NPs	
CPRE Staffordshire - The word 'should' is used inappropriately in the consultation document despite there being a legal requirement which must be met.	

34. Policy SE6: Historic Environment

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Concerns over the impact of development on the historic environment.	The council will consider the issues raised from the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan in the preparation of the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan (the Final Draft Local Plan).
Canal and Rivers Trust - As drafted this policy currently appears to lack any borough specific aspirations for the protection and enhancement of the historic environment sought through the majority of the plan's Strategic Objectives. This policy could be expanded to better reflect the plan's Vision for the borough.	
The policy should be revised to make it clear that any application which results in the loss of or substantial harm to a Grade II listed building, monument, battlefield, park, or garden will not be approved.	
The Wedgwood Monument at Red Street is a scheduled monument, which should continue to be protected.	
For clarity, and consistency with the NPPF, point 2 of Policy SE 6 Historic Environment should use the wording “appropriate or proportionate to” rather than “suitable to”.	
<p>Historic England- We have further requested that appropriate Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is undertaken to ensure that the most suitable sites are brought forward which do not harm the significance of heritage assets. Where harm is identified we would expect the Plan to set out what avoidance/ mitigation measures are available to overcome the identified harm.</p> <p>Qualified and appropriate professionals should undertake the heritage assessments. Are there other relevant documents that can be listed here such as Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans, Historic Townscape, Landscape Character Assessments.</p> <p>Amend ‘registered historic parks and gardens’ to ‘registered parks and gardens’ and amend ‘scheduled ancient monuments’ to scheduled monuments.</p>	
Audley Parish – Policy is generic and could focus more on specific heritage assets in the borough	

Keele Parish - We would like to see some reference to the policy with regard to the Conservation Areas within the Borough, and how development proposals would be assessed.	
---	--

35. Policy SE7: Landscape

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>Historic England - The policy should reference historic landscape. Consider how the policy will ensure that historic landscapes and heritage features are protected and that opportunities are sought to enhance the historic environment. How have the evidence-based documents referenced been used to understand the impacts of the proposed allocations?</p>	<p>The council will consider the issues raised from the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan in the preparation of the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan (the Final Draft Local Plan).</p>
<p>Historic England - We would expect to see Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) or similar, available during this process, prior to the allocation of sites to ensure that the most appropriate sites are put forward for development and that all avoidance and mitigation measures have been considered, that reasonable alternative sites have been considered and that sites are ruled out where there is harm to heritage. Several links are included in the rep to assist in the next iteration of the Local Plan.</p> <p>We can assist the Council in preparing Heritage Impact Assessments methodology and expect evidence in the next Local Plan. However, we cannot comment on proposed site allocations without appropriate evidence.</p>	
<p>United Utilities - Landscaping UUW supports the inclusion of Policy SE7: Landscape.</p> <p>The text emphasises the importance of early evaluation of surface water management opportunities in landscaping works, particularly in relation to the requirement for new streets to be tree-lined, a national policy requirement as stated in paragraph 131 within the National Park Policy. Therefore, the following wording is recommended for inclusion within Policy SE7: <i>"Landscaping proposals, including proposals for tree-lined streets, must be integrated with the strategy for sustainable surface water management. Landscaping proposals must evaluate and identify opportunities for sustainable surface water management."</i></p>	
<p>United Utilities - We recommend incorporating water re-use in redevelopment proposals, such as grey water recycling, and considering</p>	

the impact on utility services when planting new trees. Planting too close can lead to root ingress, increased drainage system failure, and flood risk.	
United Utilities - It will be important that applicants refer to our “Standard Conditions for Works Adjacent to Pipelines” and consult with us when implementing the delivery of landscaping proposals.	
United Utilities - Planting should consider proximity to existing or proposed utility assets to avoid root ingress and avoid planting trees directly over water/ wastewater assets or during tree removal.	
We are supportive of Policy SE7, we see the landscape at Bent Farm as important in helping to create an appropriate design response, and thus enhancing the scheme.	
Neighbourhood plans could provide more localised landscape policies, focusing on designated /valuable landscapes within the area	
The policy is generic. It would be useful to recognise the role of neighbourhood plans in providing more locally specific policies on bio and geo-diversity.	
We agree in principle but would not wish to see "pastiche" development preferred to innovative and sustainable development.	
In subparagraph 3, while the specification of 'native' species is welcomed, referring additionally to species 'of local provenance' would be preferable.	
Audley Parish – Policy is generic and could focus more on specific to the borough	
Keele Parish - would not wish to see "pastiche" development preferred to innovative and sustainable development. Modern design can blend with existing buildings.	

36. Site Allocations

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>Environment Agency - We have not reviewed all the site allocations. We note however that the list of proposed sites does not fully identify site vulnerabilities in terms of land contamination, ground water vulnerability, proximity to regulated industrial processes / landfill and flood risk from unmodelled watercourses and recommend these be clearly identified for transparency. A level 1 SFRA update is recommended to support site selection. We would recommend modelling but acknowledge that in similar circumstances other LPA's have used other methods such as the risk of surface water flooding map, proximity to watercourse/flow, historic flood data and flood risk from other sources to determine risk. The assessment will determine the suitability of each site for development, with appropriate planning policy recommendations. If you wish to discuss further, we can offer a meeting or document review as part of our cost recovery service.</p>	<p>This section should be read alongside the comments on individual sites found later in this consultation report. The council will consider the issues raised from the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan in the preparation of the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan (the Final Draft Local Plan). The council will also reflect on changes to national planning policy in preparing the Final Draft Local Plan.</p>
<p>Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board. - The ICB has engaged with the LPA (Local Planning Authority) on the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and site options. The draft plan supports sustainable communities by keeping key infrastructure up with planned growth. The approach for healthcare estate is informed by Strategic Estates Plans for each primary care network and a wider system infrastructure plan covering the SSOT ICS. Further clarity on the emerging strategy will be shared with the planning authority.</p>	
<p>Cycling UK - 1) the local plan should contain a requirement that all future masterplans for site allocations should show how future residents can safely walk or cycle to local facilities and where appropriate provide land and or funding to provide the walking and cycling routes needed. 2) The local plan should contain a commitment to carry out public consultation on the masterplans for site allocations so that local input can help ensure the masterplans provide adequate walking and cycling routes.</p>	

Incentives for converting empty shops into residential accommodation are lacking, despite the potential to boost the town's economy and attract more people to the centre.	
An individual is seeking clarification on the proposed development of land SP5, as they are unsure if this site is being proposed or not, they are requesting clarification as they would provide an objection.	
Given the current climate concerns we should be proposing a total ban on green field developments within the borough.	
Concerns about building on Green Belt land rather than brownfield. Loss of habitat and wildlife in meadows gives great concern to some residents.	
Query that potential allocations consist of 956 over the residual target, including strategic sites it is "around" 1613 over the residual target. This does not include a windfall allowance. In these circumstances we believe that your council is massively over-allocating land for new housing. We ask the council to explain this to the public. CPRE.	
The council's preference for brownfield development is acknowledged, but most proposed housing allocations are on greenfield sites. We request that the number of new homes on brownfield land and greenfield land, as well as the total area of land in the allocations to be placed in a table. The council's ownership interest in one of the proposed sites in the Green Belt is also questioned. CPRE.	
Comment stating that non-preferred site BL3 should be incorporated into Harding's Wood open space area. Justification for this is also given.	
Comments justifying objections to the development of non-preferred sites NC80,81 & 82.	
The draft Local Plan should prioritize identifying land/sites suitable for renewable energy developments and potentially include client's land in Talke, as highlighted in Appendix A. Knights.	
Comments supporting the inclusion of Green Belt site MD12 as an allocation. The rep includes a Masterplan and supporting evidence and provides arguments around housing need and exceptional circumstances.	

Comments supporting the inclusion of Green Belt site AB30, Comment includes details of sites suitability and sustainability, and the agent has attached supporting documents / plans.	
Comments supporting the inclusion of a site at Shraleybrook Road, which is currently proposed for inclusion within the village boundary of Halmerend. The agent believes that the omission of the village boundary around the access was in error, and it is requested that the land proposed to provide the access to the site is included as well. The rep includes details of the site history and further information is attached.	
Comments supporting the inclusion of Green Belt site Land at New Farm, Cross Lane, Audley as an allocation. Agent includes details of sites planning history, suitability and sustainability, and supporting documents / plans are attached.	
Promotion of site KL21, including the submission of a detailed Development Statement and Illustrative Masterplan.	
The plan attached to Appendix D suggests a suitable site at Bar Hill in Madeley for housing development, including a few self-build plots, to meet the Borough's housing needs. It is logical given its proximity to the urban edge and large draft site allocation.	
Promote Green Belt land known as White Rock (CFS116), and for it to be allocated for an employment use to expand its business. The rep includes details of the operations, need for the expansion, planning history and suitability of the site. Further information is attached.	
United Utilities - UUW wishes to build a strong partnership with all local planning authorities (LPAs) to aid sustainable development and growth within its area of operation.	
CPRE Staffordshire - By adding all of the proposed housing allocations for in Table 5 we found a total of 'around' 4995. This is 'around' 956 over the residual target.	

37. Approach to Strategic Allocations

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Large employment sites in urban areas rather than using Green Belt land / rural land. For example, Lyme Valley Park, Festival Park and Rycroft.	This section should be read alongside the comments on individual sites later in the consultation report. The council will consider the issues raised from the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan in the preparation of the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan (the Final Draft Local Plan). The council will also reflect on changes to national planning policy in preparing the Final Draft Local Plan.
Stoke-on-Trent City Council - Given shared functional area with Stoke, the council would encourage end uses which provide better quality, higher paid, secure jobs over warehousing development.	
Allocating strategic employment land in Green Belt in contrary to the council's strategic objectives	
The quality of employment these sites offer tends to be of a lower standard when compared to the aspirational rural occupations that the development threatens to displace.	
The sectors described in the proposed sites are increasingly adopting automation and robotics, leading to a decline in the number of available jobs	
Title should be explicit and refer to Strategic employment allocations	
Whether there is a need for strategic housing allocations and Greenbelt release to enable strategic employment allocations	

38. Residential and Employment Allocations

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>United Utilities - Chapter 15 includes various site-specific requirements. These are not considered to be sufficiently comprehensive to address the matters raised in this representation. The opportunity to liaise with the LPA is requested to ensure that the matters raised are sufficiently identified for further consideration as part of the development of the sites as site specific requirements. In some instances, a recommendation is made that the matters raised are addressed prior to progressing the allocation further as the issues could affect the principle of development. When considering a range of sites to meet development needs through the site selection process, it would be more appropriate to identify new development sites, especially sensitive uses, such as housing, which are not close to a wastewater treatment works. This position is in line with the agent of change principle (para 187 of the NPPF), with it important to define clearly the mitigation being proposed to address any potential significant adverse effects that are identified, alongside any impacts of the site allocation on existing infrastructure provision. Property interests including rights of access and reservoir flooding zones are also highlighted as aspects for the LPA to be conscious of.</p>	<p>This section should be read alongside the comments on individual sites later in the consultation report. The council will consider the issues raised from the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan in the preparation of the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan (the Final Draft Local Plan). The council will also reflect on changes to national planning policy in preparing the Final Draft Local Plan.</p>
<p>Objection to the omission of the Land at Audley Road, Chesterton, ST5 6BT. The Site comprises two parcels, Part A measures around 0.42 hectares in area and Part B 0.62 hectares. Considered that either the either whole Site or Part A (adjacent to Audley Road) should be allocated for residential development. Part A and Part B have previously been submitted via the Council's Call for Sites process and the 2 parcels are included in the Council's Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) within site reference number CT25 - Land off Audley Rd, Chesterton, which also includes a larger area of land. Part A adjacent to Audley Road should be included within a redefined development boundary also enclosing the existing housing fronting the road to both the north and south. Part B is to the rear and together the</p>	

two areas total around 1 hectare in extent. Detailed arguments presented to justify its allocation for development taking account of numerous factors such as the existing built form, Green Belt purposes, sustainability factors, timeframes for delivery and the sites physical characteristics, as well as any potential mitigation measures.	
There are some other urban sites which are not identified within the Draft Local Plan which can make a meaningful contribution to affordable housing supply in the Borough. These include regeneration opportunities in terms of replacing moribund accommodation with modern affordable homes that are fit for purpose and built to the latest standards. Reference is made to the current planning status of sites at Cross St, Gloucester Grange & St Luke's close. A commitment is expressed to deliver affordable housing schemes in and around Newcastle-under-Lyme as well as being committed to taking on affordable housing delivered as part of open market schemes.	
An area of land to the west of Newcastle Road, Talke has been proposed (also via a Call for Sites submission) for the purpose of creating electric vehicle charging and related facilities.	
Request to amend the village boundary of Keele to include land adjacent to 3 Highway Lane, Keele, within the village boundary. This would enable this site to be developed for a single self-build family dwelling.	
Land to the rear of the houses numbered 1 to 15 in Slacken Lane and identified in the draft plan of 2018 as BL3 and marked on the new local plan as Harding's Wood, should be included in the Open Space Strategy, in addition to the area behind Millstone Avenue, as both formed the subject of a Village Green application and inquiry. This plot was submitted for consideration for the building of 55 houses in the 2018 Local Plan, and reasons as to why this land was unsuitable were given at the time. It is considered that those reasons have not changed. Detailed presentation of concerns stated covering aspects such as highway access into the site, heritage, amenity, topological issues, loss of mature fields, with associated highways, infrastructure and character & appearance impacts, should development take place. Land at Harding's Wood &	

Millstone Avenue should be retained as open space for the biodiversity they support, and the physical and mental health benefits of the community.	
Staffordshire County Council - Broad support for the need to allocate employment land in Newcastle under Lyme given the shortage in recent years. However, sites that are being considered as strategic allocations in the Local Plan should demonstrate that they are deliverable with the right choice of sustainable transport options. A compelling evidence base should also identify where there is a need for a specific type of employment use subsequently leading to these types of use coming forward and being allocated in the plan. Consideration should be given to clever design which is built around a good sustainable transport system rather than a good highway network. Whilst existing bus services may have some capacity, there is going to be a requirement for additional services. For instance, if there is a proposed link road through to Keele University from site TB19, there could be an opportunity to provide a joined up public transport system which could serve most new sites in and around Keele, thus providing a good sustainable option for residents.	
Objection to the Draft Local Plan and request the removal of the land East & West of Wereton Road, Audley from the Green Belt and the allocation of the site for residential development – the sites having been previously submitted through the Council’s Call for Sites process - SHELAA references AB72 & AB73. Arguments to justify its inclusion in the Local Plan relate to an evaluation of the site against Green Belt purposes, them not being subject to any other statutory or non-statutory designation, relationship to the existing built form, sustainability factors, timeframes for delivery and the sites physical characteristics.	
National Grid Electricity Distribution (Southwest) Plc - In allocating land affected by high voltage power lines, the LPA should consider the additional costs involved in their diversion and/or undergrounding and the potential impact on timescales for delivery of the development. In light of the above, NGED does not object to the allocation of land upon	

<p>which its infrastructure is present, subject to the following steps being taken by the LPA in preparing the Local Plan: 1. Priority should be given to retention of overhead lines wherever possible, with design principles included within the allocation policy to safeguard the retained lines and incorporate sensitively into the development, whilst achieving high standards of design and an efficient use of land. 2. Early engagement with NGED to establish whether its infrastructure can be accommodated within the development or whether diversion/undergrounding is feasible; 3. Where diversion/undergrounding is required, ongoing dialogue with NGED to agree a potential route prior to adoption of the Local Plan, as outlined above. 4. For strategic allocations and sites significantly affected by overhead lines (e.g. with 5 or more pylons on site), NGED recommends early masterplanning and the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents to demonstrate site capacity and establish principles for the retention/diversion or undergrounding of overhead lines, with the agreement of NGED.</p>	
<p>Object to the land allocations set out in section 15 of the draft plan and request the allocation of the Land adj. Rowley House, Moss Lane, Madeley for residential development. It is considered that the land would form a suitable complementary site (to the existing preferred allocation MD29) that would support delivery of new homes and provide choice in the local housing market. Its reallocation would reflect the need to consider reasonable options and minimise Green Belt release. The detailed characteristics of the site and its surroundings, its suitability for development and its deliverability are considered in more detail, including it providing non-Green Belt land adjacent to a defined rural service centre. Technical matters, such as drainage, are also evaluated further.</p>	
<p>Party with a specified land interest supports the (continued preferred) allocation of the BW1 site for employment purposes.</p>	
<p>Broadly sceptical regarding the scenarios for economic growth (HENA 2023) and note that the scenarios offered by Cambridge Econometrics, Oxford Economics and Experian are divergent. The HENA 2023 update is</p>	

not considered realistic, nor the argument made, that increasing the housing supply will necessarily promote job growth and encourage more people to the area. The right homes to support a potential workforce need to be built in the right place and there is limited evidence that thought has been given to such fine-grained issues.	
A land interest (<i>n.b. not currently stated as a preferred allocation</i>) at Woodside, Baldwins Gate is promoted, the extent of which was also submitted to the Council as part of the Call for Sites exercise that took place in January 2022. Reference is made to the outline planning application submitted by Richborough Estates elsewhere in Baldwin's Gate, related to the erection of up to 200 homes within a community parkland, with the application subsequently allowed at appeal. Aspects of the Inspector's conclusions in upholding the appeal with regards to the settlement's sustainability including public transport provision are also highlighted.	
Once any of the sites are accepted in the Local Plan, the developer will have carte-blanche to build on them. Residents nor councillors will be able to reject the planning applications with regards to these sites. Therefore, development on sites AB2, KL13, KL15, SP11, 12 & 23, TB19, CT1, TK30, BL18, i.e. building on Green Belt land, should be rejected.	
Development should not take place on the former Keele golf course site, owing to loss of green infrastructure, its recreational value and it being in the Green Belt. Existing properties for older people should not be sold off by housing associations owing to the increasing demand for these types of properties, plus their retention reduces the pressure for development elsewhere.	
The Sky Building close to Newcastle town centre and other empty buildings could be put back into circulation, as a priority, to create a substantial amount of accommodation, including for single people.	
Land is being promoted at Madeley Heath (SHELAA ref: MD12 - <i>n.b. not currently stated as a preferred allocation</i>) for around 240 homes (market and affordable) and community uses (potentially new primary school, sports pitches, public open space, and wider greenspace). The Rural	

<p>Centre of Madeley and Madeley Heath (joint) justifies more housing due to its role and infrastructure capacity. In addition, there are concerns about the deliverability of the single preferred site in Madeley (site ref. MD29) due to significant environmental constraints and its failure to prevent urban sprawl. SA (Suitability Appraisal) Section 3 should test a fourth higher housing delivery option in line with the NPPF and PPG to meet the acute affordable housing need for the Borough. SA Section 5 should also test all reasonable growth options available within the Borough. For example, a more positive approach to Green Belt land release around the sustainable Rural Centres (e.g. Madeley & Madeley Heath). Whilst in principle the FDLP correctly acknowledges the need for Green Belt land release to meet housing targets, insufficient Green Belt land is being released. The approach to the distribution of housing is also lacking evidence and fails to recognise the larger role which Madeley and Madeley Heath could play to meet this need, subject to identifying a suitable site allocation. The credentials of the site are highlighted, with suitability, availability and achievability arguments made, allied to consideration of harm to the Green Belt.</p>	
<p>Certainty of delivery of the number of homes needed to meet the Objective Assessed Housing Need is fundamental to the successful implementation of the Local Plan strategy. The supplemental text should be clarified to enshrine this point of principle. Only those sites that have passed the test deliverability should be included in the site allocations list. Site AB12 demonstrably fails this test.</p>	
<p>There is an extremely low level of employment in the Audley area and any jobs that would be on offer through industrial or warehouse areas would not be relevant or benefit the local community. Availability of other brownfield opportunities along the A500. The exceptional circumstances for Green Belt release need to be explained.</p>	
<p>Site specific comments to NC13 (Land West of Bullockhouse Road, HARRISEAHEAD): The council is urged to review its targets for new housing in the Borough to reflect the actual need (both in number and type of dwellings). Reflecting on neighbourhood & Borough specific housing</p>	

<p>needs surveys undertaken allied to the constraints of the Green Belt (& it being developed only in exceptional circumstances). Reductions in population forecasts, the nature & character of the rural settlements, delivery rates of new homes over the last decade should all be factored in. Contradictory to the 2022 SHELAA conclusions. Impacts on nature & wildlife, achieve the opposite of supporting green infrastructure, landscape & carbon footprint, increasing urban sprawl and coalescence of settlements. Brownfield land & empty homes availability. Prime Minister's recent statements on Green Belt and not concreting over the countryside. Development will conflict with the Local Plans Strategic Objectives and the Newcastle-under-Lyme Council Shared Prosperity Fund including damage to watercourses, natural drainage and loss of greenspace. Mining legacies. Ecological impacts (referred to in a detail following a survey). Infrastructure including sewage capacity, public transport (including the benefits of improved connectivity to Kidsgrove Railway Station), wider green infrastructure (including carbon capture), traffic & road network repercussions (such as at Pennyfields Road). Proposals do not accord with Local Plan policies IN1, IN2 & SE1. Consider development at Talke Pits & only look to bring forward development in this locality once other options have been exhausted.</p>	
<p>Object to the omission of the land at Slacken Lane, Kidsgrove (Ref: BL4) from the list of housing allocations and it being identified instead as a protected open space within the Draft Local Plan. Detailed argument presented elucidating that the extensive technical work that has already been undertaken by & on behalf of those with an interest in the land, confirms that there are no constraints that could not be addressed while bringing the site forward for development. Viability, it being sequentially preferable to other sites, wider existing greenspace provision in the locality, allied to addressing favourably the SHELAA parameters, were also highlighted. Developer ambitions for the site's development further amplified the arguments for new homes being built within this site.</p>	
<p>There are no allocations currently proposed in Baldwins Gate and this conflicts with the spatial strategy set out in PSD 2 which emphasises the</p>	

<p>role of Rural Centres in meeting the Borough's housing need. The Rural Area Topic Paper also shows that Baldwins Gate is one of only 2 Rural Centres which meet all sustainability criteria without being considered jointly with a nearby settlement. Taking account of this & other factors, site ref: LW38 should be allocated as a residential development site. The arguments for it being discounted from consideration for allocation based on concerns over access arrangements into the site and the loss of agricultural land are challenged, with reference to the recent appeal decision at Baldwin's Gate Farm.</p>	
<p>Supports the Local Plan site selection rejection of and agree with the considered reasons for each parcel of land for rejection, of the sites put forward in the Maer & Whitmore Ward: LW6, LW7, LW9, LW38, LW42, LW48, LW78, LW83 & LW84. It is considered that each of the rejected locations lacks facilities and services, lies outside the village envelope and is in an unsustainable location.</p>	
<p>Arguments made which highlighted the merits, mitigation and pitfalls, including design & land-use suggestions, for many sites across the Borough. On a settlement by settlement basis, these include sites in Crackley, CT1 and greenspace & traffic impact aspects; Keele, where it is stated that it is vital that a green woodland area is kept between KL15 and Paris Avenue estate; Holditch, where CT20 is felt to be an appropriate employment site, but as it is clearly visible from Apedale Country Park, it should include trees that screen the buildings to some extent; Knutton, where KS3 should be moved further out along Blackbank road because it currently takes away a field that has been used for recreation.</p>	
<p>Locations of sites NC80, NC81, and NC82 are not suitable for development. Impacts on pedestrians, landscape & traffic (including road capacity and suitability) are highlighted. Similar concerns also expressed to NC13 as Mow Cop Road is used as direct route to the A34 from this location.</p>	
<p>Focus of comments relates to TK10, TK27 and TK17. This argues that specific infrastructure problems/difficulties in relation to these sites the</p>	

<p>proposed additional housing would cause already inadequate roads to become impossibly congested and to deteriorate even further. Connected to this, given that the current schooling and health facilities in the village would not sustain a sudden increase in population, would further development and therefore more land be needed to build more schooling and medical facilities? This would force the current population who currently reside in the village to find schools places outside of the direct area Thus adding to the car emissions and further reducing air quality. The smaller neighbourhood centre at Talke and the heritage implications of the Grade II listed, Wedgewood Monument are highlighted. Other factors identified include amenity impacts for existing residents; environmental damage, mining legacy and impacts on watercourses & drainage.</p>	
<p>Land situated at southwest of High St, Kidsgrove & objection to its omission as a preferred site in the Draft Local Plan. Reference is made to a 2021 Call for Sites submission made for this site & supporting documentation from Aspire Housing, the adjoining landowner, through whose land access is proposed, confirming the Association's in principle agreement to the proposal. It is considered that development would have minimal adverse impact on the purposes of Green Belt, particularly vis a vis sites that are currently preferred. For reasons including Biodiversity Net Gain, housing density & types, the Council has seriously over-estimated the number of new homes which will be delivered from its current allocations e.g. NC13. Newchapel is a very sustainable location for new housing, with excellent nearby facilities and infrastructure to accommodate additional housing. The land promoted, being level, grassed and only occasionally used for rough grazing, does not exhibit any significant ecological constraints, whilst professional highway consultants have confirmed that access and highway arrangements can be readily provided to serve the site's development.</p>	
<p>Object to the omission of sites, HM8 (Land West of Heathcote Road, Miles Green) & HM10 (Land off Victoria Avenue, Miles Green). Arguments advocating their allocation as residential development sites</p>	

include: aside from Green Belt, not being subject to any statutory or non-statutory designation; relationship to the existing built form; not harm the wider Green Belt & its purposes; a defensible boundary to the Green Belt can be achieved, whilst releasing the land; within convenient access to a wide range of facilities by sustainable modes; considered to be developable for housing within the first 5 years post adoption of the Local Plan.	
---	--

39. Glossary

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>Glossary should be expanded to include definition of terms: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health Impact Assessment (and Rapid Health Impact Assessment)• Design Review Process• Energy Hierarchy• Mitigation Hierarchy• Biodiversity net Gain• Housing and Economic Needs Assessment• Standard Method• Nature Recovery and Local Nature Recovery Strategy	<p>The items listed will be included in the glossary of terms in the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan.</p>

40. Appendix 1 Monitoring Framework

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
SO, I – XII, and SO-VII are not represented in the monitoring framework, they should have indicators which trigger remedial action inadequate progress is being made in the plan period	The council will review its monitoring framework in response to the issues raised in the First Draft Local Plan and any other additional policies included etc.
Plan needs to clearly set out what would happen if monitoring showed under-delivery against the agreed housing trajectory.	
The Housing Mix policy delivery monitoring indicator and remedy suggests that if housing sites are not delivering the mix required the resulting remedy would be advise DM not to permit housing scheme of the 'wrong' mix. Another remedy could and should be to negotiation with developers to find a viable and deliverable housing mix solution on a case-by-case basis. Such other remedies should also be reflected in the monitoring framework.	
Figures on affordable housing provision should be published as part of the monitoring framework.	

41. Appendix 2: Employment Sites in Supply

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
The current availability of existing not fully utilised employment use sites in the locality e.g. at Peacock Hay and the Tunstall bypass	Appendix 2 will be amended in the light of comments raised and additional monitoring information gathered in the preparation of the First Draft Local Plan.
Will the demand for these sites be monitored before a decision is made to release Green Belt land?	
Supporting information is needed to explain the purpose and context of this table to the plan-making process, particularly considering discussion elsewhere in the plan about the potential need for greenbelt release	
NC13: Comments raised to object to this site.	
Support with reference to strategic location TK30 (<i>no further detailed comments provided as a representation</i>)	

42. Appendix 3: Borough Council Car Parks in Asset Rationalisation Programme

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Smaller local car parks are vital to the small businesses that are located close by.	The council will consider the issues raised from the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan in the preparation of the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan (the Final Draft Local Plan). The council will also reflect on changes to national planning policy in preparing the Final Draft Local Plan and any other relevant strategies prepared that has an influence on the Plan.
Objection to the loss of car parks, including Hassell Street, Cherry Orchard, Windsor Street car parks. You are taking their choice away.	
Concern that some residents rely on small car parks as they are closely located to services and small business i.e. health provision.	
A petition submitted by several local businesses - 'Save Hassell Street Car Park' (450 signatures in hard copy and approximately 700 online signatures).	
Need to consider the safety and access implications of the loss of car parks. Many members of the community feel less safe on a multi-story car park.	
Need to consider whether there is sufficient car parking provision in Newcastle-under-Lyme Town Centre and its immediate environs	
Any replacement of the Midway Car Park needs to consider safety and accessibility arrangements	
Investment in 'Sky Building' should be prioritised instead.	

<p>The list of Council Car Parks is identified as having potential for windfall development needs to include some kind of explanation as to why this is included in the plan, and what the status of the list is. If the intention is for ongoing work on car park rationalisation will feed into the Reg 19 plan, this needs to be explained within Appendix 3</p>	
<p>Support the allocation of sites, including former car parks for housing, or mixed-use allocations if they are no longer needed for their current use. Allocations provide greater certainty for developers than bringing schemes forward on a windfall basis.</p>	
<p>This directly contravenes Strategic Objective-III, fewer usable car parks in the town will further reduce the number of visitors and hasten the decline of the town. Having a single multi story car park is not going to suit the needs of the town.</p>	

43. Appendix 4: First Draft Local Plan Site Allocations Maps

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Policy map is not clear as to where boundary lies on NC77 SHELA Report p. 163.	The council will consider the issues raised from the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan in the preparation of the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan (the Final Draft Local Plan). A searchable interactive map was produced for the First Draft Local Plan and will be updated and published as part of the Final Draft Local Plan.
NC78 & NC79 Development in these localities is not desired – traffic and lack of infrastructure.	
Map 1 in the policies booklet shows as Preferred site SP11 as not in the Green Belt, which it is currently, therefore this map is inaccurate and a misrepresentation of the site.	
HBF note that Draft Policies Booklet shows maps of the Green Belt and other policy designation areas. HBF would encourage the Council consider producing an interactive and searchable web based Local Plan policies map utilising GIS.	

44. AB2 (Strategic Location)

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>Cheshire East Council - Concerns over highways and access implications including widening of the A500 and the impact on Junction 16.</p> <p>Bartholmey conservation area located 900m from site – heritage impact assessment needed. Site triggers SSSI impact zones of Oakhangar Moss.</p> <p>There is a lack of sufficient evidence or information to make a meaningful consideration of the site – heritage impact assessment, transport assessment, land impact assessment etc.</p>	<p>The council included three potential strategic locations in the draft Plan. These sites were not proposed as allocations in the draft Plan however views were sought on the principle of allocating strategic sites in the draft Plan and then also on the site options themselves. The council will consider the responses received to both the principle of development and the individual locations including from neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies and determine the appropriateness of allocating one or more major employment sites.</p>
<p>Stoke-on-Trent City Council - strategic employment site. Given the functional economic area our respective Council's share, the City Council would in principle support such a development but would encourage end uses which provide better quality, higher paid and secure jobs than those that are currently on offer, in the main, in existing warehousing development.</p>	
<p>United Utilities - Site partially in Groundwater Source Protection Zone 3. Further clarity on point of connection required. Site may be unserved and nearest catchment may be UU network.</p>	
<p>Historic England -Consider the impacts to nearby heritage assets including Audley Mill Grade II, Audley Conservation Area and heritage assets within.</p>	
<p>Alsager Town Council – Development could result in an industrialised employment belt with a reduction in Green Belt in the area.</p>	
<p>Balterly, Betley and Wrinnehill Parish Council – congestion at Junction 16, this allocation is supporting a logistics-based low skilled, low paid economy which the Council should not be targeting</p>	
<p>Weston and Crewe Green Parish Council - The potential release of this Green Belt site as a strategic employment allocation will have serious implications for the Parish and could create pressure for the release of Green Belt within the Parish undermining the principles and function of the Green Belt in the area. Conurbation of the Parish with NUL</p>	

Barthomley Parish - It is the view of the Parish Council that without a strategy in place to cover the development of the A500 and its surrounding areas, involving all major stakeholders, the proposals will be unsustainable and will create addition traffic, thereby impacting negatively on the infrastructure of roads and other facilities in and around Barthomley as well as creating pollution and increases in the number of journeys undertaken in the area.	
The overall vision refers to jobs but makes no mention of strategic employment sites.	
Concerns about traffic impact and congestion, particularly in Audley. Concerns over the quality of the road network in Audley and its surrounds.	
Concerns around increased pollution from the warehouse and associated traffic from this development.	
Evidence suggests no need for this site. When there are new warehouses already going up in Crewe, Alsager, Chatterley Valley, Festival Park/Wolstanton, & Tunstall to name only the closest. Some of these remain empty.	
The size of the site is disproportionate and extends to larger than Audley and Bignall End	
Undeveloped land, carbon storage area	
Isolated site – lack of access to sustainable transport options	
Park Lane would need to widen to allow for Heavy vehicles which will lead to the destroying of large hedgerows which reduces biodiversity	
An increase in vehicles in the area and the use of small country lanes for lorries to the AB2 site will make exercising in this area unsafe (walking, cycling, horse-riding)	
The site is a mixture of grade 3a and 3b agricultural land - cannot afford to lose such land	
The habitat for wildlife, birds and animals, including those protected under the Wildlife and Country Act 1981.	
The site has limited access to services and utilities such as gas & electric.	

The exceptional circumstances for the site such as the employment need has not been evidenced, particularly when the employment need identified in the Plan has largely been met with land in supply (Appendix 2) of 49.9 hectares.	
Local jobs for Audley residents unlikely as a result of development due to age demographic of village and the type of jobs being proposed.	
A range of significant adverse impacts (visual, noise, light, disturbance, air quality) including impact of night-time light pollution	
Undermining of regeneration of the urban conurbation, by developing greenfield land in the countryside (regeneration is one of the purposes of Green Belts)	
Due to remoteness, limited economic benefits to Newcastle-under-Lyme.	
Concerns with the impact of TK30 (which is close to Audley). Combined, these sites make AB2 especially harmful.	
The local plan evidence work should confirm the contribution the site makes to Green Belt purposes as different assessments are made in different evidence-based documents.	
AB2 did not score positively in the sustainability appraisal.	
SHELAA 2022 found that site was not in deliverable/developable supply given that it is isolated greenbelt, partly affected by flood zones and has poor access to services and facilities – What has changed?	
Types of jobs proposed are likely to be replaced by automated processes and artificial intelligence	
The land is currently covered by policy N20 within the Saved Policies of the Local Development Plan as an “Area of Landscape Enhancement.” - Why has this changed?	
Public footpaths on site, enjoyed by walkers	
Due to location, the site would create jobs in Cheshire not in Newcastle-under-Lyme	
The area acts as a buffer between Audley Parish and the M6/ A500 noise and light pollution	

Employment provision should be focussed more towards town centres as a means of economic regeneration not rural locations.	
Destroying greenbelt land without demonstrating exceptional circumstances is counterproductive to the strategic objectives SO1, SOIV and SO XII.	
The only thing needed here is a Truck Stop of lorry drivers	
Loss of lorry park layby	
Noise, light and other pollution concerns.	
Loss of ancient, protected hedgerows.	
Any warehouses that are put up should blend in with the landscape, be friendly to wildlife and help to clean the air, with green roofs and rainwater harvesting (the A500 floods now when there is heavy rain)	
Comments from agent promoting the site. The strategic location should be extended to a boundary which has been previously submitted to the Council which includes an extra 8 ha. Several technical documents have been submitted in support of the development of the strategic location including a consideration of the need for the site, Green Belt and highways implications of the sites etc.	
Comments from the Chamber of Commerce supporting the proposed development and recognising the strategic importance to Staffordshire.	
Concerns over loss of Green Belt	
Concerns over infrastructure impact	
Objection regarding the loss of topsoil.	
Impacts on local flora and fauna	
Impacts on flood risk including surface water flooding.	
Proposed use of lanes as emergency access routes, is a dangerous proposition given their limited visibility and inadequate space for pedestrians, cyclists, horse-riders, and vehicles.	
Impact of reduction in bus services to Audley needs to be factored in	
Impacts on Audley – perceived ‘rat run’	
Amenity impacts on neighbourhood housing	

Natural England - Part of the site is good quality semi-improved grassland and potentially of high wildlife value. Potential for air quality impacts on designated sites e.g. Midland Meres & Mosses Phase 2 RAMSAR (Oakhanger Moss SSSI and Black Firs & Cranberry Bog SSSI). Some of site is best and most versatile land (ALC).	
National Highways - National Highways has been engaging with the applicant's consultant on development at strategic employment site AB2 as part of pre-application consultation since 2018. We issued comments to the consultant regarding trip generation, VISSIM model developed for M6 Junction 16 and the associated Local Model Validation Report (LVMR) in June 2023. National Highways are still in discussion regarding trip generation; therefore, we are not currently able to comment on the impact of the development on the nearby M6 J16 and other SRN junctions in the area. However, we understand that there will be a requirement to improve M6 Junction 16, with a potential mitigation scheme involving widening and inclusion of an additional lane on the gyratory of the junction. This potential mitigation scheme would require the removal of the existing heavily used layby on the A500 westbound approach. No improvements are currently proposed at the A500 / A34 Talke Interchange due to development at Site AB2.	
Concerns that use would be for logistics with limited employment opportunities	
Audley Parish – Severe impacts on Audley (included above)	

45. KL15 (Strategic Location)

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
The concentration of housing in Keele is disproportionate to its scale.	The council included three potential strategic locations in the draft Plan. These sites were not proposed as allocations in the draft Plan however views were sought on the principle of allocating strategic sites in the draft Plan and then also on the site options themselves. The council will consider the responses received to both the principle of development and the individual locations including from neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies and determine the appropriateness of allocating one or more major employment sites.
The green spaces as they exist currently are a major factor in making the area attractive to residents. The capacity of vacant buildings should in the first instance be fully assessed & exploited within the 2040-time horizon, moving the emphasis away from removing land in the Green Belt.	
Wider issues argued include: development of Green Belt land will result in Silverdale and Keele merging into one large urban conurbation. Green Belt areas play a vital role in preventing urban sprawl, protecting wildlife habitats, and providing recreational spaces for local residents. Permitting development on Green Belt land could irreversibly damage the natural environment and undermine sustainable growth in the region. It is essential to prioritize brownfield development and explore alternative areas for development to preserve green spaces and maintain a balanced urban landscape. The number of empty homes in the Borough, vacant & derelict buildings in the town centre and development here being preferred as a residential & entertainment focus, reduced population figures in the 2021 census, Government statements on areas that should be the focus of development, heightened physical (e.g. road capacity, condition & suitability) & social infrastructure pressures such as GP's, dentists & schools, recreational, biodiversity & public health value of Keele golf course in particular, increased carbon emissions impacts.	
Historic England - Land East Keele University – Strategic Site – consider impacts to Keele Hall Registered Park and Garden Grade II and heritage assets within this area.	
Allied to those summarised above, directly specific objections to KL15 include: The University currently having a number of student blocks that are empty & that student numbers are unlikely to increase dramatically. Previous slow build-out rates of the University. The site being between two deciduous woods which it is suggested will likely contain bats (a protected species), loss of recreational green space (with consequent impacts on physical & mental health), rights of way & other wildlife	

<p>impacts. Increase in traffic & worsening congestion during & after construction. This heightened traffic flow poses significant road safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. Elevated air pollution levels. Scale and design may not align with the existing local vernacular which could reduce visual appeal. Social displacement could occur through shifts in house prices reducing affordability for existing residents. Loss of food production capabilities. The increased traffic, noise, and disruptions could negatively affect the university's academic environment and overall campus experience for students and staff. Amenity impacts (such as noise pollution and loss of tranquillity) on existing residents & negative effects on the character and identity of the area. The grasses found (long established through the site's use for agriculture and recreation) aid carbon sequestration, which is significant in tackling climate change and reaching net zero targets. Site is noted as biologically important and a bio-diversity alert, with Bluebells which are found here are a protected species. Access into the site cannot be achieved without destroying green space. The science park is considered to have expanded enough already. Subject to retention of the areas of woodland, this site may be a better alternative to development of the Keele golf course site</p>	
<p>This site is one identified (amongst others in the locality) whose development could impact upon Thistleberry.</p>	
<p>Stoke-on-Trent City Council - strategic employment site. Given the functional economic area our respective Council's share, the City Council would in principle support such a development but would encourage end uses which provide better quality, higher paid and secure jobs than those that are currently on offer, in the main, in existing warehousing development.</p>	
<p>A through road from KL15 should not be created, as it would encourage huge amounts of traffic from the Keele sites (as well as the university) to and from the M6, for example, via Sutherland Drive and other roads in the Westlands area.</p>	
<p>If development were to take place & it may be preferable to develop here rather than on the Keele golf course, it is vital that a green woodland</p>	

area is kept between KL15 and Paris Avenue estate. The woods (such as Flagstaff Plantation, but not only that part) can be seen from miles around including the other side of the town, and therefore they must be protected not only for nearby residents, but to maintain the character and environment of Newcastle as a place overlooked by green hills all along the western side	
No exceptional reason for Green Belt boundary changes.	
The combination of SP11, TB19, SP13 and KL15 will lead to a huge new conurbation.	
The science park has expanded enough	
Concerns over infrastructure provision	
Loss of green / open space	
Loss of a greenfield site	
National Highways - The site is likely to have an impact on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in terms of traffic. The immediate SRN junctions likely to be impacted are: M6 J15; A500 (Queensway) / A34 roundabout	
Should the site be allocated in the final Local Plan, further assessment work may be required to ascertain the impact on the SRN and to determine the need for mitigation. National Highways would expect that the proposed site allocation be subject to consultation with National Highways and appropriately assessed in order to determine the extent of their potential impacts on the operation of the SRN in the area.	
Key that woodland area is kept between KL15 and Paris Avenue estate.	
Allocation of the site would lead to the destruction of wildlife and habitat	
Allocation of the site would lead to the demise of ancient woodland.	
Natural England - Reiterating those comments submitted previously to the Local Plan Issues & options consultation, the site includes areas that are priority habitat- i.e. deciduous woodland, and The Butts and Hands Wood which is listed as Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland. Also adjacent to	

Rosemary Wood Site of Biological Importance, Barker's Wood and Hands Wood and Pie Rough Biodiversity Alert Site. Potential for air quality impacts on designated sites. Potential impact on best and most versatile agricultural land.	
Concerns regarding the impact on the A525	
The increased traffic, noise, and disruptions could negatively affect the university's academic environment and overall campus experience for students and staff.	
Potential loss of best and most versatile land	
Comment from Keel University. Supportive of the vision and site KL15 which can bring forward the site as an exemplar of sustainable development. Committed to working to ensure that the objectives of the site are achieved.	
Impact upon Public Rights of Way	
Trees that line the A525 should be kept.	
Opposition to the allocation of this site from a developer interest with a headline assessment undertaken & advocacy presented for an alternative development proposal for an area of Land at Madeley Heath incorporating a Planning Statement and a Transport assessment.	
Development offers a generational opportunity for regional scale growth which could provide a step-change in the Borough's employment offer that supports the knowledge-economy and which will significantly increase job numbers, job quality and job choice. However, the growth of Keele University and its Science Park must be supported by a sustainable spatial strategy. This must include the release of further land in the University Growth Corridor	
Encouraging university staff to be based in the Borough by the provision of better-quality homes will reduce the numbers commuting from across the region and contribute to the prosperity of the local economy, helping to support the viability of the urban centre of nearby Newcastle under Lyme. Given the campus' location, it is recognised that this would require	

<p>some Green Belt release in and around the Keele University area to create new properties and this would be supported, subject to the requirement that 30% of the housing total comprises affordable housing.</p>	
<p>Keele University is an internationally recognised centre for research and scholarship, it is also seen as a pioneer in the development of green energy and green technology. Within the Borough the University is one of the main employers and its contribution to the local economy is substantial. If the University is to continue to grow, it should have access to development space. Potential for high value industry & jobs to be established in specialist roles such as engineering, design & digital enterprises.</p>	
<p>Keele University is committed to working with the Council and other stakeholders in bringing forward the allocated site as an exemplar of sustainable development.</p> <p>The University agrees that development should be masterplan led and should maximise the benefit of sustainable transport links and the Smart Energy Network Demonstrator and is fully committed to working with other landowners to realise these objectives.</p> <p>Plans should take on board the need to create a more accessible and inclusive Public Transport Network, moving away from the East/West lineage of the existing system, and using the Local Plan to open up links to the North and South of Keele University, supporting more circular public transport solutions that link the Urban Villages to core employment sites and amenities.</p> <p>The University contends that there would be limited conflict with the five purposes of Green Belt identified the NPPF. Keele is a village, and the proposals would not therefore involve the sprawl of a large built-up area or the coalescence of existing towns. The proposals involve a limited release of countryside which is clearly defined and viewed in the context of existing built development to the east and west. This is not a valued</p>	

<p>landscape for the purposes of the NPPF. The proposals will not affect the historic core of Keele Village and will not prejudice urban regeneration within Stoke on Trent, which has its own separate employment allocation. This approach is considered far more sustainable than pushing the Borough's employment and housing requirements to settlements outside the Green Belt, which are significantly less well equipped to deal with the pressures that it brings. Although there may be arguments for an equal distribution of opportunity, consideration needs to be given to the wide impact of a distributed solution. Focusing development around existing infrastructure which can be sustainably enhanced to support both housing and economic growth should be given priority</p>	
<p>Keele Parish Council have worked with the University on the development of the Keele Neighbourhood Plan alongside the University's Masterplan. Support is given to the University's ambitions for growth over the period covered by the Local Plan, and the aim to serve as a hub for technological business development in the area. It is believed this is exactly the sort of development the Borough needs, and therefore do not object to the extension of the Science Park into Green Belt, but caution is urged owing to previous growth rates.</p>	

46. TK30 (Strategic Location)

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>United Utilities - TK30 (along with a number of other sites) is on the periphery of the area of operation of United Utilities. Development here may result in the connection of a large amount of flows into a small wastewater pumping station that is believed to pumps northwards. Offset distances from utility apparatus may be required. If this site is to be allocated, they would wish to work with the site promoter to ensure that the point of connection is agreed and to ensure that any necessary upgrades to infrastructure are co-ordinated with the delivery of development. It is requested that this be addressed in the Local Plan's site-specific requirements (should allocation continue to be pursued) including, as appropriate, any in the wider area. It may also be the case that the site promoter intends to connect to assets owned and operated by Severn Trent rather than United Utilities.</p>	<p>The council included three potential strategic locations in the draft Plan. These sites were not proposed as allocations in the draft Plan however views were sought on the principle of allocating strategic sites in the draft Plan and then also on the site options themselves. The council will consider the responses received to both the principle of development and the individual locations including from neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies and determine the appropriateness of allocating one or more major employment sites.</p>
<p>Stoke-on-Trent City Council - strategic employment site. Given the functional economic area our respective Council's share, the City Council would in principle support such a development but would encourage end uses which provide better quality, higher paid and secure jobs than those that are currently on offer, in the main, in existing warehousing development.</p>	
<p>Historic England - consider impact on Wedgewood Monument Grade II listed.</p>	
<p>Natural England - If this site is considered for release and allocation the following should be taken into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site includes areas that are priority habitat- i.e. deciduous woodland • Part of the site is agricultural land classification grade 3 and potentially best and most versatile land. • Potential for air quality impacts on designated sites. • Adjacent to Bignall End Coal Yards Site of Biological Importance. 	
<p>National Highways – The site is likely to have an impact on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in terms of traffic. The immediate SRN junctions likely to be impacted are:</p>	

<p>M6 J16; A500 / Alsager Rd; A500 / A34 / Newcastle Road roundabout (Talke Interchange); A500 / A527</p> <p>Should the site be allocated in the final Local Plan, further assessment work may be required to ascertain the impact on the SRN and to determine the need for mitigation. National Highways would expect that the proposed site allocation be subject to consultation with National Highways and appropriately assessed to determine the extent of their potential impacts on the operation of the SRN in the area.</p>	
<p>Cheshire East Council - Whilst recognising that the plan is not proposing to allocate the site at this stage, there is a lack of sufficient evidence or information to enable meaningful consideration of the planning merits or otherwise of the site. The following was highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns about the impact of this site on the capacity of the A500 and the junction of the A500/B5472/A531 roundabout. A transport assessment would be required to consider what mitigation is needed. The council would also require this assessment to consider the impacts of its proposed A500 widening scheme (to a dual carriageway) and, if this is shown to address forecast problems, there would be a policy requirement to contribute towards the council's costs of delivering this project. - The assessment should also consider, in conjunction with National Highways, how the operation of the B5078 Radway Green Road/Junction 16 of the M6 is impacted by these development proposals. - An assessment should be undertaken to consider how access to this employment site could be enhanced by public and sustainable transport from Alsager, Crewe, Sandbach and Congleton including demand projections. - An assessment of the highway impacts at the junction of the B5077/A5011 should also be undertaken. 	

<p>This site would require a degree of offsite mitigation. It is not entirely clear as to how this site would be accessed. The only existing bus service (route 4A) uses the Talke Road which goes over the A500 and does not seem like an obvious way to access TK30. It would be a deviation for the 4A to access this site as this route is already part of a larger complicated network of services (3, 3A, 4, 4A).</p>	
<p>Traffic (including A500 & A34 congestion which national audits highlight as at near capacity) & noise pollution issues would be worsened. Significant increases in HGV traffic and more issues associated with the use of existing routes as rat-runs.</p> <p>Road surfaces are in a poor condition (worsened by excess weight vehicles), with many narrow local roads making traffic flow more difficult, particularly for emergency vehicles and public transport. Limited or no crossing points exists. Access and egress via junctions will become a lot more difficult and dangerous. Traffic calming measures are already in place at certain points.</p> <p>Previously stated objections from the Highways Authority for much smaller residential proposals are highlighted.</p> <p>Public transport provision has been reduced & timetables are often affected by traffic congestion, especially during school term-time.</p> <p>Public right of way & cycle route impacts. Increase road users would make it dangerous for horse-riders which is a popular pastime and valuable to the local economy.</p> <p>More off-road parking would need to be provided if development were to take place.</p> <p>Road safety measures should be implemented, such as at the chicanes in Talk Pits towards Kidsgrove on Deans Lane & Cedar Road.</p>	

<p>Access routes into the site are questioned as to their suitability.</p> <p>While TK30 is proposed as a mixture of employment and/or housing, this is acceptable in general terms if access is from or near the A500 and not Deans Lane, since the traffic effect of the latter on the centre of Red Street would be completely unacceptable. The proposal shows a gap from Deans Lane for the path to the Wedgwood Memorial; this gap should be much wider so as to provide a better view of the hill and the development area to the south-east of the memorial should not come so close to the memorial.</p>	
<p><i>Social infrastructure:</i></p> <p>GP & dental (particularly for NHS) appointments are problematic/ impossible to obtain. Reference to a recently closed GP practice (Waterhayes). Will a new pharmacy be established & how will any new services be staffed?</p> <p>Available school places across the age range are limited or at capacity. Current class sizes are also at maximum levels advised, with buildings in a poor state of repair. The creation of a new school would require the support of Staffordshire County Council. Retention of the former Hilltop school is suggested as it may be required should development take place.</p> <p>Policing pressures.</p>	
<p><i>Water, drainage & flood risk:</i></p> <p>Run off from roads after heavy & sustained rainfall, with excess water being released from drains.</p> <p>The sewage network is not capable of coping with the increased demands from new development.</p> <p>Impact of development on groundwater and surface water contamination, allied to water supply difficulties of existing residents, noting issues that have arisen previously.</p>	

<p><i>Biodiversity:</i> Risk of irreversibly damaging ecosystems, disrupting delicate habitats, and contributing to the loss of biodiversity.</p> <p>The proximity of the proposals will affect the local nature reserve and ancient woodland of Parrots Drumble. Impacts could include: Trampling and vegetation wear, soil compaction and erosion, contamination (including nutrient enrichment (for example from dog fouling), as well as an increase in litter and a greater risk of fire. Corridors, including those local wildlife groups and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust helped established, could be harmed.</p> <p>The European Hedgehog is protected against intentional harm and consultation needs to be made with local rescue charities and organisations to properly assess the damage caused.</p> <p>Other species highlighted include: Wild rabbits, bats, badgers, newts, lapwings, frogs, toads, field mice, butterflies, foxes, red kites, skylarks, woodpeckers, sparrow hawks</p>	
<p><i>Character:</i> There will be impact through either the loss or damage to local listed buildings and the conservation area boundary at Talke. Red St Monument (& its retention) is significant to the community. Attention is also drawn to the dry-stone walling running along the entirety of Crown Bank.</p> <p><i>Deliverability:</i> Representation FDLP5025 (considered as part of Table 4 Strategic Locations) submitted on behalf of Harworth's Group in promoting the site's development provides extensive detail on aspects including: Vision document, indicative proposed masterplan, ecology & landscaping, highways access appraisal, heritage briefing note, geo-environmental desk study, note on socio-economic benefits, ecology and landscaping combined technical note.</p>	

<p>Opposition to the allocation of this site from a developer interest with a headline assessment undertaken & advocacy presented for an alternative development proposal for an area of Land at Madeley Heath incorporating a Planning Statement and a Transport assessment</p>	
<p><i>Other</i></p> <p>The scale of development is disproportionate to the size of the existing communities, as a small semi-rural, historic village, with a significant elderly population (also noting the Local Plan's settlement & retail centre hierarchies). The proposed developments would be overbearing, out of scale and out of character compared with existing developments in the area. There is also the potential that it coalesces settlements.</p> <p>Services & facilities are very limited, with Red Street comprising of a pub, church, a butchers and community centre. The post office and a shop have been lost in the recent past, with protection sought for those that remain, especially as there are no current plans for any further provision detailed in the Local Plan.</p> <p>The Borough's population is in decline, negating the need (& desirability) for the extent of new homes & employment highlighted. Existing warehouses remain empty including in Cheshire East, North Staffordshire & the Potteries and the recent permission at Chatterley Valley offers substantial further provision. Compared to AB2, this site (owing to it being less large) may be the least-worst option.</p> <p>The Government's housing numbers are only advisory & lower density development in the Green Belt is viewed to be against national policy. Extant permissions and recent over-supply should mitigate against increased development pressures.</p> <p>There have been several schemes progressed: Parkhouse Industrial Estate, High Carr Industrial Estate, residential estates at Waterhayes, Mitchels Wood, Badgers Croft, Friesian Gardens, Moss Grove and the very</p>	

<p>recent Wedgwood View which collectively means no further extensive development should be required.</p> <p>Loss of greenbelt land & wider impacts on openness, as well as urbanisation effects and population density increases. Exceptional circumstances for development have not been justified and the associated five purposes of Green Belt (as identified in the NPPF) have not been fully addressed. Permanence is integral to this. Conflicts with other aspects of Government policy such as food security, ground conditions & pollution and environmental protection.</p> <p>Recent PM & Ministerial statements assert the brownfield first approach.</p> <p>Construction of houses on greenbelt land will lead to the loss of natural buffers that help mitigate the impact of climate change. These areas act as carbon sinks, absorbing and storing carbon dioxide, while also helping to regulate temperature and reduce the risk of flooding.</p> <p>Green Belt contributes to the overall physical and mental well-being of communities, promoting healthier lifestyles, providing outdoor recreation opportunities and fostering a sense of pride & identity.</p> <p>Preserving greenbelt land also serves to safeguard the communities' collective heritage and ensure a high quality of life for present and future generations.</p> <p>Alternative solutions should be explored, promoting sustainable urban planning (including focusing on smaller, affordable housing options to create a more balanced community including for single & elderly people, and building at higher densities nearest the main centres), as well as investing in brownfield redevelopment, existing areas (such as run-down parks) & bringing empty homes back into use. There are a significant number of brownfield sites available throughout the area, including in</p>	
--	--

<p>Stoke on Trent, whose development would help enhance the look of the area. Only a small proportion of sites identified to date in this locality are brownfield opportunities. Utilising mechanisms such as compulsory purchase are highlighted.</p> <p>A smaller scale proposal (less than 300 homes) may be more palatable. Adequate provision for parking should also be made.</p> <p>Permanent loss of (high grade) agricultural land.</p> <p>High pressure gas mains are located here.</p> <p>Health & safety concerns of construction, particularly for the young & elderly.</p> <p>Spoiling of natural or existing contours and/or destroying traditional field patterns.</p> <p>Smells & odours from Walley's quarry (Silverdale) are an amenity issue. Increased development will worsen air quality.</p> <p>Damage to the landscape means that there will be a general loss of visual amenity for all residents of Talke and Talke Pits.</p> <p>Loss of privacy & natural light.</p> <p>Increased light & noise pollution.</p> <p>Whilst affordability issues are recognised, how would the type of homes that could be built address this?</p> <p>Quarried areas within the site could be reclaimed for agriculture or, if this proves difficult, used in other ways to enhance biodiversity.</p>	
--	--

<p>Identified open space strategy sites should be retained.</p> <p>The wellbeing of the community should be prioritised in decisions that affect the natural environment.</p> <p>If the proposals were to be advanced, they would contravene the UN's 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>Mining legacies including shafts and an identified Coal Authority 'High Risk Area'. Potential for damage to existing properties to occur through ground disturbance & exacerbating subsidence. British Geological Survey evidence of earthquake activity.</p> <p>Property values will be negatively affected.</p> <p>Changes in living & working practices will alter the design and function of new homes. Automation will influence the type of employment that could be offered, and the longer term need for warehouse/lower skilled roles.</p> <p>Collaborative dialogue should take place with community members, environmental experts, and relevant stakeholders, to find innovative and sustainable solutions that balance the need for housing with the stated imperative of preserving green spaces. Consultation (including the drop-in events, notification methods, timeframes for response & general awareness) to date has not been easy to engage with.</p>	
--	--

47. AB12 Land East of Diglake Street

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Concerns over proposed access arrangements and secondary access is not appropriate (including concerns over visibility)	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Likely to increase traffic volume around the site and through the village. On street car parking is an issue	
The condition of the local road network is an issue	
Impact of reduced bus services need to be considered	
Concerns over impact on existing infrastructure / amenities provision. Lack of infrastructure capacity to deal with the site -Schools -Doctors / Dentists	
Local empty shops and pubs should be converted into residential accommodation	
Specific concerns over access to the site from Diglake Street	
Disagree with scale of proposals and associated impact	
Close to the Diglake Mine	
Impact on agricultural land	
Flora, fauna and wildlife impact	
Noise, light and other pollution concerns	
Flooding concerns	
The site is ransomed and incapable of delivering safe and satisfactory access.	
Close to the Wedgewood Monument	
2021 census indicated that the overall population of the Audley ward is in fact static (when compared to figures for 2011) therefore why the need for all these extra houses?	
To further increase the congestion and pollution will be detrimental to the health of the residents of Audley for generations to come.	
Provision for elderly population in village – bungalows etc?	

Staffordshire County Council - The Highway Authority would raise concern with the outlined access strategy. I can confirm that the site has sufficient road frontage on Diglake Street to create an access however there are off-site access issues that will need to be fully addressed in regard to on-street parking on Diglake street and intensification of use of the Diglake St/B5500 junction. Access to the field is presently taken from the B5500, however it is of insufficient width in its current form to serve the proposed development unless it can be improved. Preference would be for the development to be served via the higher order road (B5500).	
Nature reserves such as Parrots Drumble will be greatly affected by any proposals	
GB study 2020 deemed site has a strong contribution to the Green Belt. The site will have impacts on Green Belt purposes	
Agricultural Grade 3 farmland	
Green Belt impacts including urban sprawl	
Bungalows should be provided.	
Roads in Audley are often subject to flooding, building on greenfield will increase flooding	
Impact on landscape	
Change of bus services	
Loss of open space	
Concern over the capacity of local utilities and infrastructure including sewage etc.	
Historic England - No nearby heritage designated assets.	
Impact on the character and appearance of the area.	
United Utilities - Various sewer assets and associated combined sewer overflow pass through this site which will be a constraint to development.	

48. AB15 Land North of Vernon Avenue

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Likely to increase traffic volume through the village. Traffic safety will be compromised. Concerns over access into the site.	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Impact of the site's proximity to Diglake Disaster	
Impact of reduced bus services need to be considered	
Concerns over impact on existing infrastructure provision. Lack of infrastructure capacity to deal with the site including health, education, sewage, gas pressure and other facilities	
2021 census indicated that the overall population of the Audley ward is in fact static (when compared to figures for 2011) therefore why the need for all these extra houses?	
Audley already has the 10th highest incidence of asthma and chronic obstructive airways disease within Staffordshire; the highest for any of the rural practices. This is despite our smoking incidence being below the England average. To further increase the congestion and pollution will be detrimental to the health of the residents of Audley for generations to come.	
Agricultural Grade 3 farmland	
Provision for elderly population in village – bungalows etc?	
Road on Vernon Avenue is in poor condition, concern over car parking and increased traffic from development will cause this to worsen.	
Will new development be in keeping with existing housing?	
Allocation of Green Belt land contradictory to government's recent statements	
Natural England - This is adjacent to a traditional orchard according to our records and this should be taken into consideration.	
Bungalows and homes suitable for older people should be provided	
Impact on local nature reserves including Parrots Drumble	

Impact on loss of wildlife, flora and fauna	
Flood risk concerns, including surface water	
Amenity impacts concerns	
Ground stability concerns	
Concerns over the loss of character and appearance of the local area.	
Concerns over impact and proximity to Conservation Area and Wedgewood Monument	
Concerns over loss of amenity areas and outdoor spaces	
Cumulative impacts of homes proposed in Audley	
Landscape impacts and on character and appearance	
Concerns over parking provision in the village	
Sites should be located close to existing centres and community facilities and should not lead to the coalescence between Audley Parish Settlements.	
Climate change impacts	
Brownfield sites should be prioritised.	
Pollution impacts, light, noise etc.	
Historic England – no nearby heritage assets	
There are more suitable brownfield sites in Stoke and Crewe	
United Utilities - Sewer passes through site.	

49. AB32: Land Nursery Gardens Audley

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
The Nursery Gardens entrance into the site is not available to the public	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Concerns over access into the site.	
Likely to increase traffic volume through the village - A traffic survey is required before the site can be allocated.	
Impact of reduced bus services need to be considered	
Concerns over impact on existing infrastructure provision. Lack of infrastructure capacity to deal with the site.	
Object to loss of Green Belt	
2021 census indicated that the overall population of the Audley ward is in fact static (when compared to figures for 2011) therefore why the need for all these extra houses?	
Audley already has the 10th highest incidence of asthma and chronic obstructive airways disease within Staffordshire; the highest for any of the rural practices. This is despite our smoking incidence being below the England average. To further increase the congestion and pollution will be detrimental to the health of the residents of Audley for generations to come.	
Object to loss of Green Belt. Green Belt study 2020 deemed site has a strong contribution to the Green Belt	
Agricultural Grade 3 farmland	
Provision for elderly population in village – bungalows etc?	
Site was previously considered as a graveyard but planning permission was not granted because water table is too high	
Allocation of Green Belt land contradictory to government's recent statements	
Park Lane is too narrow to support a development this size (AB32+AB33)	
If planning permission is granted, what guarantees do we have that the drainage to our property will be maintained in good order during the continuance of any works? (We have previously had foul drainage	

discharging from sewer hole covers on our property until United Utilities re-laid a length of the drain in development area AB32.	
Bungalows should be provided.	
The hedge where access is being suggested is owned by a resident, how will the council ensure the access does not affect land not owned by the developer?	
Park Lane is too narrow to support a development this size (AB32+AB33)	
Site is near Wedgewood Monument and Audley Conservation Area	
Ground is unstable	
Close to site of Diglake disaster	
Flood risk concerns, including surface flooding	
Site is near Parrots Drumble	
Amenity impacts	
Concerns over impacts on character and appearance of area	
Concerns over climate change impacts	
Impacts of flora, fauna and wildlife	
Impact on trees and hedgerows	
Cumulative impacts of sites in Audley	
Noise, air and light pollution	
Any development proposed should be small, family accommodation and homes suitable for the elderly.	
Staffordshire County Council - Masterplan led development appropriate from an access strategy perspective. Off-site highway improvements are likely to be required in Park Lane to support AB32 & AB33. Master plan to be supported with a Transport Assessment.	
Historic England – no nearby designated assets	
Should develop brownfield sites	
Loss of open space	
Destruction of traditional field patterns and hedges	

United Utilities - Sewers pass through this site which will need to be taken into consideration.	
--	--

50. AB33: Land Off Nantwich Road / Park Lane, Audley

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Likely to increase traffic volume through the village - A traffic survey is required before the site can be allocated.	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Traffic safety and access concerns	
Concerns over the state and quality of the road network	
Impact of reduced bus services need to be considered	
Concerns over infrastructure. Lack of existing / proposed infrastructure capacity to deal with the site including education, health, sewage, utilities etc	
Object to loss of Green Belt / Greenfield land	
2021 census indicated that the overall population of the Audley ward is in fact static (when compared to figures for 2011) therefore why the need for all these extra houses?	
Audley already has the 10th highest incidence of asthma and chronic obstructive airways disease within Staffordshire; the highest for any of the rural practices. This is despite our smoking incidence being below the England average. To further increase the congestion and pollution will be detrimental to the health of the residents of Audley for generations to come.	
Object to loss of Green Belt. Green Belt study 2020 deemed site has a strong contribution to the Green Belt	
Agricultural Grade 3 farmland	
Provision for elderly population in village – bungalows etc?	
Site was previously considered as a graveyard but planning permission was not granted because watertable is too high	
Allocation of Green Belt land contradictory to government's recent statements	
A development of this scale would change the rural character of Audley.	
Park Lane is too narrow to support a development this size (AB32+AB33)	
Site is near Wedgewood Monument and Audley Conservation Area	

Ground is unstable	
Close to site of Diglake disaster	
Flood risk concerns, including surface flooding	
Site is near Parrots Drumble	
Amenity impacts	
Concerns over impacts on character and appearance of area	
Concerns over climate change impacts	
Impacts of flora, fauna and wildlife	
Impact on trees and hedgerows	
Cumulative impacts of sites in Audley	
Noise, air and light pollution	
Any development proposed should be small, family accommodation and homes suitable for the elderly.	
Staffordshire County Council - Masterplan led development appropriate from an access strategy perspective. Off-site highway improvements are likely to be required in Park Lane to support AB32 & AB33. Master plan to be supported with a Transport Assessment.	
Historic England – no nearby designated assets	
Should develop brownfield sites	
Loss of open space	
Destruction of traditional field patterns and hedges	

51. BL18: Clough Hall, Talke

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Sport England - Not demonstrated that this playing pitch is surplus to requirement or replacement provision is to be provided in line with NPPF paragraph 99.	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Object to loss of wildlife on site	
No infrastructure to support development (doctors, schools etc)	
The field holds water that runs down the A34 and is marshy throughout all seasons. Poor drainage around area, the development will exacerbate these issues and lead to worse flooding on Park Avenue	
Too much development in Talke will put a strain on amenities	
Increased traffic increases pollution and decreases air quality. Road is not wide enough.	
Access constraints - It would be dangerous to have a road exiting on to the A34. Beech drive is a narrow and windy road and cars are already parked on pavements.	
Site includes some significant old woodland and cannot be dismissed as either brownfield or denuded land from intensive agriculture.	
United Utilities - There is a significant level of flood risk at this site. It is critical that any masterplanning of this site takes full account of this flood risk and we recommend that this is better understood as soon as possible.	
National Highways - Further assessment work may be required to ascertain the impact on the SRN and to determine the need for mitigation. National highways should be consulted in this process.	
During school hours, cars park on both side of Clough Hall Road to pick children up from school, causing traffic to build. This site therefore contradicts policy IN2	
Why can't BL18 be reinstated as a playing pitch? This has more community value than housing. Object to loss of open space.	
Not enough signage on BL18 to indicate this was a potential allocation in the Draft Local Plan	
Land is prone to flooding, drainage and surface water impacts	

Popular recreation and dog walking site	
Talke does not have many green spaces.	
Natural England - This site includes parts of Sites of Biological Importance. We are unable to provide specific advice, but we would advise that if these allocations will cause adverse impacts on these sites they should be deleted as allocations in line with paragraph 174 of the NPPF.	
Officers at consultation event said that the entrance for any houses built would not be from Newcastle Road. This means that the entrance would be from somewhere from the surrounding estate. This would lead to an increase of traffic / air pollution/ traffic noise on what has always been a quiet estate.	
Object to loss of Green Belt / open countryside	
Site is in close proximity to Wedgewood Monument / heritage implications (proximity to Talke Conservation Area)	
Concerns over loss of character	
Climate change impacts	
Site does not meet the sustainability appraisal requirements	
Council's SHELAA does not support the allocation of the site	
Staffordshire County Council - Cycle and pedestrian connectivity to the A34 will need to be considered within any Master Plan. Master plan to be supported with a Transport Assessment.	
Historic England – no nearby designated heritage assets	
Opportunities for local employment has reduced.	
Local sewage infrastructure is not appropriate for development	
Light, air quality and noise pollution	
Lack of services in the local area	
Concerns over impact on local character, landscape. Concerns regarding urban sprawl	
Contrary to objectives in the sustainability appraisal	
Object to the loss of Greenspace on Clough Hall Playing Field.	

Impacts of Peacock Hay Road and new warehousing on local traffic levels etc.	
No connecting bus routes	
BL18 has several springs.	
Lack of employment opportunities in Kidsgrove and the surrounding area	
Concerns over sewage infrastructure at Red Bull Sewage Plant)	
Concerns over construction impacts	

52. BL24: Land Adjacent 31 Bunbury Street, Talke

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p><i>Residential amenity / Health and wellbeing:</i> Concern regarding height and potential overlooking / overshadowing of adjacent houses</p> <p>Impact on air quality - loss of clean fresh air and potential emissions and dust from construction activities that could affect air quality and residents' health (particularly taking into account the elderly population / ex-mining population with high incidences of Asthma and COPD)</p> <p>Impact on the health and wellbeing of the local community - concerns about how the construction projects will affect their access to services and overall quality of life (especially given the village has a high elderly population)</p> <p>Increased noise pollution disturbing the peace and tranquillity of the area</p>	<p>The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.</p>
<p><i>Social infrastructure:</i> Insufficient / overloaded infrastructure - schools, GP surgeries (Talke and Kidsgrove), NHS dentists and shop/s Loss of open space Suggestion that the former Hilltop School site should be retained in case a school with a playing field is needed</p>	
<p><i>Transportation:</i> Staffordshire County Council - Banbury Street has restricted geometry to accommodate increase of two-way traffic as a result of development. Off-site highway mitigation works will be required to support the proposal.</p>	

<p>Other Transport concerns</p> <p>Concerns regarding increase in traffic - increased noise and disturbance, congestion, on-street parking problems, accidents, difficulties with residents getting in and out of driveways and impact on the bus service</p> <p>Existing road system inadequate, in a poor state of repair and unsuitable to accommodate additional traffic – in particular, the roundabouts at the end of the village and throughout the Talke residential road network</p> <p>National traffic audits indicate that the A34 and A500 are already at almost full capacity</p> <p>Increase in heavy vehicles associated with construction works leading to further congestion and potential safety hazards</p> <p>The nearby major arterial routes of the A34, the A500 and the M6 already regularly cause unacceptable traffic difficulties in Talke, causing large numbers of vehicles, including HGVs, to divert through the village when there are accidents on / the M6 is closed. Additional houses will only exacerbate these problems</p> <p>The new housing sites will result in large numbers of people commuting from the sites, which is contrary to the Council's objective 'to reduce the need to travel'</p> <p>Regarding the site access, Banbury Street is sometimes the only parking available for houses on the main road / access will be difficult with the A34 at capacity</p> <p>Increased competition for / inadequate parking provision at retail outlets in the Talke Pits, Butt Lane and Kidsgrove areas</p> <p>Parking during construction will be a major issue</p>	
---	--

Inadequate public transport	
United Utilities - We are particularly concerned by site reference BL24. Our modelling data identifies a level of flood risk which is a significant volume which could affect a large section of this small site. This flood risk must be better understood before progressing this allocation further. In the absence of information which confirms that this site is developable either in whole or part, we must register an objection to the allocation of this site.	
United Utilities - Sewer passes through this site, in addition, we have noted a modelled risk of sewer flooding.	
<i>Biodiversity:</i> Loss of green space, trees, hedgerows and natural habitats to a variety of wildlife (including hedgehogs, bats and hunting ground to buzzards) = net loss in biodiversity Detrimental impact on nature reserves and ancient woodland Request that local wildlife groups and owners of the conservation area be involved in assessing the potential impacts	
<i>Character:</i> The amount of development proposed is out of proportion with the size of the village and would overwhelm it – adversely affecting the identity and special character of the historic village, rendering it a semi-urban sprawl Detrimental impact on the open landscape, scenic beauty, natural contours and rural setting of the historic village Impact on heritage assets, including the Wedgewood Monument (Grade II listed); Talke Conservation Area; the Roman road from Chesterton to Chester; dry stone walling along Crown Bank; listed buildings on Coal Pit Hill; and historic coaching inns	

Historic England - No nearby designated heritage assets.	
<i>Green Belt:</i> Loss of Green Belt land / loss of openness of the Green Belt	
<i>Deliverability / Viability:</i> Site likely to be highly contaminated due to former industrial uses which could affect viability (asbestos found during demolition)	
<i>Other:</i> The level of development proposed in the Talke area is not in line with the settlement hierarchy Brown field sites in more urban areas where amenities are better, and infrastructure is already in place should be looked at first Loss of agricultural land Increased risk of disturbance to mine shafts and potential subsidence issues, in particular with the volume and weight of even more traffic Concern regarding land slippage in relation to adjacent houses	
Potential contamination of ground or surface water due to construction on previous mining operations	
Increased flood risk caused by run-off and damaged pipes from excess traffic	

53. BL32: Land at Congleton Road, Butt Lane

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p><i>Residential amenity / Health and wellbeing:</i></p> <p>Concern regarding height and potential overlooking / overshadowing of adjacent houses</p> <p>Impact on air quality - loss of clean fresh air and potential emissions and dust from construction activities that could affect air quality and residents' health (particularly considering the elderly population / ex-mining population with high incidences of Asthma and COPD)</p> <p>Impact on the health and wellbeing of the local community - concerns about how the construction projects will affect their access to services and overall quality of life (especially given the village has a high elderly population)</p> <p>Increased noise pollution disturbing the peace and tranquillity of the area</p> <p>[Loss of views / devaluation of property]</p>	<p>The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.</p>
<p><i>Social infrastructure:</i></p> <p>Insufficient / overloaded infrastructure - schools, GP surgeries (Talke and Kidsgrove), NHS dentists and shop/s</p> <p>Loss of open space</p> <p>Suggestion that the former Hilltop School site should be retained in case a school with a playing field is needed</p>	
<p><i>Transportation:</i></p> <p>Staffordshire County Council - Off-site highway works required within Knowles Way to provide a suitable means of access to site.</p>	

Staffordshire County Council - Pedestrian connection to be provided between Knowles View and A34 Congleton Road	
<i>Water, drainage & flood risk:</i> United Utilities - Sewer passes through this site. Record of Sewer Flooding in the Vicinity of the Site: External Hydraulic Flooder? Circa 75m. In addition, we have noted a modelled risk of sewer flooding.	
<i>Biodiversity:</i> Loss of green space (the last open green space between the houses), trees, hedgerows and natural habitats to a variety of wildlife (including hedgehogs, bats, owls, foxes, bees, butterflies, other insects and a variety of bird species) = net loss in biodiversity Detrimental impact on nature reserves and ancient woodland Request that local wildlife groups and owners of the conservation area be involved in assessing the potential impacts	
<i>Character:</i> The amount of development proposed is out of proportion with the size of the village and would overwhelm it – adversely affecting the identity and special character of the historic village, rendering it a semi-urban sprawl Detrimental impact on the open landscape, scenic beauty, natural contours and rural setting of the historic village Impact on heritage assets, including the Wedgewood Monument (Grade II listed); Talke Conservation Area; the Roman road from Chesterton to Chester; dry stone walling along Crown Bank; listed buildings on Coal Pit Hill; and historic coaching inns Historic England - No nearby designated heritage assets.	
<i>Green Belt:</i> Loss of Green Belt land / loss of openness of the Green Belt	

<p><i>Deliverability / Viability:</i> The proposed access is across a ransom strip put in place (by Taylor Wimpey) to prevent the existing estate becoming a through-route / access to this site</p> <p>Site likely to be highly contaminated due to former industrial uses which could affect viability (asbestos found during demolition)</p>	
<p><i>Other:</i> The level of development proposed in the Talke area is not in line with the settlement hierarchy</p> <p>Brown field sites in more urban areas where amenities are better, and infrastructure is already in place should be looked at first</p> <p>Loss of agricultural land</p> <p>Increased risk of disturbance to mine shafts and potential subsidence issues, in particular with the volume and weight of even more traffic</p> <p>No housing need - there is sufficient new housing already available in the area (estate currently under construction on West Avenue only half a mile away)</p> <p>Looks like a rational proposal given the existing infrastructure</p>	
<p>Concerns regarding increase in traffic - increased noise and disturbance, congestion, on-street parking problems, accidents, difficulties with residents getting in and out of driveways and impact on the bus service</p> <p>Existing road system inadequate, in a poor state of repair and unsuitable to accommodate additional traffic – in particular, in the High Street / Crown Bank / Swan Bank thoroughfare, all through the Talke residential road network and the roundabouts at the end of the village</p>	

<p>National traffic audits indicate that the A34 and A500 are already at almost full capacity</p> <p>Increase in heavy vehicles associated with construction works leading to further congestion and potential safety hazards</p> <p>The nearby major arterial routes of the A34, the A500 and the M6 already regularly cause unacceptable traffic difficulties in Talke, causing large numbers of vehicles, including HGVs, to divert through the village when there are accidents on / the M6 is closed. Additional houses will only exacerbate these problems</p> <p>The new housing sites will result in large numbers of people commuting from the sites, which is contrary to the Council's objective 'to reduce the need to travel'</p> <p>Access via Knowles View will mean the Mitchell Gardens estate will become a through-road with an extra 60-100 vehicles a day. Mitchell Gardens was not designed to be a through-road, the roads are already too narrow, and parking is a major problem / access will be difficult with the A34 at capacity</p> <p>Increased competition for / inadequate parking provision at retail outlets in the Talke Pits, Butt Lane and Kidsgrove areas</p> <p>Inadequate public transport</p>	
<p>Potential contamination of ground or surface water due to construction on previous mining operations</p> <p>Increased flood risk caused by run-off and damaged pipes from excess traffic</p>	

54. BL8: Land Adj to roundabout West Avenue, Kidsgrove

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p><i>Residential amenity / Health & wellbeing:</i> Impact on air quality - loss of clean fresh air and potential emissions and dust from construction activities that could affect air quality and residents' health (particularly taking into account the elderly population / ex-mining population with high incidences of Asthma and COPD)</p> <p>Impact on the health and wellbeing of the local community - concerns about how the construction projects will affect their access to services and overall quality of life (especially given the village has a high elderly population)</p> <p>Increased noise pollution disturbing the peace and tranquillity of the area</p>	<p>The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.</p>
<p><i>Social infrastructure:</i> Insufficient / overloaded infrastructure - schools, GP surgeries (Talke and Kidsgrove), NHS dentists and shop/s</p> <p>Loss of open space</p> <p>Suggestion that the former Hilltop School site should be retained in case a school with a playing field is needed</p>	
<p><i>Transportation:</i> Concerns regarding increase in traffic - increased noise and disturbance, congestion, on-street parking problems, accidents, difficulties with residents getting in and out of driveways and impact on the bus service</p> <p>Existing road system inadequate, in a poor state of repair and unsuitable to accommodate additional traffic – in particular, the High Street / Crown Bank / Swan Bank thoroughfare, the junctions and roundabouts at the end of the village and throughout the Talke residential road network</p>	

<p>National traffic audits indicate that the A34 and A500 are already at almost full capacity</p> <p>Increase in heavy vehicles associated with construction works leading to further congestion and potential safety hazards</p> <p>The nearby major arterial routes of the A34, the A500 and the M6 already regularly cause unacceptable traffic difficulties in Talke, causing large numbers of vehicles, including HGVs, to divert through the village when there are accidents on / the M6 is closed. Additional houses will only exacerbate these problems</p> <p>The new housing sites will result in large numbers of people commuting from the sites, which is contrary to the Council's objective 'to reduce the need to travel'</p> <p>Increased competition for / inadequate parking provision at retail outlets in the Talke Pits, Butt Lane and Kidsgrove areas</p> <p>Inadequate public transport</p>	
<p><i>Water, drainage & flood risk:</i></p> <p>Potential contamination of ground or surface water due to construction on previous mining operations</p> <p>Increased flood risk caused by run-off and damaged pipes from excess traffic</p>	
<p><i>Biodiversity:</i></p> <p>Loss of green space, trees, hedgerows and natural habitats to a variety of wildlife (including hedgehogs and bats) = net loss in biodiversity</p> <p>Detrimental impact on nature reserves and ancient woodland</p>	

Request that local wildlife groups and owners of the conservation area be involved in assessing the potential impacts	
<p><i>Character:</i></p> <p>The amount of development proposed is out of proportion with the size of the village and would overwhelm it – adversely affecting the identity and special character of the historic village, rendering it a semi-urban sprawl</p> <p>Detrimental impact on the open landscape, scenic beauty, natural contours and rural setting of the historic village</p> <p>Impact on heritage assets, including the Wedgewood Monument (Grade II listed); Talke Conservation Area; the Roman road from Chesterton to Chester; dry stone walling along Crown Bank; listed buildings on Coal Pit Hill; and historic coaching inns</p> <p>Historic England - No nearby designated heritage assets.</p>	
<p><i>Green Belt:</i></p> <p>Loss of Green Belt land / loss of openness of the Green Belt</p>	
<p><i>Deliverability / Viability:</i></p> <p>Site likely to be highly contaminated due to former industrial uses which could affect viability</p>	
<p><i>Other:</i></p> <p>The level of development proposed in the Talke area is not in line with the settlement hierarchy</p>	

Brown field sites in more urban areas where amenities are better, and infrastructure is already in place should be looked at first

Loss of agricultural land

Increased risk of disturbance to mine shafts and potential subsidence issues, in particular with the volume and weight of even more traffic

Looks like a rational proposal given the existing infrastructure

55. CH13: Castletown Grange, Douglas Road

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p><i>Transportation:</i> Staffordshire County Council - Rationalisation of access arrangement required to support redevelopment of the site (</p> <p><i>Water, drainage & flood risk:</i> Environment Agency - Based upon our Flood Map for Planning, part of the proposed site falls within Flood Zone 3 and 2 of the Ashfield Brook, designated ordinary watercourse. The Brook would appear to go into culvert upstream of the site, with flooding potential resulting from blockage of the culvert. Further assessment / modelling should inform any application for development of this site and a sequential approach taken to the siting of development to ensure it remains out of the high-risk area.</p> <p>Environment Agency - Opportunities for flood risk and ecological betterment / water quality enhancement should be fully investigated and implemented.</p> <p><i>Character:</i> Historic England - No nearby designated heritage assets</p>	<p>The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.</p>

56. CH14: Maryhill Day Centre, Willmott Drive

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p><i>Transportation:</i> Staffordshire County Council - Any access off Willmott Court will require off-site highway works to widen the carriageway and improve geometry of turning head.</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council - Access via Wilmot Drive raises no concerns</p>	<p>The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.</p>
<p><i>Character:</i> Historic England - No nearby designated heritage assets</p>	
<p><i>Other:</i> Existing amenities makes this a sensible proposition</p>	

57. CT1: Land at Red Street and High Carr Farm

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
National Highways - Further assessment required to ascertain the impact on the SRN and to determine the need for mitigation. National Highways would like to be consulted on this.	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Staffordshire County Council - Master plan to be supported with a Transport Assessment. The IDP and supporting strategic transport modelling must identify whether off-site highway improvements are required to support the major development. Gateway / speed reduction/ traffic calming scheme will be required on Talke Road to accommodate for change in built up residential area. Sustainable travel links and provision of adequate amenities /facilities and access to public transport to serve the scale of the development key consideration from an accessibility/sustainability perspective. Walking/ Cycling Audit required to demonstrate safe and suitable links are available / can be provided to support the scale of development. Infrastructure improvements required will be fully funded by the applicant.	
United Utilities - Further clarity on point of connection required. In Between UU and ST area of service for wastewater.	
Comment in support of the development by landowner. The rep sets out details of suitability, sustainability and deliverability and attaches a transport assessment.	
The area has many mine shafts. Concerns over subsidence and sinkholes.	
Infrastructure and services are not in place to support such a large development (schools, GPs, shops etc)	
Newcastle is drastically short of smaller houses for either first time buyers to get on the property ladder or older people looking to downsize	
Site contradictory to government statements regarding building on the Green Belt. Exceptional circumstances for Green Belt release has not been proven.	
Red street is edged by A34, A500 and M6 and at times traffic is diverted through Red Street.	

Red Street is narrow lanes and cannot accommodate the vehicle increase from development	
Disruption to residents due to scale of development	
The land is workable farmland/greenbelt with hundreds of mature trees and hedgerows which supports a business	
Abundance of wildlife on the site including European hedgehogs and lapwings which are released onto the site	
Site used recreationally by public	
Site is out of scale and character for the surrounding area	
Lack of public transport in area which will mean increased reliance on cars and therefore more pollution to area – contradictory to sustainable transport policies	
Access constraints at Bells Hollow	
Doubling the population of the area	
Poor drainage in the area.	
Poor impact on residents' mental health.	
Will the homes be affordable?	
Concern about effect of construction vibrations on older homes which are already compromised by traffic, having had tie-bars installed.	
The apartments in Crofters court will look out directly onto the new houses and offer no privacy for the new residents as the upstairs apartments will have a direct view into gardens and buildings.	
Effect on Wedgewood Monument and its setting.	
What is the need to build at Red Street when population is decreasing	
Development should be concentrated in urban areas.	
The site has access constraints and is questionable whether it can be developed.	
CPRE Staffordshire - We oppose the development of this agricultural land in the Green Belt. The fields support populations of snipe, an Amber List species that has undergone population decline in the UK.	
Brownfield sites should be developed first.	

Pollution, including noise and air pollution impacts	
Scale of the proposal is a concern	
Object to development due to impact on local character of the area and village feel	
The site is not sustainable and concerns over climate change impacts	
The site is in close proximity to employment development at Chatterley Valley	
A lot of development has also taken place in the local area	
Concerns over utilities connections including sewage connections	
Drainage and surface water flooding concerns	
Concerns over landscape impacts	
Concerns over construction impacts	

58. CT20: Rowhurst Close

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p><i>Social Infrastructure:</i> Chesterton settlement-wide issues highlighted: Insufficient / overloaded infrastructure - GP surgeries & NHS dentists, schools</p>	<p>The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.</p>
<p><i>Transportation:</i> National Highways – The site is likely to have an impact on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in terms of traffic. The immediate SRN junctions likely to be impacted are: AA500 / Alsager Rd; A500 / A34 / Newcastle Road roundabout; A500 / AA527; A500 / A5271. Should the site be allocated in the final Local Plan, further assessment work may be required to ascertain the impact on the SRN and to determine the need for mitigation. National Highways would expect that the proposed site allocation be subject to consultation with National Highways and appropriately assessed in order to determine the extent of their potential impacts on the operation of the SRN in the area.</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council - Development to be supported with a Transport Assessment.</p> <p>Other transport High volumes of traffic within Chesterton, and whenever a road is closed due to road works, the surrounding areas become grid locked.</p>	
<p><i>Character:</i> Historic England - No nearby designated heritage assets.</p>	
<p><i>Other:</i> Considered that this proposed allocation should be extended to include an area referred to as White Rock (1.52ha area defined on a map, with specific developable areas highlighted). Technical reports to highlight the mitigation of ecology and contamination issues on the site are also provided. Arguments made as to open space accessibility improvements</p>	

<p>& the stance on Green Belt. Consequent amendments be made to Policy EMP1 & the Policies Map.</p> <p>Mining legacies.</p> <p>The site is a rational proposal given the existing infrastructure.</p> <p>CT20 is an appropriate employment site, but as it is clearly visible from Apedale Country Park, it should include trees that screen any buildings.</p> <p>Brownfield sites should be exploited to provide affordable housing and prior to developing on greenfield areas.</p> <p>Potential for developments to impact on the water supply, with reference to earlier schemes causing such problems for existing properties.</p> <p>Concerns over loss of biodiversity, impact on wildlife & landscape.</p> <p>Impact on Grade II Wedgewood Monument.</p>	
---	--

59. KG6 William Road, Kidsgrove

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>Historic England - No nearby designated heritage assets.</p> <p>United Utilities - Sewer passes through this site. In addition, we have noted a modelled risk of sewer flooding.</p>	<p>The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.</p>

60. RC8: Land at Liverpool Road

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Historic England - Cannot locate site.	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
United Utilities - Initial Site Assessment Record of Sewer Flooding in the Vicinity of the Site: RC8 - Land at Liverpool Road (Part of Birchenwood) Kidsgrove (Parcel 2)	
Question over the need for this site to be developed.	

61. KL13: Keele Science Park, Phase 3

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>National Highways - further assessment work may be required to ascertain the impact on the SRN and to determine the need for mitigation. National Highways would expect that the proposed site allocations (where impacts on the operation of the SRN in the area are anticipated) be subject to consultation with National Highways, and appropriately assessed in order to determine the extent of their potential impacts on the operation of the SRN in the area.</p> <p>The immediate SRN junctions likely to be impacted are M6/J15/A500 (Queensway) / A34 roundabout.</p> <p>Should the site be allocated in the final Local Plan, further assessment work may be required to ascertain the impact on the SRN and to determine the need for mitigation. National Highways would expect that the proposed site allocation be subject to consultation with National Highways and appropriately assessed in order to determine the extent of their potential impacts on the operation of the SRN in the area.</p>	<p>The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.</p>
<p>Natural England - • The site includes areas that are priority habitat- i.e. deciduous woodland, and The Butts and Hands Wood which it is listed as Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for air quality impacts on designated sites. • Potential impact on best and most versatile land. 	
<p>Site KL 13 is not in the Green Belt and is understood to deliver the identified need for Keele. As such, the Council have concluded that no further sites are required in Keele or the surrounding area during the plan period and hence no additional Green Belt release is necessary. Consider this to be an unsound approach as it does not follow the legal and procedural requirements of a sound plan which should be positively prepared, effective, justified and consistent with national policy, in particular identifying appropriate sites to endure over the whole plan period (NPPF paragraph 35). By selecting KL 13 in isolation, the strategy for delivery of development in Keele is not robust. Whilst we acknowledge that the NPPF seeks to protect Green Belt land as a matter</p>	

<p>of principle, new Local Plan documents must plan appropriately and ensure that Green Belt release creates robust and defensible boundaries for the future. In our view, the Councils proposed approach to allocate just one site in this locality for the entire plan period would leave the Local Plan in a perilous position, at risk of challenge and speculative future development to meet need at a later date</p>	
<p><i>Social infrastructure:</i> Existing pressures on schools (across the age ranges) & medical facilities (including GP & dental services) will be exacerbated significantly.</p> <p>The Local Plan must provide greater clarity on how the local infrastructure will be improved as a consequence of development.</p>	
<p>Staffordshire County Council – Masterplan to be supported with a Transport Assessment & Travel Plan.</p>	
<p>Transportation Should development occur, whilst there may be some capacity on existing bus services, there is going to be a requirement for additional services. If there is a proposed link road through to Keele university from site TB19, there could be an opportunity to provide a joined up public transport system which could serve the majority of new sites in and around Keele, thus providing a good sustainable option for local residents.</p> <p>Plans should take on board the need to create a more accessible and inclusive Public Transport Network, moving away from the East/West lineage of the existing system, and using the Local Plan to open up links to the North and South of Keele University, supporting more circular public transport solutions that link the Urban Villages to core employment sites and amenities.</p> <p>A through road from KL13 should not be created, as it would encourage vast amounts of traffic from the Keele sites (as well as the university) to</p>	

<p>and from the M6, for example, via Sutherland Drive and other roads in the Westlands area.</p> <p>The roads are already struggling to meet current needs and will not cope with the extra properties and people planned for this area.</p>	
<p><i>Character:</i></p> <p>Historic England – Whilst unclear on the exact site location, potentially there are no nearby designated heritage assets.</p>	
<p><i>Deliverability:</i></p> <p>Keele University is committed to working with the Council and other stakeholders in bringing forward the allocated site as an exemplar of sustainable development.</p> <p>The University agrees that development should be masterplan led and should maximise the benefit of sustainable transport links and the Smart Energy Network Demonstrator and is fully committed to working with other landowners to realise these objectives.</p>	
<p>Keele Parish Council – support Keele University's growth plans, and the details outlined in the University masterplan. As such, they are in favour of the continuing development of the existing Science Park (KL13) to support employment, and to bring high skilled jobs to the area.</p>	
<p><i>Other:</i></p> <p>Developing KL13 would seem sensible if absolutely required to meet housing and business needs, recognising that it is already partially developed. The close proximity of the observatory could be a negative aspect, however.</p> <p>The University contends that there would be limited conflict with the five purposes of Green Belt identified in the NPPF. Keele is a village, and the</p>	

proposals would not therefore involve the sprawl of a large built-up area or the coalescence of existing towns. The proposals involve a limited release of countryside which is clearly defined and viewed in the context of existing built development to the east and west. This is not a valued landscape for the purposes of the NPPF. The proposals will not affect the historic core of Keele Village and will not prejudice urban regeneration within Stoke on Trent, which has its own separate employment allocation. This approach is considered far more sustainable than pushing the Borough's employment and housing requirements to settlements outside the Green Belt, which are significantly less well equipped to deal with the pressures that it brings. Although there may be arguments for an equal distribution of opportunity, consideration needs to be given to the wide impact of a distributed solution. Focusing development around existing infrastructure which can be sustainably enhanced to support both housing and economic growth should be given priority.

By selecting KL 13 in isolation, the strategy for delivery of development in Keele is not robust. Whilst acknowledging that the NPPF seeks to protect Green Belt land as a matter of principle, new Local Plan documents must plan appropriately and ensure that Green Belt release creates robust and defensible boundaries for the future. It is considered that the Council's proposed approach to allocate just one site in this locality for the entire plan period would leave the Local Plan in a perilous position, at risk of challenge and speculative future development to meet need at a later date.

Development offers a generational opportunity for regional scale growth which could provide a step-change in the Borough's employment offer that supports the knowledge-economy and which will significantly increase job numbers, job quality and job choice. However, the growth of Keele University and its Science Park must be supported by a sustainable spatial strategy. This must include the release of further land in the University Growth Corridor.

<p>The site being near two deciduous woods which it is suggested will likely contain bats (a protected species), with other wildlife impacts highlighted. Increase in traffic during & after construction. Impacts on existing residents including mental health & wider amenity concerns. The science park is considered to have expanded enough already.</p> <p>This site is one identified (amongst others in the locality) whose development could impact upon Thistleberry.</p> <p>Wider issues argued include: The concentration of housing in Keele is disproportionate to its scale; the number of recent permissions granted; development of Green Belt land will result in Silverdale and Keele merging into one large urban conurbation; proximity to Walley's quarry with associated air quality & pollution issues; natural springs being found; the number of empty homes in the Borough & student blocks within the university campus itself; vacant & derelict buildings in the town centre; reduced population figures in the 2021 census; Government statements on areas that should be the focus of development; recreational, biodiversity & public health value of Keele golf course in particular; covenants may restrict/limit development; increased carbon emissions impacts; contesting the Local Plan's sustainability appraisal assessments.</p>	
--	--

62. KS11: Knutton Community Centre

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p><i>Social infrastructure:</i> Insufficient / overloaded infrastructure - GP surgeries and NHS dentists</p>	<p>The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.</p>
<p><i>Transportation:</i> Staffordshire County Council - Access Improvement scheme may be required to support redevelopment at the site.</p>	

Staffordshire County Council - Development to be supported with a Transport Statement.	
<i>Water, drainage & flood risk:</i> Concern regarding flooding at Lower Milehouse, 'the Whammy' open space and Black Bank	
<i>Character:</i> Historic England - No nearby designated heritage assets	
<i>Deliverability:</i> Aspire Housing confirm that it is their intention to submit a planning application for the affordable housing units on the site (& others within the Knutton Masterplan by the end of 2023).	
<i>Other:</i> The site is a rational proposal given the existing infrastructure. Derelict & unfinished sites in Newcastle town centre and previous plans for regeneration not coming to fruition.	
Concerns regarding increase in traffic Existing road system already poorly maintained, with the new 'Wilmot Drive' estate still having no footpaths or tarmac on the roads.	

63. KS17: Knutton Recreation Centre

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<i>Social infrastructure:</i> Insufficient / overloaded infrastructure - GP surgeries and NHS dentists	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
<i>Transportation:</i> Concerns regarding increase in traffic Existing road system already poorly maintained, with the new 'Wilmot Drive' estate still having no footpaths or tarmac on the roads.	
<i>Water, drainage & flood risk:</i>	

Concern regarding flooding at Lower Milehouse, 'the Whammy' open space and Black Bank	
<i>Character:</i> Historic England - No nearby designated heritage assets	
<i>Deliverability:</i> Aspire Housing confirm that it is their intention to submit a planning application for the affordable housing units on the site (& others within the Knutton Masterplan by the end of 2023).	
<i>Other:</i> Greenspace impacts, which would include loss of playing fields and other village amenities. Implications such as recreational use demands increasing for other areas in the locality, such as KS3, if this site were to be developed. If the scale of housing planned elsewhere (such as Keele golf course) is reduced, both sides of Blackbank road, on the edge of Knutton, could be used to meet the Borough's needs. The previously proposed plan of a village centre beside the High Street, adjacent to KS17, should be progressed. Derelict & unfinished sites in Newcastle town centre and previous plans for regeneration not coming to fruition.	

64. KS18: Land North of Lower Milehouse Lane

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<i>Social infrastructure:</i> Insufficient / overloaded infrastructure - GP surgeries and NHS dentists	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at
<i>Transportation:</i> Staffordshire County Council - Access via High Street only	

Staffordshire County Council - Redevelopment will result in the loss of community car park which may result in overspill of vehicles parking on street giving rise to a highway safety issue.	Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Staffordshire County Council - Development will need to be supported with a Transport Note / Statement to consider this concern in detail.	
<i>Water, drainage & flood risk:</i> Concern regarding flooding at Lower Milehouse, 'the whammy' open space and Black Bank	
<i>Character:</i> Historic England - No nearby designated heritage assets	
<i>Deliverability:</i> Aspire Housing confirm that it is their intention to submit a planning application for the affordable housing units on the site by the end of 2023	
<i>Other:</i> Looks like a rational proposal given the existing infrastructure Concerns regarding increase in traffic Existing road system already poorly maintained, with the new 'Wilmot Drive' estate still having no footpaths or tarmac on the roads	

65. KS19: Knutton Lane

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Concern over loss of garages / car park as they are used and valuable resource to local residents.	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at
Concern that removal of car park will raise highway safety concerns with more on street parking.	
Concern that trees would need to be removed to enable development.	

Concerns over the ability for existing local services and infrastructure to cope with new demand.	Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Concern over increase to traffic and the ability of the existing road network to cope.	
Historic England - No designated heritage assets in the nearby location of this road.	
The proposed allocations that Aspire Housing have an interest in are as follows: KS11, KS17, KS18, KS19, delivering a total of 73 affordable dwellings. Aspire are currently working up planning applications for some of these sites.	

66. KS3: Land at Blackbank Road

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Concern over the loss of valuable, well used recreational space for children, dog walkers, runner etc. The need is exasperated by the closure of the Rec Centre.	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Support for the development of Knutton centre and provision of a village centre.	
Support to develop in the Green Belt further along Blackbank Road and retain this for recreation.	
Concerns over the ability for existing local services and infrastructure to cope with new demand.	
Concern over increase to traffic and the ability of the existing road network to cope.	
Staffordshire County Council - Development will need to be supported with a Transport Assessment. Speed Measurement survey on Blackbank Road will need to be undertaken due to speeding concerns.	
Historic England - No designated heritage assets in the nearby location of this road.	
Concerns that removal of the green space will exasperate existing major issues with flooding.	
Concerns over loss of habitat and impact on wildlife.	
Sport England - We are opposed to housing allocations on playing field sites, as they are not proven surplus to requirement or replacement provision is needed. They suggest that any loss of playing field sites should be informed by an updated Playing Pitch Strategy to determine if they should be retained to meet demand. If there is no quantitative need for the playing field land, mitigation may be needed to fund qualitative improvements. Sport England believes the policy is inconsistent with national planning policy and recommends that site-specific requirements include playing field sites require compliance with NPPF paragraph 99.	
KS3 Land at Blackbank Road - Site has been marked out (2 x adult 11v11 and 2 x Youth 11v11) and utilised by teams within the last 5 years and	

identified within the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy with a site recommendation to protect and enhance. Site identified within a sub area where there is a future shortfall in provision for football, rugby and with cricket at capacity.	
Aspire does not control KS3, however Aspire would be interested in delivering this site as either the sole developer or as an affordable housing partner to a private developer.	

67. LW53: Land Corner of Mucklestone Wood

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Loggerheads is overdeveloped and has not seen an investment in infrastructure to accommodate (schools, bus links, doctors etc)	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Loggerheads is woefully under provided for in sports and recreational facilities. There is no NEAP or MUGA or community centre.	
Poor visibility at Mucklestone Wood Lane wood make junction dangerous	
Why does Loggerheads need to contribute such a large number of dwellings in the Local Plan (15% when the ward only represents 3.5% of the population)?	
Already houses being constructed and not sold- is there a need in Loggerheads?	
Site is against Loggerheads neighbourhood plan as would create harm to the character and rural landscape	
Site consists as best and most versatile agricultural land	
Increase in housing without proper employment or sustainable transport links closeby increases car use in loggerheads which increases pollution.	
Policy IN2 –a, b, c, e f cannot be applied to Loggerheads	
Previously described as unsuitable in SHELAA 2022 document – what has changed?	
Currently outside the village envelope.	
Similar arguments as Baldwins Gate so how can LW53 be accepted?	
NULBC are working with Shropshire Homes regarding LW53	
Lapwings are a protected species and use the land, so do bats.	
Sewage Treatment works are over capacity and are prone to flooding with heavy downpour	
Will there be any footpaths to safely connect pedestrians to the village centre?	
Only small numbers of additional homes on infill sites in Loggerheads should be allowed.	

<p>Stafford Borough Council - The proposed housing allocation at Loggerheads (LW53) could increase traffic on the B5026 towards Eccleshall and Stafford. Further information on this matter would be welcomed.</p>	
<p>Environment Agency - This site is also underlain by a Principal aquifer and is situated within SPZ3 (Bearstone abstraction) so is also within a sensitive location for controlled water receptors. SPZ3 is the area around a supply source within which all the groundwater ends up at the abstraction point. Therefore, any development that is proposed within this area will need to prevent deterioration of the abstraction source and protect controlled water receptors.</p>	

68. LW87: Former Petrol Station, Eccleshall Road

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Loggerheads Parish - Due to its central location, LW87 should be retained as an employment site	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
The site is underlain by a Principal aquifer and as its former land use is as a petrol station, any development would pose a high risk of pollution to controlled water receptors, in particular the groundwater. In addition, this site is situated adjacent to the Burnt Wood SSSI, which is a groundwater dependant terrestrial ecosystem and therefore, sensitive to changes in groundwater flow and quality.	
Would be suitable as a community facility	
Car parking issues along Eccleshall Road will be worsened with the development	
Air pollution levels from standing vehicles waiting to negotiate this junction are high which makes this site unsuitable for residential development	

69. MD29: Land North of Bar Hill

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Bar Hill has poor drainage - this has not been addressed.	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Car park along Bar Hill making it more like a single road, there is also heavy agricultural machinery along the road regularly- the additional housing will add to the dangers already presented on this road	
Staffordshire County Council - Critical junctions identified may trigger the requirement for off-site highway mitigation works which will need to be fully funded by the applicant.	
Staffordshire County Council - Transport assessment required	
<p>Madeley Parish Council - The road network. There are two particularly dangerous elements of the road network, both of which are highlighted in the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Madeley. These are the junctions between Manor Road and Bar Hill and the Monument Junction between Keele Road and Newcastle Road. Any large-scale development within Madeley Parish would, by virtue of the contingent increase in road network usage, require significant upgrading to the junctions in question to ensure road safety was not compromised. It is for that reason that policy TRA1 in the Madeley Neighbourhood Plan requires this as a material consideration when considering potential housing developments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school system. All of the local schools from the two primary schools to the Secondary school are, already, oversubscribed. A further 150 houses would be likely to see an influx of 200 to 300 children into an already oversubscribed system. Consideration would need to be given to how these children can be appropriately educated within the current limited bounds. • Drainage supplies. The local drainage supplies are, we understand, also already at or close to capacity. Consideration would need to be given and appropriate provisions incorporated as to how this could be expanded and accommodated for with an increase in housing provision. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional considerations which would also need to be provided for include the already oversubscribed Doctors surgery, Dentist provision and limited range of local stores and other facilities. <p>The Parish Council are, also, concerned to ensure that the relevant housing need is met. The trend within Madeley Parish has been for developments of larger family houses to be constructed and provided for ownership and/or shared ownership schemes in respect of the provision for affordable housing elements. The Parish Council consider that the housing need in the area is for increased availability of social rental properties as families are finding themselves forced to leave the area due to a lack of availability of suitable properties which is detrimental to the development of family units within the Parish boundaries.</p>	
There are many comments regarding HS2 – are these still necessary to include?	
Agricultural land which can be put to better use than housing in Madeley	
Ownership Issues - the site is under the control of multiple landowners. This brings significant issues in relation to deliverability, as if even one of the landowners is resistant to the development, this can make the scheme unviable or prevent it coming forward altogether	
Infrastructure constraints in Madeley to accommodate an additional 150 houses (Schools,GPs etc).	
Bar Hill is separate from the rest of the village, so the site does not have good access to services and facilities.	
Madeley neighbourhood plan is specific in its aims to - maintain the much-valued rural feel of the parish, its distinctive historic character, the countryside setting and key views within the conservation area- this proposal contradicts this.	
Staffordshire County Council - The existing pedestrian footbridge over the railway line provides a more direct pedestrian route to the centre of Madeley where facilities and amenities are located. However, the	

footbridge is of substandard width and condition to support major development	
There is no bus service supplying Bar Hill so people on MD29 will have to have a car to get about which contradicts policies around sustainable transport usage.	
Brownfield site of Madeley Manor should be considered before Green Belt	
Also, many of us bought houses on the assurance the land would not be built on because it was near to HS2.	
Support - A mini roundabout at Madeley A525/A531 junction would reduce many problems including air pollution at Meadows School.	

70. NC13: Land west of Bullockhouse Road

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p><i>Residential amenity / Health and wellbeing:</i></p> <p>Loss of privacy, light / overshadowing, outlook and visual amenity</p> <p>Additional noise and dust associated with construction / construction vehicles</p> <p>Additional cars significantly increasing emissions / reduction in air quality</p> <p>Increased pollution (air, light and noise), all having a detrimental impact on the physical and mental health / wellbeing of residents</p> <p>Unclear where the local authority's targets to achieve clean air has been factored into the proposals / impact on the Air Quality Management Plan</p> <p>Increased air pollution adversely affecting the development of local children</p> <p>Increased odour from Walley's Quarry because of more waste being sent there</p> <p>Loss of green space would have a detrimental impact on the physical and mental health / wellbeing of residents (including obesity rates)</p> <p>[Loss of private views / devaluation of property]</p>	<p>The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.</p>
<p><i>Social infrastructure:</i></p> <p>Loss of open green / recreational space – the site, which enhances the natural and open setting of the adjacent children's playground, is used by many locals for recreational purposes making; public paths around the site enable local residents to observe wildlife and plant-life close-up</p>	

<p>The public footpath along the northern edge of the land would still enable locals to exercise and access the play area (there is no public access over the site itself)</p> <p>Insufficient infrastructure – doctors, dentists, nursery and school places are already oversubscribed; no banks, post office, shops (the closest are over a mile away), insufficient open spaces, leisure facilities and jobs</p> <p>Harriseahead school could be expanded but only by building on the playing field or the all-weather playground</p>	
<p><i>Transportation:</i></p> <p>Staffordshire County Council – Any Master Plan will need to be supported with a Transport Assessment in line with any scoping note agreed with the Highway Authority and a Travel Plan</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council – Footway improvements required along the site frontage</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council – Bus services limited therefore may require S.106 Contribution toward bus service improvements</p> <p>Other comments relating to transport from other parties</p> <p>The roads in the area, which are narrow with bad bends, in poor condition and often without pavements, were not designed for the type and volume of traffic they already carry (cars, HGVs, buses, tractors etc) and are already dangerous, with many residents already not able to exit their drives safely</p> <p>Bringing additional cars onto the local network (150-200 or 400-500 when combined with NC77), including construction-related vehicles, will increase congestion, noise, pollution, disturbance and reduce road safety</p>	

Existing traffic issues in the area include the junction of Pennyfields / High Street onto Bullocks House Road (hazardous bottleneck on a dangerous bend), Long Lane (rat-run), Bull Lane (rat-run), Colclough Lane (rat-run) and the roundabout at the end of Turnhurst Road (backed-up from Chell)

The site is close to Thursfield Primary school which has very little parking is and becomes grid-locked at drop-off and pick-up times, with local pinch points, at the top of Pennyfields Road, through Newchapel village centre and past the school towards Long Lane / Chapel Lane, causing long tailbacks / delays

Thursfield school is located opposite a virtual blind junction without pavements and the additional traffic in conjunction with the current heavy load would give great concern for serious accidents (in July 2023 a school child was injured in an accident)

Concern regarding site access – roads narrow and difficult to see oncoming traffic, resulting in an unacceptable increase in risk to school children and other pedestrians

The site is perfect for development, having direct access onto a straight stretch of main road

Inadequate public transport – poor local bus services and Kidsgrove railway station a two-mile walk away – all resulting in reliance on cars

Lack of support for public transport – insufficient bus shelters, inadequate parking at and closing of the ticket office at Kidsgrove railway station

Inadequate other sustainable transport modes – lack of pavements and safe routes for cyclists and horse riders

<p>A traffic survey must be undertaken at a time to provide an accurate representation of the existing levels of congestion (i.e. during term-time)</p> <p>Roads already hazardous in winter due to elevation / poor weather conditions (snow), particularly Pennyfields Road, which is very steep</p> <p>Insufficient school places locally will lead to children travelling further afield – resulting in more traffic on the roads</p>	
<p><i>Water, drainage & flood risk:</i></p> <p>United Utilities – Various sewers pass through this site. There is a record of sewer flooding in the vicinity of the site, and we have noted a modelled risk of sewer flooding on the site</p> <p>Other comments on water, drainage and flood risk from other parties</p> <p>Negative impact on watercourses / water quality – the local sewage works is already often at capacity, sometimes leading to discharge into watercourses</p> <p>The local sewer system and road drainage on Bullocks House Road and High Street is old and already struggling to cope with rainwater-run off without any further capacity added; history of surface water flooding at Ian Road, Long Lane and Willowcroft Way in Harriseahead</p> <p>The site facilitates natural drainage, and its development would increase flood risk due to ‘run-off’</p> <p>The site is marshland and unsuitable for building – it is known to flood and there is regularly water lying on its surface following rainfall; it also potentially has an underground lake beneath it (it was historically used to collect water for coal slurry and the water never ran out)</p>	

<p>The site is at a lower level than Bullocks House Road and so may require a pump for drainage</p>	
<p><i>Biodiversity:</i></p> <p>Loss of trees and green space, resulting in diverse wildlife / habitat loss – a range of insects (butterflies, bees, ladybirds, wasps, dragonflies), bats, birds (sky larks, partridges, falcons, tawny/barn owls, kestrels, sparrowhawk, buzzards, kites) and mammals (squirrels, hedgehogs, rabbits, foxes, badgers)</p> <p>Loss of a natural wetland / marshland, which holds water in the spring and autumn, forming several small ponds that host a self-contained ecosystem of rare amphibious wildlife (crested newts, toads, frogs, lizards, grass snakes)</p> <p>Loss of a fine example of an established English meadow (95% of which have been lost), containing a wealth of biodiversity that is classed as ‘climax vegetation’, including rare native flora (wild orchids, yellow rattleweed, vetches and over 20 different / rare grasses)</p> <p>Loss of established English oak trees and ancient hedgerows which potentially are / should be protected under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997</p> <p>Concern that an up-to-date ecological survey has not been carried out</p> <p>Loss of carbon storage, cooling and shading, green network / opportunities for species migration, the protection of water quality and natural management of flood risk</p> <p>Attention drawn to Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 – duty for local authorities to consider conserving biodiversity as an integral part of policy and decision-making</p>	

<p>Fake / new nature areas will be required to replace the natural ones being destroyed</p> <p>The site should be preserved as a wildlife / conservation area</p> <p>No habitat loss within 400 metres of the site</p>	
<p><i>Character:</i> Scale of development out of keeping with the semi-rural character of the village</p> <p>Out of character with the immediate area, which comprises development along Bullocks House Road which is only one to two houses deep</p> <p>Erosion of local character – the gap provided by NC13 helps to denote the historic village and character of the area – the sense of moving from one village to another. Loss of this space would have a detrimental impact on the special character of each village, resulting in housing approximately 2 miles long from Turnhurst Road to Chapel Lane and an unbroken conurbation / urban sprawl from Tunstall and all the Potteries towns, all the way to Mow Cop, with the outlying villages swallowed-up</p> <p>The character and appearance of the land and the separation between Newchapel and Harriseahead would be lost forever</p> <p>Loss of the sense of space and place afforded by the countryside view across NC13 towards Wales, which is extremely important to local people and indicates the transition as you travel north into a more agricultural / rural landscape</p> <p>Loss of character and quality of the countryside – the only real piece of greenbelt land adjacent to the road</p> <p>Detrimental impact on the small close-knit / community feel of the village</p>	

<p>No intrusion into the open countryside, as the site is an infill site within the village – the Green Belt boundary has already been breached with residential building on the eastern side of Bullocks House Road</p> <p>The land is no use for farming and is poorly maintained – having only been used for grazing, dumping garden waste and fly-tipping / sensitive development could enhance the appearance of the area</p> <p>Historic England – No nearby designated heritage assets</p>	
<p><i>Green Belt:</i> 'Major' harm to the Green Belt</p> <p>The site delivers a 'moderate' contribution to the Green Belt; therefore, its loss would be detrimental to the area and would negatively affect the natural landscape</p> <p>The Green Belt is there to protect villages from urban sprawl, removal of areas such as this will undermine rural communities and village life by merging villages and making them part of one large sprawl of houses from Chell / Packmoor to Harriseahead / Mow Cop</p> <p>No exceptional circumstances exist to justify the loss of Green Belt land in this location / inadequate justification provided, particularly if based on out-of-date data (i.e. housing need); exceptional circumstance has a narrative re. well-served by public transport, which this site is not</p> <p>Government policy is to not remove land from the Green Belt for house building</p> <p>Green Belt is Green Belt for a reason and should never be built on</p>	

<p>Building on Green Belt land is unethical in a time of climate change – we need more Green Belt areas, not less</p>	
<p><i>Deliverability:</i></p> <p>The site is listed as not deliverable or developable in the 2022 SHELLA report</p> <p>Potential remediation works to mitigate historic contamination (mining, dumping of red ash) may make the development unviable</p> <p>The landowner has no intention of selling or developing the field</p> <p>The landowner would be happy for it to be developed for housing to improve the area</p>	
<p><i>Other:</i></p> <p>Brownfield sites in Newcastle-under-Lyne (some of which are owned by the Council) should be developed instead, which are more suitable and would deliver positive benefits for the community, particularly disused factory sites, which appear destitute in places</p> <p>Greenfield / Green Belt sites chosen as they are the cheapest to build on</p> <p>No local housing need – based on inaccurate / out-of-date data; the population of the Borough is falling; there are many vacant homes in the Borough; many additional homes built in the area in recent years available for sale</p> <p>Concern regarding safeguarding of the adjacent ‘Newcastle Way’</p> <p>Development contrary to the government’s aspirations regarding sustainability and climate change with an emphasis on green spaces</p> <p>Limited (if any) employment within walking or cycling distance and very little in the way of public transport</p>	

<p>Loss of agricultural land / reduction in food production capacity</p> <p>The necessary infrastructure to support the development will lead to more building / loss of countryside</p> <p>None of the advantages of urbanisation will be delivered – employment, improved transportation and educational opportunities etc</p> <p>Site may be contaminated – land in and around previously used for mining and the site itself was used for the historic dumping of red ash</p> <p>Appears to be a ‘done deal’ and thus a waste of time objecting to</p> <p>There has not been a lot of development in this area, and this would provide much needed local housing</p> <p>Sustainable location – with a primary school within walking distance and a short commute to Kidsgrove train station</p> <p>Part of the site has been granted planning permission in the past</p> <p>Request for a further Call for Sites to find more suitable sites (COVID caused a lot of distraction for lots of reasons)</p>	
--	--

71. NC77 Bent Farm, Newchapel

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p><i>Residential amenity / Health and wellbeing:</i></p> <p>Loss of privacy, light / overshadowing, outlook and visual amenity</p> <p>Additional noise, dust, light pollution and disturbance associated with construction / construction vehicles</p>	<p>The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at</p>

<p>Additional cars significantly increasing emissions / reduction in air quality</p> <p>Increased pollution (air, noise and light), all having a detrimental impact on the physical and mental health / wellbeing of residents (including respiratory conditions)</p> <p>Increased air pollution, including potentially hazardous gases and dust released from old mine workings adversely affecting residents, in particular, children</p> <p>Unclear where the local authority's targets to achieve clean air has been factored into the proposals / negative impact on the Air Quality Management Plan</p> <p>Increased odour from Walley's Quarry because of more waste being sent there</p> <p>Loss of green space would have a detrimental impact on the physical and mental health / wellbeing of residents (including obesity rates)</p> <p>[Devaluation of property]</p>	<p>Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.</p>
<p><i>Social infrastructure:</i></p> <p>Loss of open green / recreational space – the footpaths that cross the site enable it to be used by many local people for recreational purposes and to observe wildlife and plant-life close-up</p> <p>Insufficient infrastructure – doctors, dentists, chemists, nursery and school places are already oversubscribed; no banks, post office, shops, insufficient open spaces, leisure facilities and jobs</p> <p>Harriseahead school could be expanded but only by building on the playing field or the all-weather playground</p>	

The health and wellbeing of residents will not be compromised as there are many cycle and walking routes near the site which lead to Bathpool Park, Westport Lake and Hanley Forrest Park via tracks / the canal

There are sufficient primary and secondary schools in the area, many of which are already in decline in terms of numbers / undersubscribed

Local doctors are undersubscribed and there are additional rooms in the surgery to accommodate additional practitioners, if required

Site immediately opposite a local medical centre, pub and pharmacy, with Packmoor Ormiston Academy (primary school) and the Packmoor Community Hall within a five-minute walk

The development would deliver new local services and facilities (a parade of units to include a convenience shop) and contributions to enhance existing services, creating a new / strengthened Local Centre

The possibility of new local shop/s (including, possibly, a cafe) within walking distance of local residences would be a welcome addition, would reduce car reliance and would benefit those who cannot walk very far or who do not drive

Transportation:
 Staffordshire County Council – Any Master Plan will need to be supported with a Transport Assessment in line with any scoping note agreed with the Highway Authority and a Travel Plan

Staffordshire County Council – Access available via Newtown

Other transport comments from other parties

<p>The roads in the area, which are narrow with bad bends, in poor condition and often without pavements and with cars parked along them, were not designed for the type and volume of traffic they already carry (cars, HGVs, buses etc) and are already dangerous, with many residents already not able to exit their drives safely</p> <p>Bringing additional cars onto the local network (up to 400-500 if combined with NC13), including construction-related vehicles, will increase congestion, noise, pollution, disturbance and reduce road safety, particularly around the local schools (there have been several accidents involving school children in the area recently)</p> <p>Colclough Lane / Birchenwood / Station Road is a county lane with several blind bends and is already in the top 5% most dangerous roads within Staffordshire, having seen 5 road traffic accidents since January 2023 that have required police presence. Thursfield Road [Newtown], which runs along the other side of the site, is also very busy</p> <p>There are several bottlenecks around the area, including around Thursfield school, Pennyfields Road, Long Lane (rat-run), Bull Lane (rat-run), Colclough Lane (rat-run) and the roundabout at the end of Turnhurst Road, which is regularly grid-locked</p> <p>Ormiston Academy now has their entrance onto Turnhurst Road, with children being dropped-off, picked-up and walking on an extremely busy road</p> <p>Roads in the area are not dangerous</p> <p>There are no more road accidents on the roads near the site than in the wider area generally and more houses locally will encourage more children to walk to school, thus alleviating some of the traffic issues caused by school runs</p>	
---	--

<p>Access to the site is difficult and unsafe, with sharp bends on the local road (Station Road). The 2022 SHELLA report notes that the site has constrained access</p> <p>The site has a 100m+ frontage onto Turnhurst Road with 3 existing vehicular accesses to the site, which have been used for years with no problems. Turnhurst Road is a main road with footpaths on both sides and is not usually used for parking related to the schools in the area</p> <p>Inadequate public transport – poor local bus services and Kidsgrove railway station a long walk away – all resulting in reliance on cars</p> <p>Lack of support for public transport – insufficient bus shelters, inadequate parking at and closing of the ticket office at Kidsgrove railway station</p> <p>Newtown and Turnhurst Road forms part of one of the area's main bus routes and there is a bus stop directly opposite the site</p> <p>There are safe cycle routes around the area leading from the site to many local towns (Tunstall, Burslem, Kidsgrove, Hanley, Westport Lake and Peacocks Hay) which would minimise car use</p> <p>A traffic survey must be undertaken at a time to provide an accurate representation of the existing levels of congestion (i.e. during term-time)</p> <p>Roads already hazardous in winter due to elevation / poor weather conditions (snow), particularly Pennyfields Road, which is very steep</p> <p>Insufficient school places locally will lead to children travelling further afield – resulting in more traffic on the roads</p> <p><i>Water, drainage & flood risk:</i></p>	
--	--

<p>Negative impact on watercourses / water quality – the local sewage works is already often at capacity, sometimes leading to discharge into watercourses</p> <p>The site is marshy and facilitates natural drainage – its development would increase flood risk due to ‘run-off’</p> <p>Concern regarding contamination of water from disturbed mine workings</p>	
<p><i>Biodiversity:</i></p> <p>Loss of trees and green space resulting in diverse wildlife / habitat loss – insects (rare butterflies, bees, ladybirds, wasps), bats, birds (blackbirds, sparrows, blue tits, bullfinches, chaffinches, robins, swallows, skylarks, pheasants, partridges, owls, kestrels, sparrowhawk, buzzards) and mammals (moles, rabbits, squirrels, hedgehogs, foxes, badgers)</p> <p>The area itself has a small pond and a small brook running through it, which attract a variety of wildlife (great crested newts, frogs, toads, dragonflies, herons' coots and ducks)</p> <p>Loss of oak trees and a substantial stretch of ancient hedgerow, which contains rare woodland species and is potentially / should be protected under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997</p> <p>Loss of wild English meadow (95% of which have been lost), containing a wealth of biodiversity that is reaching ‘climax vegetation’ stage, including rare native flora (wild orchids, foxgloves, rosebay willowherb, yellow rattleweed, vetches and over 20 different / rare grasses)</p> <p>Ecological survey not sufficiently up to date to reflect the true biodiversity of the site</p>	

<p>Loss of carbon storage, cooling and shading, green network / opportunities for species migration, the protection of water quality and natural management of flood risk</p> <p>Attention drawn to Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 – duty for local authorities to consider conserving biodiversity as an integral part of policy and decision-making</p> <p>The site has re-wilded and is high in biodiversity – replacement ecology areas on a developed site would not adequately compensate for the natural ecology of the site being destroyed</p> <p>The design approach will create an environment that contributes to the achievement of the Council’s climate change objectives (Policy CRE1)</p> <p>Areas of green space, defensible borders and the pond on the site could be retained to accommodate wildlife</p>	
<p><i>Character:</i></p> <p>Scale of development out of keeping with the semi-rural character of the villages (Packmoor and Newtown)</p> <p>Erosion of local character – the gap provided by NC77 helps to denote the historic villages and character of the area – the sense of moving from one village to another. Loss of this space would have a detrimental impact on the special character of each village, resulting in the merging of Packmoor and Newchapel and housing approximately 2 miles long from Turnhurst Road to Chapel Lane and an unbroken conurbation / urban sprawl from Tunstall and all the Potteries towns, all the way to Mow Cop, with the outlying villages swallowed-up</p> <p>Loss of the sense of space and place / will not preserve and enhance the special character of the individual villages</p>	

<p>Loss of the character, appearance and quality of the countryside</p> <p>The land has been abused and neglected over the years (used as a dog toilet and dumping ground) and its development could enhance the appearance of the area</p> <p>Historic England – Cannot locate site but no designated heritage assets in the vicinity of Newchapel</p>	
<p><i>Green Belt:</i></p> <p>Stoke-on-Trent City Council – The site allocation is adjacent to the shared boundary between our respective Councils. In the Green Belt Assessment (2020), the site is contained within parcel 18 which spans both Councils. The current site boundaries do not appear to have been assessed further in terms of the impact upon the Green Belt purposes including preventing neighbouring towns merging. Stoke-on-Trent City Council would therefore like to raise concerns about the inclusion of the site without full consideration of how the site will impact upon the Green Belt and the City.</p> <p>Comments from other parties include</p> <p>‘Major’ harm to the Green Belt</p> <p>The site delivers a ‘moderate’ contribution to the Green Belt; therefore, its loss would be detrimental to the area and would negatively affect the natural landscape</p> <p>The Green Belt is there to protect villages from urban sprawl, removal of areas such as this will increase / consolidate urban sprawl, with the villages of Packmoor, Newton, Newchapel and Harriseahead merging from Chell / Packmoor to Harriseahead / Mow Cop</p>	

<p>No exceptional circumstances exist to justify the loss of Green Belt land in this location / inadequate justification provided, particularly if based on out-of-date data (i.e. housing need); exceptional circumstance has a narrative re. well-served by public transport, which this site is not</p> <p>Government policy is to not remove land from the Green Belt for house building</p> <p>Building on Green Belt land is unethical in a time of climate change – we need more Green Belt areas, not less. How will the loss of Green Belt be compensated for?</p> <p>Overall the site makes a ‘weak’ contribution to the function of the Green Belt – it does not play a role in checking the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas (Tunstall and Kidsgrove are both two miles away); it has strong defensible boundaries on all sides (roads or existing residential development); it could be considered small-scale infilling / the logical conclusion of the settlement; it does not play a role in safeguarding the countryside against encroachment (it is primarily scrubland with some previously developed land – the site of the former Packmoor Working Men’s Club and lock-up garages); it does not play a role in preserving the setting / special character of an historic town</p> <p>The site represents a minor release of land from the Stoke-on-Trent Green Belt (0.01% of its overall area)</p>	
<p><i>Deliverability:</i></p> <p>Deemed unsuitable for housing in the 2022 SHELLA report due to mining, flood risk, Japanese knotweed and access problems and a 'high risk' site by the Coal Authority</p> <p>The site promoter has confirmed that the site capacity is 130 residential units (57 market / affordable homes, 3 retirement bungalows and a 70-unit extra-care facility)</p>	

<p>A locally operating Registered Provider is to be engaged to secure the provision and management of the affordable and retirement elements, with the landowner responsible for the delivery and management of the local centre</p>	
<p><i>Other:</i> Old colliery / mine shafts / sink holes on the site. It was only declared stable if it is not disturbed</p> <p>Many houses in the vicinity have already suffered subsidence – concerns raised regarding the impact of excavation works on ground stability / further subsidence issues in relation to existing buildings</p> <p>Brownfield sites in Newcastle-under-Lyne (some of which are owned by the Council) should be developed instead, as they are more suitable – being closer to amenities and employment opportunities, and would deliver positive benefits for the community, particularly disused factory sites, which appear destitute in places and vacant commercial properties in the city centre</p> <p>Local housing need figures too high – based on inaccurate / out-of-date data; does not consider the Green Belt status of the land; population and employment opportunities in the Borough are falling; there are many vacant homes in the Borough; many additional homes have been built in the area in recent years</p> <p>Unsustainable location</p> <p>Loss of agricultural land / reduction in food production capacity</p> <p>Concern regarding loss or diversion of public footpaths that cross the site</p>	

Development contrary to the government's aspirations regarding sustainability and climate change with an emphasis on green spaces

None of the advantages of urbanisation will be delivered – employment, improved transportation and educational opportunities etc

Green spaces, which support physical and mental health, save circa £1.2 billion for the NHS and local health services

Request for a further Call for Sites to find more suitable sites (COVID caused a lot of distraction for lots of reasons)

Insufficient early consultation with residents / their opinions not being properly considered / the site already has planning permission for a development known as 'Boundary Park' / it appears to be a 'done deal' and thus a waste of time objecting to

Mining records indicate there are no mine entrances on the site

The site is a mix of predominantly scrubland and previously developed land (the former Packmoor Working Men's Club and several lock-up garages off Turnhurst Road)

The site is suitable for development – being Grade 4 Agricultural Land, not used for farming, not of any historical interest and not within an AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)

Sustainable location – good access to public transport (next to one of the area's main bus corridors and 10 minutes from Kidsgrove Railway Station); good access to many local employment opportunities (the units on Reginald Mitchell Way, the petrol station/food court at the top of James Brindley Way, new units at Ceramic Valley and new warehouses on

Peacocks Hay Road); and good access to existing and proposed local services	
The development will deliver a mix of housing types to address identified local needs (in particular, affordable housing and housing for older people) and will bring more jobs into the area / provide an opportunity for people to live closer to where they work	

72. SB12: Land Adjacent to Clayton Lodge

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
No accompanying plans to limit the traffic or to improve the already struggling infrastructure.	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Historic England - Site needs to consider any impact on Clayton Hall Grade II and Clayton Conservation Area.	

73. SP11: Former Keele Municipal Golf Course

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p><i>Residential amenity / Health and wellbeing:</i></p> <p>Impact on air quality – hydrogen sulphide emitted by Walleys Quarry, increased carbon dioxide generated by additional traffic, reduction in the number of trees and the low-lying nature of the area will all combine to further reduce air quality</p> <p>Pollution and disruption whilst building takes place - years of dust, noise, contractor's traffic and general disruption to residents</p> <p>Loss of residential amenity (peace, quiet, privacy and light) for residents and the associated impact on their mental health and wellbeing</p>	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.

<p>Loss of green open space / recreational / countryside space within walking distance of homes, resulting in detrimental impact on local people's physical and mental health / wellbeing, including an adverse impact on local obesity rates</p> <p>The impacts of Walleys Quarry have already resulted in the need for specific mental health services to serve the local population and mental health services recommend the use of green spaces to support health</p> <p>Park Road, which is used by people for exercise (including the disabled, those less mobile and children travelling to school) would become dangerous</p> <p>[Devaluation of local properties]</p>	
<p><i>Social infrastructure:</i></p> <p>Sport England – Objection to the allocation on the grounds that it is sited on a playing field site without it being demonstrated that the site is surplus to requirement, or that replacement provision is to be provided in line with NPPF paragraph 99</p> <p>Sport England – The Playing Pitch Strategy identifies that the site is surplus to requirement, although the driving range should be protected (retained or adequately re-provided as part of the Keele growth corridor exercise). The retention / relocation of the driving range is not explicit within the specific requirements for the site</p> <p>Sport England – Site specific requirements should refer to playing field sites and the need to demonstrate compliance with NPPF paragraph 99, as there is no protection policy contained elsewhere within the Plan</p> <p>Comments from other parties include</p> <p>The golf course is a Community Asset</p>	

Loss of formal sports provision - golf course, driving range, fishing pool and playing fields on Back Lane

Loss of easily accessible recreational open space, which has declined by a third this century (Source: New Economics Foundation) – the flat ground enables the site to be used by people of all abilities and is even accessible to people with disabilities, our ageing communities and those using disability scooters

Recreational space like this must be protected for not just physical but mental well-being / it has always been used as a recreational space

There are several Open Spaces adjoining the site, which are designated in the Open Space and Green Infrastructure Strategy as either 'High Quality / High Value' or 'Low Quality / High Value', the actions for which are to be 'protected and enhanced'. Development of SP11 will result in damage to these areas of Open Space given the volume of inflows of people and the resultant increase in foot traffic

Insufficient infrastructure - doctors, dentists, schools and other services which are already oversubscribed

Already oversubscribed medical facilities will be exacerbated by the additional population leading to increased patient ill-health

Request that GP provision planning gain clauses be considered and implemented and ring-fenced for specific health service space spend – if this does not occur the quality and access to general practice will slip further. Our buildings are at capacity but could be extended (Silverdale and Ryecroft Practice)

<p>An Infrastructure Plan is required – to include highway impacts and how essential services will be met (schools, medical facilities, post office etc)</p>	
<p><i>Transportation:</i></p> <p>National Highways – The site is likely to have an impact on the SRN in terms of traffic. The immediate SRN junctions likely to be impacted are M6 J15; and A500 (Queensway) / A34 roundabout. Should the site be allocated in the final Local Plan, further assessment work may be required to ascertain the impact on the SRN and to determine the need for mitigation. National Highways would expect that the proposed site allocation be subject to consultation with National Highways and appropriately assessed to determine the extent of their potential impacts on the operation of the SRN in the area</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council – Vehicle and pedestrian access to the site available via A525 Keele Road and Park Road. Off-site improvements required to enhance cycle and pedestrian connectivity to Silverdale, Keele University and Newcastle Town Centre</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council – Limited amenities / facilities available to serve large-scale development. Inclusion of supermarket and bus services should be considered to support the residential development</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council – Any Master Plan will need to be supported with a Travel Plan and a Transport Assessment, in line with any scoping note agreed with the Highway Authority</p> <p>Comments from other parties include</p> <p>General concern regarding increased traffic – resulting in reduction in road safety and congestion / overloading of already busy local roads</p> <p>The proposal will lead to new traffic routes (possibly at Keele and one through Silverdale) which will create bottlenecks. Silverdale as a village is</p>	

<p>not set up for such an increase in vehicles, particularly around the primary school, which does not have a crossing warden – a consequence of more traffic is a reduction in road safety / increased risk of accidents</p> <p>Existing road system inadequate – already under pressure due to other new developments in the area (the Hawthorns – c.80 new homes, the Oaks – c.100 new homes and the Hamptons – c. 130 new homes); in a poor state of repair; and unsuitable to accommodate the additional volume of traffic and / or construction-related vehicles</p> <p>The traffic impact analysis undertaken for Quarry Bank Road (for 435 Units) indicates that there is sufficient capacity on the surrounding highway network, albeit with mitigation at the A525 Keele Road / A525 Newcastle Road / A531 Crewe Road junction, however, there is limited scope for mitigation at the junctions without using third party land</p> <p>Concern regarding the location of access onto Park Road and associated reduction in road safety (Park Road is used by people for exercise, including the disabled, those less mobile and children travelling to school)</p> <p>Access would either mean a new junction near to the entrance of the University, which already suffers congestion, or through quiet residential streets in Silverdale</p> <p>Access via the Keel roundabout is unsuitable as it is too busy already</p> <p>Access should be provided into Silverdale and not just onto the A525</p> <p>Access should not be provided into Silverdale but via the entrance to the golf course on Keele Road - Ashbourne Drive and Underwood Road are too small to carry builders' lorries and the vehicles associated with 1,170 additional houses and opening-up the cul-de-sacs off Ashbourne Drive will create a racetrack in Park Road and past the school</p>	
---	--

Concern regarding loss of Public Rights of Way across the site

On-street parking is already an issue in Silverdale village with parking at local amenities (the parade shops and doctors' surgery) already at capacity, with elderly people often struggling to find somewhere to park when shopping / visiting the GP.

No bus route / public transport inadequate, resulting in people using their cars; new residents likely to commute to major cities for work; and loss of local open space, forcing people to travel to other areas for recreation.

The Infrastructure Baseline Report (October 2021) does not include any analysis of additional traffic congestion arising from additional housing in the western Wards.

Water, drainage & flood risk:

Existing sewage system already under pressure and out-dated (the Rivers' Trust data recently reported large amounts of sewage discharge into the Lyme Brook and its tributaries)

Increased flood risk – the site is on a steep hill (a fall of roughly 45-50 metres from Keele Road to Park Road), is very boggy in places and has natural springs. The undeveloped landforms an important soakaway for rainwater and loss of this, combined with the loss of many mature trees will increase flood risk on lower ground – i.e. Silverdale

The Level One Strategic Flood Assessment shows a flood risk to the Silverdale Brook area and page 62 of the FRA (2008) states “the Silverdale area of the Borough where there have been reports of groundwater flooding ... this remains a long-term risk as pumping and de-watering of the mines will have to occur in perpetuity. It is therefore recommended that future development in this location is avoided due to the residual risk posed”

<p>Regular flooding already occurs during rainstorms and sewage runs out of a number of drain covers. The roads are constantly flooded by heavy rain at the junction of Cemetery Road and Silverdale Road with Underwood Road and Dale View also prone to flooding</p> <p>Ashbourne Drive was regularly flooded during the 70's and 80's until a trench was dug across the golf course and many, many trees planted</p> <p>The importance of trees on the site for balancing the hydrology of the surface water with underground aquifer pressure - there should be a Hydrogeological Study to calculate the change to the water equilibrium.</p> <p>It is well known that if vegetated land is replaced by manufactured materials such as tarmac and concrete then the amount of surface run-off from rainfall alone increases, not to mention the already natural water resources.</p> <p>The Local Plan's Vision Statement growth states development should mitigate rather than exacerbate localised flooding problems caused by river flooding and / or surface water run-off, yet this does not seem to have been considered when proposing the removal of long-established vegetation.</p> <p>Request made that the plans for the drainage management of the site be provided. Furthermore, it is not considered unreasonable to expect written agreements that should properties be flooded, all repairs/replacements will be provided by NuLBC, who would be viewed as being responsible.</p>	
<p><i>Biodiversity:</i> Natural England – This site includes parts of Sites of Biological Importance. We are unable to provide specific advice, but we would</p>	

advise that if these allocations will cause adverse impacts on these sites they should be deleted as allocations in line with paragraph 174 of the NPPF

Comments from other parties include

Loss of a re-wilded green space that contains thousands of varied broadleaved and coniferous trees / mature trees, hedgerows and natural habitats – resulting in loss of flora (wild sorrel, rare grasses), reduction in pollination, fragmentation of habitats and wildlife / habitat loss (a diversity of insects and butterflies, bees, slow worm, stag beetle, squirrels, foxes, badgers, hedgehogs, brown long-eared bats, cuckoo, woodpeckers, a range of nesting birds and birds of prey, such as owls, kestrels and buzzards) = net loss in biodiversity

Development should deliver a minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity, which is clearly unachievable

Loss of fishing ponds and natural pools / blue corridors on the land, which have generated a unique marshland habitat and contain a range of wildlife, including amphibians, toads, frogs and newts

Within the site is a Biodiversity Alert Site (Bogs Wood) and a Regionally Important Geological Structure (Job's Wood Quarry) and adjoining its western boundary is another Biodiversity Alert Site (Redheath Plantation) Jobs Wood and Redheath Plantation are old / ancient woodlands (which cannot be replaced) and include protected native flora such a bluebell, marsh marigolds and wood anemones

Unsuitable allocation due to biodiversity impact, protected trees on site (Tree Preservation Orders) and negative assessment for land & soil

<p>Removal of mature trees will reduce air quality, increase flood risk and reduce natural carbon capture / the existing woodland should form part of the development brief for the site</p> <p>Loss of carbon store – large-scale carbon sequestration is best achieved by retaining and maintaining well-established trees and 'rewilding' managed 'grasslands. Threading 'green strips' amongst extensive areas of housing will never achieve the objective of carbon sequestration set out in SO1V</p> <p>No ecological surveys have been carried out / a detailed statutory designated sites assessment up to 10km will be required to ascertain the National Context of the site along with a Habitat Regulations Assessment</p> <p>A baseline field survey of the site has confirmed the presence and potential presence of several species (including great crested newts, bats and badgers), all of which pose a high risk to development and require further assessment / mitigation</p> <p>Keele golf course is an important biodiversity green link between Keele Woods, Silverdale Country Park, Bateswood and Apedale – this site provides an opportunity to create a green corridor on the west side of Newcastle</p> <p>The UK is one of the most, if not the most, nature-depleted countries in Western Europe</p> <p>Natural England guidance states that no developments should be permitted near 'protected sites' unless it can be proved that they are nitrate and phosphate neutral</p> <p><i>Character:</i></p>	
---	--

Historic England – Consider the impact on Keele Hall Registered Park and Garden Grade II opposite the site, as well as Keele Conservation Area and associated listed buildings nearby

Comments from other parties include

Loss visual amenity / the outstanding beauty of the site / significant landscape impact – development would be viewed in the landscape as a conspicuous, large-scale urban extension across the steep sides of the wooded hillside

Development would directly conflict the Landscape Character Area Landscape Strategy guidelines for this character area type, which is to ‘conserve and enhance woodland on steep slopes’

The Overall Appraisal the Landscape Character Assessment Study concludes that “larger residential development on this site would have a major adverse effect on the SA objective to strengthen the quality of the landscape and urban townscape and deliver well-designed development which respects the local character and distinctiveness”

Significant impact the character and setting of the historic village of Silverdale

Urban sprawl will join Silverdale with Keele and Poolfields, thereby removing the character and distinctiveness of each village, contrary to SO-XIII, which states that the vitality of industrial villages should be supported, and their special character preserved and enhanced. The proposed developments, which will double the size of Silverdale, will undermine its historical character as a village ‘nestled in a green valley’ The Council’s classification of rural and urban parishes pre-disposes certain Wards for amalgamation and compaction, ignoring their historic origins, and creates an elite set of historic villages in more rural areas

<p>Villages such as Silverdale should be defined under 'historic industrial villages and their status should reflect their specific economic and social origins in the development of iron and coal mining on landed estates. These villages have their own identity – a fundamental reason not to incorporate them into the urban core as 'Strategic Centres'</p> <p>Mass estate house building has a detrimental impact on neighbourhoods and healthy communities, creating artificial, anonymous places that facilitate anti-social behaviour and lack of social cohesion. The scale of development proposed will overwhelm the village and its population, eroding its character as a small rural community</p>	
<p><i>Green Belt:</i> 'Major' harm to Green Belt (overall, the proposals will reduce greenbelt by 25 per cent in Silverdale alone, in perpetuity)</p> <p>The site provides a 'strong' (not 'moderate') contribution to the Green Belt – on the basis that it is not surrounded by durable boundaries; that development would result in urban sprawl stretching from the Strategic Centre of Silverdale to the proposed settlement boundary of Keele and Keele University; and that the scale and impact of development would have a significant impact on the open countryside / would help eradicate the countryside separation between Silverdale and Keele</p> <p>Loss of countryside / Green Belt land, which is irreversible and unsustainable (as no compensatory land is proposed as its replacement)</p> <p>The purpose of the Greenbelt is to check unrestricted sprawl, to safeguard the countryside from encroachment and to preserve setting. This development will merge Silverdale and Keele into one large urban conurbation, thereby losing individuality of each village, which the Green Belt was designated to prevent</p>	

<p>Keele (rural) and Silverdale (a mix of urban and rural) should not become part of Newcastle's urban area – they are villages and are distinct and should remain so – protected by the Green Belt</p> <p>The methodology adopted in the Green Belt Review where ‘historic towns’ are given an enhanced status ignores the complex industrial history elsewhere, i.e. historic industrial villages</p> <p>No exceptional circumstances to justify changes to Green Belt designations</p> <p>Government policy is to not remove land from the Green Belt for house building</p> <p>The Council’s Green Belt Assessment is fundamentally flawed, not up-to-date and does not consider the impact of the site on the proposed settlement of Keele & Keele University, or the wider countryside</p>	
<p><i>Deliverability:</i></p> <p>The golf course was given to the Council on the agreement that it will only ever be used as a golf course / there is a covenant on the land</p> <p>The site it has significant technical and environmental constraints (outlined in the Site Selection Interim Report) that have not been fully considered</p> <p>The SHELAA (2022) identified the site as ‘Unsuitable’ for both Housing and Employment use and as a ‘Site not in Deliverable & Developable Supply’</p> <p>The cumulative impact of the potential presence of protected species on the site creates a major issue for the site’s deliverability</p>	
<p><i>Other:</i></p> <p>Over-concentration / disproportionate volume of housing proposed in the area - the net increase in population suggested at Keele, Silverdale and</p>	

<p>one of the developments on the Keele / Thistleberry boundary would add over 2,000 houses, amounting to approximately 4,400 more people, which is unfair in a tightly defined area / the volume of additional population will increase density in Silverdale to 22 pph (only 6.6 pph in the rest of the Borough – using the same assumptions) and would result in an additional 46% households in Silverdale</p> <p>More sustainable brownfield and underused sites, the town centre and unused retail and commercial premises should be redeveloped before green field sites (also, there are empty properties of all kinds which could be redeveloped for housing)</p> <p>The Council should be pro-active in seeking out locations that are redundant and work with owners to tackle the neglect</p> <p>No housing need – based on inaccurate data and an overly optimistic view of job growth in the Borough; the population of Newcastle is falling; there are many vacant homes in the Borough (1,200 – which are unusable and require investment); Government housing targets have been reduced / changed from statutory to advisory; there is an oversupply of housing in England and Wales</p> <p>The new houses will be rented to students and will therefore have little impact on housing need for local people / affordable housing content too low (should be 50%)</p> <p>Loss of Grade 3 Agricultural Land / grazing land – for potential food or energy production in the future</p> <p>The site is on a fault line and may have underground mines (the historic mine at Knutton Manor had shafts sunk close to Park Road), be a former landfill site, or otherwise be contaminated (potential for methane)</p>	
---	--

<p>Concern regarding underground mines and the impact that construction works (digging, vibrations etc) would have on existing buildings (i.e. loosening of soil / substrate underground that rain or spring water may wash away over time, causing sink holes, for example)</p> <p>Unsuitable allocation due to its designation as a Regionally Important Geological Site and location within a Mineral Safeguarding Area</p> <p>No explanation given for the different densities on sites SP11, SP12 and SP23 (which are based on site ownership rather than sound planning grounds)</p> <p>Contrary to the Council's stated aim of helping to combat climate change The opinions of local people in Silverdale and Keele have not been considered</p> <p>No clear rationale for the site selection and no justification to support it in the evidence base</p> <p>The Sustainability Appraisal identifies many negative definitive assessments in relation to the allocation, including a 'major negative' impact on biodiversity and a 'minor negative' impact on the economy</p> <p>Development of this scale impractical given its topography and geology / the Site Selection Interim Report refers to the former golf course as being 'relatively flat' (and so suitable for redevelopment), which it is not</p> <p>The owner of Keele Golf Centre has expressed concern regarding the future of the business, which is within site SP11 and on land leased from the Council. They advise that the business, which employs 15 local people, is thriving and is very popular with a wide range of users and that they would like to retain the site and develop it into a bigger and better facility</p>	
---	--

Suggestions for the site:

- > retain as a Municipal Golf Course, a natural recreational space / wildlife haven, or as another local recreational attraction, with the old club house redeveloped as a visitor centre with café and/or centre for weddings and events etc;
- > use as a Biodiversity Net Gain area, whereby parcels of land could be purchased by local developers to 'offset' development elsewhere;
- > retain 50% of the site as Green Belt;
- > provide 300 homes at the top of the golf course / near the driving range, with no through-road to Silverdale;
- > develop a portion of the site (potentially the top section, at a higher density) in tandem with the establishment of a large and publicly accessible green space;
- > only build on the land between the University roundabout (on the A525 and proposed allocations SP12 and SP23;
- > retain the field / grassed areas behind Hulme Close and Ashbourne Drive and the cul-de-sacs off Ashbourne to provide a natural buffer;
- > retain of a strip of Green Belt in between Silverdale and Keele to keep them separate and to satisfy some of the concerns around loss of trees and green space;
- > retain the trees that line the A525 (Keele Road)

The site was gifted to the Council on instruction to be used for the good of the people of the Borough and not be built upon

Need for the local planning authority to remain independent despite the Council being owner of the largest proposed site in the area

Potential for increased crime and anti-social behaviour due to increase in population

<p>Alternative sites proposed - the area along Cemetery Road and the disused site in Knutton (where the gym was)</p> <p>The site is situated in a sustainable location</p> <p>The area of land to the rear of Hulme Close has never formed part of the Golf Course (notwithstanding common ownership) and the preservation of the field & hedges found here would establish a ready-made defensible boundary. In setting any such boundaries, it is important to be conscious of the watercourses on the golf course and on Park Road. Reference is made to a natural drain which runs the length of the field behind Hulme Close and the properties backing onto that field have previously had ingress of water.</p> <p><i>Suggestions for the site (under Other, with underlined text denoting change):</i> provide 300-<u>400</u> homes at the top of the golf course / near the driving range (<u>on Keele Road</u>), with no through-road to Silverdale;</p> <p>It is unclear how building more homes will increase job opportunities as it is not apparent what commercial development will take place. Nor would the proposals improve Newcastle Town Centre as this needs a major overhaul, recognising that the internet has altered shopping habits, and instead consider other alternative uses, such as entertainment venues and restaurants/cafes.</p> <p>The Local Plan does not consider the current residents of the village.</p>	
---	--

74. SP12: Site off Glenwood Close

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
-------------------------------	------------------

<p><i>Residential amenity / Health and wellbeing:</i></p> <p>Loss of light and privacy to existing properties (site on higher ground than the bungalows to the north)</p> <p>Impact on air quality – hydrogen sulphide emitted by Walleys Quarry, increased carbon dioxide generated by additional traffic, reduction in the number of trees and the low-lying nature of the area will all combine to further reduce air quality</p> <p>Pollution and disruption whilst building takes place - years of dust, noise, contractor's traffic and general disruption to residents</p> <p>Loss of amenity (peace, quiet and privacy) for the residents of Glenwood Close and the associated impact on their mental health and wellbeing</p> <p>Loss of local green open / recreational space within walking distance of homes, resulting in detrimental impact on local people's physical and mental health / wellbeing, including an adverse impact on local obesity rates</p> <p>Park Road, which is used by people for exercise (including the disabled, those less mobile and children travelling to school) would become dangerous</p> <p>[Devaluation of local properties]</p>	<p>The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.</p>
<p><i>Social infrastructure:</i></p> <p>Loss of open / green / recreational space and playing fields on Back Lane</p> <p>Insufficient infrastructure - doctors, dentists, schools and other services which are already oversubscribed</p> <p>Request that GP provision planning gain clauses be considered and implemented and also ring-fenced for specific health service space spend</p>	

<p>– if this does not occur the quality and access to general practice will slip further. Our buildings are at capacity but could be extended (Silverdale and Ryecroft Practice)</p>	
<p><i>Transportation:</i></p> <p>National Highways – The site is likely to have an impact on the SRN in terms of traffic. The immediate SRN junctions likely to be impacted are M6 J15; and A500 (Queensway) / A34 roundabout. Should the site be allocated in the final Local Plan, further assessment work may be required to ascertain the impact on the SRN and to determine the need for mitigation. National Highways would expect that the proposed site allocation be subject to consultation with National Highways and appropriately assessed in order to determine the extent of their potential impacts on the operation of the SRN in the area</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council – Off-site improvements required to enhance cycle and pedestrian connectivity to Silverdale, Keele university and Newcastle Town Centre</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council – Limited amenities / facilities available to serve large-scale development. Inclusion of supermarket and bus services should be considered to support the residential development</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council – Development will need to be supported with a Travel Plan and a Transport Assessment, in line with any scoping note agreed with the Highway Authority</p> <p>Other transportation comments from other parties include</p> <p>Concern regarding increased traffic – resulting in reduction in road safety and congestion / overloading of already busy local roads</p> <p>Existing road system inadequate – already under pressure due to other new developments in the area (the Hawthorns – c.80 new homes, the</p>	

<p>Oaks – c.100 new homes and the Hamptons – c. 130 new homes); in a poor state of repair; and unsuitable to accommodate the additional volume of traffic and / or construction-related vehicles</p> <p>Park Road is a lane without street lighting or pavements and is unsuitable to serve the development.</p> <p>Concern regarding impact on Park Road and associated reduction in road safety (Park Road is used by people for exercise, including disabled and those less mobile, and children travelling to school)</p> <p>Concerns regarding the site access – its gradient, impact on the amenities of adjacent properties, impact on pedestrians etc who currently use the area as an access point to the open space/s, and impact on the mature native trees / biodiversity</p> <p>Unsuitable allocation due to access constraints</p> <p>Access should be via SP11 / the golf course</p> <p>On-street parking is already an issue in Silverdale village with parking at local amenities (the parade shops and doctors' surgery) already at capacity, with elderly people often struggling to find somewhere to park when shopping / visiting the GP</p> <p>Public transport inadequate, resulting in people using their cars; new residents likely to commute to major cities for work; and loss of local open space, forcing people to travel to other areas for recreation</p> <p>The Infrastructure Baseline Report (October 2021) does not include any analysis of additional traffic congestion arising from additional housing in the western Wards</p>	
<p><i>Water, drainage & flood risk:</i></p>	

Existing sewage system already under pressure and out-dated (the Rivers' Trust data recently reported large amounts of sewage discharge into the Lyme Brook and its tributaries)

Increased flood risk – the site is known to flood regularly, and ground water and springs will naturally re-route downwards towards Silverdale, there is historic flooding in Glenwood Close and the development will result in increased flood risk to properties in both Glenwood Close and Daleview Drive

The Level One Strategic Flood Assessment shows a flood risk to the Silverdale Brook area and page 62 of the FRA (2008) states “the Silverdale area of the Borough where there have been reports of groundwater flooding ... this remains a long-term risk as pumping and de-watering of the mines will have to occur in perpetuity. It is therefore recommended that future development in this location is avoided due to the residual risk posed”

Removing trees at the top of a hill will result in a higher flood risk in the valley below

The importance of trees on the site for balancing the hydrology of the surface water with underground aquifer pressure - there should be a Hydrogeological Study to calculate the change to the water equilibrium

Biodiversity:

Loss of trees and green space resulting in wildlife / habitat loss and a reduction in the volume and diversity of insects, butterflies, birds and mammals (slow worm, stag beetle, nesting owls, great spotted woodpecker, cuckoo, finches, blue tits, brown long-eared bat, foxes, badgers and hedgehogs) = net loss in biodiversity

Loss of drainage channels along Park Road, which are home to a range of wildlife, in particular, amphibians, toads, frogs and newts

<p>Jobs Wood is ancient woodland (which cannot be replaced) and includes protected native flora such a bluebell, marsh marigolds and wood anemones</p> <p>Unsuitable allocation due to protected trees on site (Tree Preservation Orders)</p> <p>Removal of mature trees will reduce air quality, increase flood risk and reduce natural carbon capture / the existing woodland should form part of the development brief for the site</p> <p>No ecological surveys have been carried out</p> <p>Negative impact on land & soil The UK is one of the most, if not the most, nature-depleted countries in Western Europe</p> <p>Natural England guidance states that no developments should be permitted near 'protected sites' unless it can be proved that they are nitrate and phosphate neutral</p>	
<p><i>Character:</i></p> <p>Significant impact on landscape sensitivity and the character and setting of the historic village of Silverdale</p> <p>Urban sprawl will essentially join Silverdale with Keele, thereby removing the character and distinctiveness of each, contrary to SO-XIII, which states that the vitality of industrial villages should be supported, and their special character preserved and enhanced. The proposed developments, which will double the size of Silverdale, will undermine its historical character as a village 'nestled in a green valley'</p>	

<p>The Council's classification of rural and urban parishes pre-disposes certain Wards for amalgamation and compaction, ignoring their historic origins, and creates an elite set of historic villages in more rural areas</p> <p>Historic England – Consider any impacts on Silverdale Conservation Area and St Luke's Church Grade II</p>	
<p><i>Green Belt:</i></p> <p>'Major' harm to Green Belt (overall, the proposals will reduce greenbelt by 25 per cent in Silverdale alone, in perpetuity)</p> <p>Loss of countryside / Green Belt land, which is irreversible and unsustainable (as no compensatory land is proposed as its replacement)</p> <p>The purpose of the Greenbelt is to check unrestricted sprawl, to safeguard the countryside from encroachment and to preserve setting. This development will merge Silverdale and Keele into one large urban conurbation, which the Green Belt was designated to prevent (settlements should be distinct and land preserved)</p> <p>The methodology adopted in the Green Belt Review where 'historic towns' are given an enhanced status ignores the complex industrial history elsewhere, i.e. historic industrial villages</p> <p>No exceptional circumstances to justify changes to Green Belt designations</p> <p>Government policy is to not remove land from the Green Belt for house building</p>	
<p><i>Other:</i></p> <p>Over-concentration / disproportionate volume of housing proposed in the area - the net increase in population suggested at Keele, Silverdale and one of the developments on the Keele / Thistleberry boundary would add</p>	

<p>over 2,000 houses, amounting to approximately 4,400 more people, which is unfair in a tightly defined area / the volume of additional population will increase density in Silverdale to 22 pph (only 6.6 pph in the rest of the Borough – using the same assumptions)</p> <p>Silverdale should be afforded the same protection as a rural village due to its importance as an industrial village</p> <p>More sustainable brownfield and underused sites, the town centre and unused retail and commercial premises should be redeveloped before green field sites (also, there are empty properties of all kinds which could be redeveloped for housing)</p> <p>The Council should be pro-active in seeking out locations that are redundant and work with owners to tackle the neglect</p> <p>No housing need – based on inaccurate data and an overly optimistic view of job growth in the Borough; the population of Newcastle is falling; there are many vacant homes in the Borough (1,200 – which are unusable and require investment); Government housing targets have been reduced / changed from statutory to advisory; there is an oversupply of housing in England and Wales</p> <p>Loss of Grade 3 Agricultural Land / grazing land</p> <p>The site may have underground mines (the historic mine at Knutton Manor had shafts sunk close to Park Road), be a former landfill site, or otherwise be contaminated</p> <p>Concern regarding underground mines and the impact that construction works (digging, vibrations etc) would have on existing buildings (i.e. loosening of soil / substrate underground that rain or spring water may wash away over time, causing sink holes, for example)</p>	
---	--

<p>No explanation given for the different densities on sites SP11, SP12 and SP23 (which appear to be based on site ownership rather than sound planning grounds)</p> <p>Contrary to the Council's stated aim of helping to combat climate change</p> <p>Negative impact on mineral safeguarding / unsuitable allocation due to its location within a Mineral Safeguarding Area</p> <p>The opinions of local people in Silverdale and Keele have not been taken into account</p> <p>Development of this scale impractical given the topography and geology of the site</p> <p>Suggestion that only half the site be developed with the remaining land retained as a natural recreation space and wildlife haven</p> <p>Potential for increased crime and anti-social behaviour due to increase in population</p> <p>Sustainable location</p> <p>The development will breathe new life into the area and provide much-needed infrastructure</p>	
---	--

75. SP2: Cheddar Drive

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Historic England - Have any impacts on St Lukes Church (Grade 2) and Silverdale conservation area been considered?	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at
No details on infrastructure investment needed to support such a large increase of dwellings to Silverdale	

	Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
--	---

76. SP22 Former Playground, Off Ash Grove

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Historic England - Have any impacts on St Lukes Church (Grade 2) been considered?	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
No details on infrastructure investment needed to support such a large increase of dwellings to Silverdale	

77. SP23 Land at Cemetery Road

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p><i>Residential amenity / Health and wellbeing:</i></p> <p>Environment Agency – Risk of landfill gas migration to houses in such proximity to a landfill. An assessment of risk and whether this can be appropriately mitigated should form part of any planning submission. We would recommend extensive and detailed ground surveys and potentially restrictions on the construction methodology of any works near the landfill boundary. Consideration should be given to the Ground Conditions and Pollution section of the NPPF (paragraphs 183 to 188)</p> <p>Environment Agency – Nearby receptors have raised serious concerns regarding odour emissions from the site which are subject to on-going regulatory investigation and remediation measures</p> <p>Environment Agency – Whilst the landfill is due to stop accepting waste by January 2027, the site will continue to receive restoration soils until</p>	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.

2042, meaning traffic movements to and from the site will remain until this date

Environment Agency – The landfill will continue to generate gas and leachate, which will need to be monitored and managed by the site owners for several years after closure. No operational landfill would be completely odour free, therefore, due to the proximity of the proposed site allocation, future residents are likely to experience unpleasant odours on occasions. Given the sensitivity of Walley's Quarry we question the suitability of allocating additional housing sites in proximity of the landfill

Comments from other parties include: -

Inappropriate location for housing given its proximity to Whalley's landfill site and associated air pollution (odours)

Impact on air quality – hydrogen sulphide emitted by Walleys Quarry, increased carbon dioxide generated by additional traffic, reduction in the number of trees and the low-lying nature of the area will all combine to further reduce air quality

Pollution and disruption whilst building takes place - years of dust, noise, contractor's traffic and general disruption to local residents

Loss of amenity (peace, quiet and privacy) for local the residents and the associated impact on their mental health and wellbeing

Loss of local green open / recreational space within walking distance of homes, resulting in detrimental impact on local people's physical and mental health / wellbeing, including an adverse impact on local obesity rates

<p>Park Road, which is used by people for exercise (including the disabled, those less mobile and children travelling to school) would become dangerous</p> <p>[Devaluation of local properties]</p>	
<p><i>Social infrastructure:</i></p> <p>Loss of open / green / recreational space and playing fields on Back Lane</p> <p>Insufficient infrastructure - doctors, dentists, schools and other services which are already oversubscribed</p> <p>Request that GP provision planning gain clauses be considered and implemented and also ring-fenced for specific health service space spend – if this does not occur the quality and access to general practice will slip further. Our buildings are at capacity but could be extended (Silverdale and Ryecroft Practice)</p> <p>An Infrastructure Plan is required – to include highway impacts and how essential services will be met (schools, medical facilities, post office etc)</p>	
<p><i>Transportation:</i></p> <p>Staffordshire County Council – Off-site improvements required to enhance cycle and pedestrian connectivity to Silverdale, Keele university and Newcastle Town Centre</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council – Limited amenities / facilities available to serve large scale development. Inclusion of supermarket and bus services should be considered to support the residential development</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council – Development will need to be supported with a Travel Plan and a Transport Assessment, in line with any scoping note agreed with the Highway Authority</p> <p>Other transport comments from other parties include</p>	

Concern regarding increased traffic – resulting in reduction in road safety and congestion / overloading of already busy local roads

Existing road system inadequate – already under pressure due to other new developments in the area (the Hawthorns – c.80 new homes, the Oaks – c.100 new homes and the Hamptons – c. 130 new homes); in a poor state of repair; and unsuitable to accommodate the additional volume of traffic and / or construction-related vehicles

Concern regarding the location of access onto Park Road and associated reduction in road safety (Park Road is used by people for exercise and children travelling to school)

On-street parking is already an issue in Silverdale village with parking at local amenities (the parade shops and doctors' surgery) already at capacity, with elderly people often struggling to find somewhere to park when shopping / visiting the GP

Public transport inadequate, resulting in people using their cars; new residents likely to commute to major cities for work; and loss of local open space, forcing people to travel to other areas for recreation

Water, drainage & flood risk:

Environment Agency – Development in proximity of landfill may present a risk to controlled water receptors. An assessment of risk and whether this can be appropriately mitigated should form part of any planning submission

Other water, drainage and flood risk comments from parties include: -

Existing sewage system already under pressure and out-dated (the Rivers' Trust data recently reported large amounts of sewage discharge into the Lyme Brook and its tributaries)

<p>Increased flood risk – the site is a waterlogged field which constantly has water running off it. Ground water and springs will naturally re-route downwards towards Park Road / Silverdale (Cemetery Road and Silverdale Road have already flooded many times in recent years)</p> <p>The Level One Strategic Flood Assessment shows a flood risk to the Silverdale Brook area and page 62 of the FRA (2008) states “the Silverdale area of the Borough where there have been reports of groundwater flooding ... this remains a long-term risk as pumping and de-watering of the mines will have to occur in perpetuity. It is therefore recommended that future development in this location is avoided due to the residual risk posed”</p> <p>The importance of trees on the site for balancing the hydrology of the surface water with underground aquifer pressure - there should be a Hydrogeological Study to calculate the change to the water equilibrium</p>	
<p><i>Biodiversity:</i></p> <p>Loss of trees and green space resulting in wildlife / habitat loss (a diversity of insects and butterflies, woodpeckers, buzzards, squirrels, foxes, badgers) = net loss in biodiversity</p> <p>Loss of streams / drainage channels along Park Road, which are home to a range of wildlife, in particular, amphibians, toads, frogs and newts</p> <p>Jobs Wood is ancient woodland (which cannot be replaced) and includes protected native flora such a bluebell, marsh marigolds and wood anemones</p> <p>Removal of mature trees will reduce air quality, increase flood risk and reduce natural carbon capture / the existing woodland should form part of the development brief for the site</p> <p>No ecological surveys have been carried out</p>	

<p>Negative impact on land & soil</p> <p>The UK is one of the most, if not the most, nature-depleted countries in Western Europe</p> <p>Natural England guidance states that no developments should be permitted near 'protected sites' unless it can be proved that they are nitrate and phosphate neutral</p>	
<p><i>Character:</i></p> <p>Significant impact on landscape sensitivity and the character and setting of the historic village of Silverdale</p> <p>Urban sprawl will essentially join Silverdale with Keele, thereby removing the character and distinctiveness of each, contrary to SO-XIII, which states that the vitality of industrial villages should be supported, and their special character preserved and enhanced. The proposed developments, which will double the size of Silverdale, will undermine its historical character as a village 'nestled in a green valley'</p> <p>Historic England – Consider impacts on Keele Hall Registered Park and Garden Grade II and associated listed buildings</p>	
<p><i>Green Belt:</i></p> <p>'Major' harm to Green Belt (overall, the proposals will reduce greenbelt by 25 per cent in Silverdale alone, in perpetuity)</p> <p>Loss of countryside / Green Belt land, which is irreversible and unsustainable (as no compensatory land is proposed as its replacement)</p> <p>The purpose of the Greenbelt is to check unrestricted sprawl, to safeguard the countryside from encroachment and to preserve setting.</p>	

<p>This development will merge Poolfields with Keele and Silverdale creating one large urban conurbation which the Green Belt was designated to prevent</p> <p>The methodology adopted in the Green Belt Review where 'historic towns' are given an enhanced status ignores the complex industrial history elsewhere, i.e. historic industrial villages</p> <p>No exceptional circumstances to justify changes to Green Belt designations</p> <p>Government policy is to not remove land from the Green Belt for house building</p> <p>Development of the site would not unacceptably harm the Green Belt – the site has strong and defensible boundaries and is visually contained due to local topography; it would not result in unrestricted urban sprawl into the open countryside or the coalescence of settlements and would not set a precedent for further development to the west of the University campus.</p> <p>Should site SP11 be confirmed, this site would comprise logical infill</p>	
<p><i>Deliverability:</i></p> <p>The site promoters are willing to work positively with the Council to deliver a masterplan-led approach to ensure a high quality, sustainable development, to include green infrastructure, on-site open space and the stated 200 homes</p> <p>The owner has confirmed their intention of engaging with potential developers to ensure that the site is deliverable within the Plan period</p>	
<p><i>Other:</i></p> <p>Over-concentration / disproportionate volume of housing proposed in the area - the net increase in population suggested at Keele, Silverdale and</p>	

one of the developments on the Keele / Thistleberry boundary would add over 2,000 houses, amounting to approximately 4,400 more people, which is unfair in a tightly defined area / the volume of additional population will increase density in Silverdale to 22 pph (only 6.6 pph in the rest of the Borough – using the same assumptions)

Silverdale should be afforded the same protection as a rural village due to its importance as an industrial village

More sustainable brownfield and underused sites, the town centre and unused retail and commercial premises should be redeveloped before green field sites (also, there are empty properties of all kinds which could be redeveloped for housing)

The Council should be pro-active in seeking out locations that are redundant and work with owners to tackle the neglect

No housing need – based on inaccurate data and an overly optimistic view of job growth in the Borough; the population of Newcastle is falling; there are many vacant homes in the Borough (1,200 – which are unusable and require investment); Government housing targets have been reduced / changed from statutory to advisory; there is an oversupply of housing in England and Wales

Loss of agricultural / grazing land – for potential food or energy production in the future

The site may have underground mines (the historic mine at Knutton Manor had shafts sunk close to Park Road), be a former landfill site, or otherwise be contaminated

Concern regarding underground mines and the impact that construction works (digging, vibrations etc) would have on existing buildings (i.e.

<p>loosening of soil / substrate underground that rain or spring water may wash away over time, causing sink holes, for example)</p> <p>No explanation given for the different densities on sites SP11, SP12 and SP23 (which appear to be based on site ownership rather than sound planning grounds)</p> <p>Contrary to the Council's stated aim of helping to combat climate change Negative impact on mineral safeguarding</p> <p>The opinions of local people in Silverdale and Keele have not been taken into account</p> <p>Suggestion that only half the site be developed with the remaining land retained as a natural recreation space and wildlife haven</p> <p>The development will breathe new life into the area and provide much-needed infrastructure</p> <p>The site is situated in a highly sustainable location and forms an important component of the Council's overall development strategy, providing a strategic link between the growth of the urban area and the growth of Keele University and Science Park</p> <p>The site could deliver a mix of housing - traditional family housing, 'starter homes' and 30% affordable housing - providing a range of housing opportunities for those with links to the University (graduates, research students and university professionals), thereby reducing distances travelled to work.</p> <p>The scale of development should be reduced to an acceptable level to retain Boggs Wood and preserve the existing vegetation and bluebells for future generations to continue enjoying.</p>	
---	--

--	--

78. TB19 Land South of Newcastle Golf Club

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Whitmore Road has heavy traffic – will require traffic mitigation measures including speed limitation measures	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Traffic volume and safety concerns of site proposal on Whitmore Road and Seabridge Lane	
Access constraints, particularly on A53	
Lack of local amenities and infrastructure near to development	
Increased pollution from development when the area already suffers with Walley's Quarry	
Environment Agency - Presence of unmodelled watercourses within the plan area which presents a flood risk that needs to be investigated. Opportunities for flood risk and ecological betterment/ water quality enhancement should be fully investigated and implemented.	
These landforms open countryside forming the buffer between the established residential areas of Westlands and Seabridge and the predominantly open countryside of Butterson and Whitmore.	
Loss of Green Belt objected too.	
Combined with the other sites for potential allocation (SP11 etc.), there is no demand for this number of houses so no justification for greenbelt	
Brownfield sites closer to town centre	
Reduced biodiversity and loss of wildlife	
Amenity impacts from wind turbines and proximity to M6	
Flooding impacts, particularly surface water impacts	
A new wildlife corridor should be created up to the golf course.	
Reduce the number of houses from 500.	
National Highways - Further assessment required to ascertain the impact on the SRN and to determine the need for mitigation. National Highways would like to be consulted on this.	
Historic England - Several heritage assets to consider, including Trentham Gardens Registered Park and Garden Grade II*, Hargreaves Lodge Grade	

II, many listed buildings around Trentham, Hanchurch and off Whitmore Road.	
Affordable housing – question the need for	
Sport England - Development needs to be appropriately designed so that it would not prejudice the use of the adjacent golf course or place unreasonably restrictions on the facility in line with NPPF paragraph 187	
Should this site go forward, it is contradictory to Government's statements on prioritising brownfield sites.	
Field is home to protected wildlife	
The existing storm drains that run under Guernsey Drive would not take any additional surface water.	
Infrastructure is required to connect the site across to Keele university to prevent vehicles then driving the long way round via Sneyd Avenue.	
This development should include dedicated pedestrian and cycle paths to Keele University.	
This proposal has been rejected a few times – what is changed?	
The scale of the development impacts the character of the area.	
Woodland	
Proximity to Keele Hall Registered Park and Gardens	
The development should be sympathetic to the area	
Infrastructure is required to connect the site across to Keele University to prevent vehicles then driving the long way round via Sneyd Avenue	
Staffordshire County Council - Off-site improvements required to implement speed limit reduction scheme along A53, enhance cycle and pedestrian connectivity to built-up area to the east, Keele university (west) and Newcastle Town Centre (Northeast). Development will need to be supported with a Transport Assessment in line with any scoping note agreed with the Highway Authority. A Travel Plan will be required to support the development.	
Natural England - A water course within the site is upstream of King's & Hargreaves Woods SSSI and runs through the SSSI. Drainage from the site could impact the SSSI. The site partly includes and is adjacent to	

Springpool Wood Site of Biological Importance and is adjacent to Hands Wood and Pie Rough Biodiversity Alert Site.	
Site promotor notes that the site is deliverable, suitable and achievable and supports allocation in the Plan	
National Grid Electricity Distribution - The plan acknowledges the need for a masterplan led approach. However, the policy text makes no reference to the 132kV overhead line (part of NGED's Barlaston Circuit) which runs through the centre of the site, roughly north to south. The overhead line represents essential infrastructure to the delivery of electricity to homes and businesses in Newcastle-Under-Lyme and the wider area. This needs to be mentioned in a masterplan	
Keele Parish - It is not clear whether there will be direct access to the University Road network, but we are assured that the University will not permit a through route to the A525, as this would cause even more congestion at peak times on access to and journeys through the campus.	

79.TB23 Land West of Galingale View

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p><i>Residential amenity / Health and wellbeing:</i></p> <p>Environment Agency - Risk of landfill gas migration to houses in such proximity to a landfill. An assessment of risk and whether this can be appropriately mitigated should form part of any planning submission. We would recommend extensive and detailed ground surveys and potentially restrictions on the construction methodology of any works near the landfill boundary. Consideration should be given to the Ground Conditions and Pollution section of the NPPF including paragraphs 183 to 188.</p> <p>Environment Agency - Nearby receptors have raised serious concerns regarding odour emissions from the Walley's Quarry landfill site which are subject to on-going regulatory investigation and remediation measures.</p> <p>Environment Agency - Whilst the landfill is due to stop accepting waste by January 2027, the site will continue to receive restoration soils until 2042, meaning traffic movements to and from the site will remain until this date</p> <p>Environment Agency - The landfill will continue to generate gas and leachate, which will need to be monitored and managed by the site owners for several years after closure. No operational landfill would be completely odour free, therefore, due to the proximity of the proposed site allocation, future residents are likely to experience unpleasant odours on occasions. Given the sensitivity of Walley's Quarry we question the suitability of allocating additional housing sites in proximity of the landfill.</p> <p>Other comments from other parties include Inappropriate location for housing given its proximity to Whalley's landfill site and associated air pollution (odours) / development at 'The</p>	<p>The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.</p>

<p>Hamptons' initially refused planning permission by the Council on the grounds of odour</p> <p>Concern regarding loss of visual amenity and potential loss of light / overshadowing of adjacent houses</p> <p>Increase in noise, pollution, disturbance and danger from increased traffic</p> <p>Detrimental impact on air quality, particularly from dust and vehicle emissions caused by increased traffic (proximity limits to main roads should be set, as for landfill sites)</p>	
<p>Social infrastructure: Insufficient infrastructure - schools, GP surgeries and other services which are already oversubscribed</p> <p>Loss of open / green space</p> <p>The development will deliver new and accessible multi-functional open spaces, amenity spaces, green infrastructure and improved connectivity via green corridors through the site</p>	
<p>Historic England - consider heritage assets within the vicinity including Keele Hall Registered Park and Garden Grade II.</p>	
<p><i>Transportation:</i> Staffordshire County Council -Development will need to be supported with a Transport Assessment in line with any scoping note agreed with the Highway Authority.</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council - A Travel Plan will be required to support the development.</p> <p>Other transport related comments include</p>	

<p>Concern regarding increased traffic - resulting in reduction in road safety and congestion / overloading of already busy local roads</p> <p>Existing road system inadequate, in a poor state of repair and unsuitable to accommodate additional traffic (some still not adopted by the Council)</p> <p>Inadequate public transport (resulting in people continuing to use their cars)</p> <p>Satisfactory vehicular access can be achieved</p> <p>Excellent transport connectivity - excellent access to the strategic highway network and well served by public transport (regular bus services to Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke, Crewe, Nantwich and Stoke-on-Trent railway station with on-going travel by rail available to Crewe, Manchester, Birmingham, London etc)</p>	
<p><i>Water, drainage & flood risk:</i></p> <p>Environment Agency - Development in proximity of landfill may present a risk to controlled water receptors. An assessment of risk and whether this can be appropriately mitigated should form part of any planning submission.</p> <p>Comments from other parties include</p> <p>Existing sewage system already under pressure and out-dated (the Rivers' Trust data recently reported large amounts of sewage discharge into the Lyme Brook and its tributaries)</p> <p>Unsuitable allocation due to flood risk/located within Flood Zones 2 and 3</p> <p>Increased risk of flooding due to 'run-off'</p>	
<p><i>Biodiversity:</i></p>	

<p>Loss of high quality natural and semi-natural greenspace, trees, diverse flora and natural habitats to a range of fauna (including lizards and owls, bats, newts and woodpeckers - all of which are protected species) = net loss in biodiversity</p> <p>Loss of natural carbon capture</p> <p>The site currently comprises low value grassland and its development will support biodiversity enhancement through the protection and enhancement of existing features of the site, including mature tree belts and the creation of new habitats for a range of species</p>	
<p><i>Character:</i></p> <p>Unsuitable allocation due to impact on landscape</p> <p>Consider heritage assets within the vicinity, including Keele Hall Registered Park and Garden Grade II (Historic England)</p>	
<p><i>Green Belt:</i></p> <p>'Major' harm to the Green Belt</p> <p>Loss of countryside / Green Belt land, which is irreversible and unsustainable (as no compensatory land is proposed as its replacement)</p> <p>The urban area of Newcastle will expand and encroach into Keele and Silverdale resulting in urban sprawl</p>	
<p><i>Deliverability / Viability:</i></p> <p>Persimmon consider that there are no environmental or technical constraints to development of the site, subject to suitable mitigation / a sensitive approach to design and that the site is available, suitable, achievable, viable and deliverable (at a reduced capacity of 103 dwellings)</p> <p>Persimmon is committed to the site and consider that it could be brought forward in the Local Plan period</p>	

Potentially a former mining or landfill site (i.e. contaminated)	
<p><i>Other:</i></p> <p>Only brownfield sites should be developed with all of the green areas in the local plan retained in their present use</p> <p>No housing need – the Borough has exceeded its housing targets in recent years and that recent data ('Housing crisis fact check', Community Planning Alliance) indicates that “there are 1.5 million more dwellings than households” in England and Wales alone / there are more than 1,000 empty homes in Newcastle Borough</p> <p>Potential increase in anti-social behaviour in the area due to increase in population / likelihood of student houses in the area</p> <p>Loss of agricultural land / decrease in food production capacity</p> <p>Sustainable location – within the settlement boundary, naturally linked to existing development, would contribute to a sustainable pattern of development, served by a range of existing services and facilities, and strategically located to support key employers in the area (such as Keele University)</p> <p>The allocation will deliver a range of economic benefits to the local area and cutting-edge net-zero technologies through the design, construction and operation of new homes</p> <p>Looks like a rational proposal given the existing infrastructure</p> <p>Support on the grounds that housing and affordable housing is needed for local people</p>	

80. TB6: Former Pool Dam Pub Site

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<i>Character:</i> Historic England - No designated heritage assets nearby.	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
<i>Other:</i> No housing need - there are enough houses The land should be allotments for local residents as there are none in Poolfields	
Looks like a rational proposal given the existing infrastructure	

81. TC22: Marsh Parade

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Staffordshire County Council - Development will need to be supported with a Transport Assessment in line with any scoping note agreed with the Highway Authority. A Travel Plan will be required to support the development.	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Historic England - Consider impacts on Stubbs Walk Conservation Area, consider impact on listed buildings on Marsh Parade.	
This site is currently at pre-application stage, and the site has already been cleared. Revised planning drawings are currently being prepared following receipt of SPCG comments. Aspire Housing anticipate submitting a planning application during the first quarter of 2024.	
Anything developed here must have dedicated and adequate parking to prevent even more inappropriate parking on Hassell Street and in this general area.	

82. TC40: Car Park, Blackfriars

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Staffordshire County Council - The Town Centre Car Park rationalisation strategy must be supported in any planning application submission for the redevelopment of public car parks, demonstrating that alternative local provisions are available to prevent on-street and indiscriminate parking on the local highway network.	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Historic England - Consider impacts to Newcastle Town Centre Conservation Area, Old Orme Boys School Grade II.	

83. TC45 York Place

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Staffordshire County Council - Delivery/ Service Management Strategy required to support development to permit off-peak loading/ unloading on Merrial Street. The site will need to contribute towards the Staffordshire County Council Walking and Cycling Improvement Plan.	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Historic England - Within Newcastle Town Centre Conservation Area and a number of nearby listed buildings, will need to consider impact.	

84. TC7: Land bound by Ryecroft

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
<p>Staffordshire County Council - Vehicular and pedestrian access available via Liverpool Road, Corporation Street, Merrial Street, and Ryecroft. Off-site footway/cycleway infrastructure improvements required along Corporation Street to enhance sustainable travel links in accordance with LCWIP. Direct pedestrian/cycle route between A52 Ryecroft Toucan Crossing and Merrial Street/Corporation Street to be secured by the internal layout to improve connectivity to the town centre. Hard parking measures to be applied for residential development due to Air Quality concerns. Parking survey will need to be undertaken to confirm the current usage of the public parking provision and demonstrate that any usage can be displaced/ accommodate on site without giving rise to any highway safety issues/ indiscriminate parking. Development will need to be supported with a Transport Assessment in line with any scoping note agreed with the Highway Authority. A Travel Plan will be required to support the development.</p>	<p>The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.</p>
<p>Historic England - Need to consider impacts on Newcastle Town Centre Conservation Area and a number of listed buildings in the area.</p>	
<p>McCarthy Stone supports the proposed Strategic Centre (Town) allocation TC7 in Newcastle, which has the capacity to deliver 75 units and 1.63Ha of employment land. The Draft Local Plan suggests this allocation should be masterplan led, with flexible policy wording to allow planning applications that align with the allocation without prejudice to the rest of the allocation. McCarthy Stone supports policies promoting a mix of housing types and sizes, including aspirational, well-designed, and adaptable housing, and ensuring housing is suitable for older people.</p>	
<p>Aspire currently have an interest in several sites, some of which are identified as proposed allocations including TC7.</p>	

85. TK10: Land at Crown Bank

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Where would access come from? Pitt Lane is too narrow which would constrain access.	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Development would add to traffic build up on Pitt Lane	
Land has been assessed as high-risk mining area, and the water pollution from the abandoned mines could pollute Talke conservation area	
TK10 runs alongside Talke conversation area therefor development will affect rural character and heritage	
Next to Parrot's Drumble nature reserve, TK10 would disrupt the wildlife that reside there and affect the rural landscape / character	
Brownfield sites in the area, why are greenfield sites such as TK10 being considered?	
Objection as site is in the Green Belt	
Strategic objective SO-VI to support the vitality of rural villages, preserving and enhancing the special character which is valuable to each community...the number of developments in Talke are out of proportion and will overwhelm the village.	
Air Quality: Potential emissions and dust from construction activities and increased vehicle emissions that could affect air quality and residents' health. As a village with an elderly population of an ex-mining population with high incidences of both Asthma and COPD, air quality is vital to health	
Not enough infrastructure to support proposed housing number in Talke (Doctors, schools etc.)	
Historic England - Consider impact on Talke Conservation Area, Church of St Martin Grade II and other nearby heritage assets.	

86. TK17: Land off St Martins Road

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
The development will severely affect traffic through the village.	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
St Martins currently has a crumbling area by the proposed site and the extra cars associated with these dwellings would only exacerbate the issues here and throughout various estate roads.	
Historic problems with flooding around TK17	
Many houses in Talke and Talke Pits are built on the top of pits and therefore many houses along High Street have tie bars which residents at the time of purchase were informed are necessary to protect against subsidence - what has changed?	
Objection as site is in the Green Belt and brownfield sites in area	
United Utilities - Sewers pass through this site which will need to be taken into consideration. In addition, we have noted a modelled risk of sewer flooding.	
Strategic objective SO-VI to support the vitality of rural villages, preserving and enhancing the special character which is valuable to each community...the number of developments in Talke are out of proportion and will overwhelm the village.	
Air Quality: Potential emissions and dust from construction activities and increased vehicle emissions that could affect air quality and residents' health. As a village with an elderly population of an ex-mining population with high incidences of both Asthma and COPD, air quality is vital to health	
Not enough infrastructure to support proposed housing number in Talke (Doctors, schools etc.)	
Historic England - consider impacts on nearby listed buildings including Harecastle Farmhouse Grade II.	

87. TK27: Land off Coppice Road

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Objection as site is in the Green Belt	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Thomas street has a brownfield site which should be prioritised over any greenfield	
There is a brownfield site (car park) at the bottom of Swan Bank that should be prioritised over any greenfield	
Highways department halted planning permission for 3 new dwelling on Merelake Road due to increased traffic – this proposal is for 90 dwellings.	
Junction at Coppice Road, Swan Bank and Rockhouse Lane is prone to multiple accidents and the development may create more of a hazard with additional estimated 180 cars.	
The extra traffic on Coppice Road will delay the bus route further	
The junction also floods regularly as well as Merelake Road	
Old mine workings in the area some of which are on TK27 from Bunkershill Colliery	
Lack of amenities in surrounding area	
When there are issues on the M6 and A500, drivers use Coppice Road as a shortcut which often leads to standstill traffic. This development will exacerbate this issue for residents.	
Air Quality: Potential emissions and dust from construction activities and increased vehicle emissions that could affect air quality and residents' health. As a village with an elderly population of an ex-mining population with high incidences of both Asthma and COPD, air quality is vital to health	
Strategic objective SO-VI to support the vitality of rural villages, preserving and enhancing the special character which is valuable to each community...the number of developments in Talke are out of proportion and will overwhelm the village.	
Not enough infrastructure to support proposed housing number in Talke (Doctors, schools etc.)	

Historic England - Consider impact on Talke Conservation Area, Church of St Martin Grade II and other nearby heritage assets.	
---	--

88. TK6: Site at Coalpit Hill, Talke

Summary of Main Issues Raised	Council Response
Strategic objective SO-VI to support the vitality of rural villages, preserving and enhancing the special character which is valuable to each community...the number of developments in Talke are out of proportion and will overwhelm the village.	The council published a site selection report alongside the First Draft Local Plan. The site selection report detailed the methodology used to select draft allocations in the Plan. The site selection methodology will continue to be used in the selection of sites in the final draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage). The council will also reflect on the comments made to the First Draft Local Plan and any changes in national planning policy.
Air Quality: Potential emissions and dust from construction activities and increased vehicle emissions that could affect air quality and residents' health. As a village with an elderly population of an ex-mining population with high incidences of both Asthma and COPD, air quality is vital to health	
United Utilities - Sewers pass through this site which will need to be taken into consideration.	
A public sewer passes through this site, which will need to be taken into consideration	
Not enough infrastructure to support proposed housing number in Talke (Doctors, schools etc.)	
Sport England - Site identified as a former school playing field site in SHELAA. Site noted contained within the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy.	
Historic England - consider impact on Talke Conservation Area, Church of St Martin Grade II and other nearby heritage assets.	

This page is intentionally left blank

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO

Cabinet
16 January 2024

Report Title: Draft Revenue and Capital Budgets and Strategies 2024/25

Submitted by: Service Director for Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Portfolios: Finance, Town Centres and Growth

Ward(s) affected: All

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>To review progress on the completion of the revenue and capital budgets for 2024/25 and approve the 5 year Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2024/25 to 2028/29.</p> <p>To consider drafts of the Capital Strategy for 2024/34, the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25, the Investment Strategy for 2024/25 and the Commercial Strategy for 2024/25 prior to their submission to Full Council for final approval.</p>			
<p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the progress on the completion of the Revenue (Appendix 1) and Capital Budgets (Appendix 4). 2. Note the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29 (Appendix 2). 3. Note the strategy for ensuring a balanced revenue outturn position for 2023/24. 4. Note the calculation of the Council Tax base and the Council Tax increase to be proposed for 2024/25 of 1.99% per Band D equivalent property. 5. Note the risk assessment at Appendix 3 and the Section 151 Officer's recommendation on the level of reserves and contingencies provisionally required to be maintained in 2024/25. 6. Note the draft Capital Strategy (Appendix 5) for 2024/34 be noted. 7. Note the draft Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix 6) for 2024/25. 8. Note the draft Investment Strategy (Appendix 7) for 2024/25. 9. Note the draft Commercial Strategy (Appendix 8) for 2024/25. 			

10. Refer the draft Budget and Council Tax proposals to Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee for comment before the final proposals are considered at Cabinet on 6 February 2024.

Reasons

To inform the Cabinet in recommending a robust and affordable budget for 2024/25 to the Council meeting on 14 February 2024.

The Council needs to have an approved Capital Strategy for 2024/25, an approved Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25 and an approved Investment Strategy for 2024/25 in place before the start of the 2024/25 financial year.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council is committed to the delivery of high quality services. Integral to this ambition is effective targeting of financial resources in line with the vision of “good local services, a prosperous borough and safe and welcoming places for all” and the Council’s stated aims and objectives, as set out in the Council Plan 2022-2026, which was approved by Cabinet on 6 September 2022.
- 1.2 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) sets out the Council’s financial position over the next 5 years. This is aligned to the Council Plan 2022-2026 and is the key vehicle for ensuring efficiency in service delivery and targeting resources to priority areas.
- 1.3 Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the Cost of Living Crisis, and the challenges faced by the Council in its response, there has been good progress against Council Plan objectives in the current year, with high standards of service delivery being achieved overall. Key Council Achievements, linked to the Council Plan objectives, are reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis. (Details of the Council Plan 2022-2026 can be seen here <https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/policies-1/council-plan-2022-2026>)
- 1.4 The draft 2024/25 budget is based on the assumptions set out in the MTFS which was approved as a basis for consultation by the Cabinet at its meeting on 5 December 2023 and scrutinised by the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 13 December 2023.
- 1.5 The draft and provisional proposals included in this report will inform the Revenue and Capital Budgets and Council Tax 2024/25 reports to Cabinet on 6 February 2024 and to Full Council on 14 February 2024.
- 1.6 The Capital Strategy 2024/34 sets out how the Council proposes to deploy its capital resources in order to achieve its corporate and service objectives. It takes into account other relevant Council strategies, policies and plans and the views of partners and interested parties with whom the Council is involved. It also takes account of the resources which are likely to be available to the Council to fund capital investment and the effect of that investment on the Council’s revenue budget. It will serve as a useful point of reference when determining or reviewing the Council’s Capital Programme.

- 1.7 The Council has adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management Code of Practice. This requires approval by Full Council concerning the Treasury Management Strategy to be followed in carrying out its treasury management activities in the forthcoming financial year, 2024/25.
- 1.8 The Investment Strategy 2024/25 is compiled according to Central Government's Guidance on Local Government Investments ('the Guidance') and the 2017 revised CIPFA Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes ('the CIPFA TM Code'). It sets out the Council's policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments.
- 1.9 The Commercial Strategy 2024/25 is aligned with the Council's vision for Newcastle-under-Lyme to be a sustainable and business-oriented Council that maximises commercial opportunities in order to deliver long-term benefits for residents of the borough and support the Council's medium-term financial strategy.

2. **Issues**

Budget 2023/24 – Provisional Outturn Forecast

Revenue

- 2.1 The Council approved a General Fund Revenue Budget of £16.857m on 15 February 2023 for 2023/24. The actual and forecast position compared to this budget is continuously monitored by Budget Holders, the Corporate Leadership Team and Portfolio Holders in order to detect any significant variances of expenditure or income from the approved amounts contained in the budget.
- 2.2 At the close of period 8 a positive variance of £0.013m has been achieved. The projected outturn on the General Fund Revenue Account for the year is £16.836m. This represents a positive outturn of £0.023m for the year.
- 2.3 The adverse variances that have occurred at the close of period 8 of 2023/24 include:
 - a. Income shortfalls from sales, fees and charges which amount to £0.361m (forecast to be £0.452m for the financial year),
 - b. A shortfall of £0.266m in Housing Benefits subsidy grant regarding accommodation and payments for which full subsidy is not claimable (forecast to increase to £0.400m for the financial year),
 - c. The provision of temporary accommodation for the homeless and vulnerable amounts to £0.059m after utilising an element of grant funding (forecast to increase to £0.089m for the financial year),
 - d. Increased gas and electricity prices have resulted in an overspend of £0.056m at the close of period 8 at Jubilee 2 (forecast to increase to £0.084m for the financial year),

- e. Holding costs for York Place (e.g. utilities and business rates) and additional backdated rent for a commercial property are expected to amount to £0.251m for the financial year. Proportionally, this amount to £0.167m at the close of period 8,
- f. A pay award that is in excess of the amount provided for in the budget (4%), including national insurance and pension the additional amount is forecast to total £0.266m at the close of period 8 (and £0.400m for the financial year).

2.4 These adverse variances have been offset in full by the following favourable variances:

- a. Utilisation of the Cost of Living Reserve that was established during the budget setting for 2023/24 in order to respond to any above inflationary increases in costs. This will be fully used to offset the forecast pay award (£0.266m at the close of period 8 and £0.400m for the financial year).
- b. Interest receivable on cash that the Council holds in terms of Town Deal and Future High Street funding, together with Section 31 grant and remaining Coronavirus grant funding (that are repayable to Central Government) totals £0.948m at the close of period 8, following recent interest rate hikes (it is forecast that this will grow to £1.290m of income by the close of the financial year).

2.5 Expenditure continues to be reduced wherever possible throughout the Council to ensure that only absolutely necessary spending is being incurred, this helps to reduce the adverse variance on a service by service basis. It has been forecast that this situation continues throughout the remainder of the financial year.

2.6 Careful monitoring of the financial position will be required over coming weeks and months leading to prompt corrective action where necessary to ensure the Council remains in a position of being able to deliver a balanced budget position in the current financial year and beyond.

Capital

2.7 A Capital Programme totalling £30.360m was approved for 2023/24. Of this total £17.863m relates to the total cost of new schemes for 2023/24 together with £12.497m for schemes funded by external sources (Town Deals Fund, Future High Streets Fund and Disabled Facilities Grants) and £1.000m contingency. In addition £24.013m was brought forward from the 2022/23 Capital Programme (including £22.771m from the Town Deals Fund and the Future High Streets Fund), resulting in a total Capital Programme of £54.373m for 2023/24.

2.8 At the close of period 8 the profiled capital budget amounts to £6.498m, actual spend for this period totals £6.526m.

2.9 A mid-year review of the capital programme for 2023/24 has been undertaken as part of the Efficiency Board and budget setting process. The revised capital programme for 2023/24 totalling £55.433m (including a £1m contingency and agreed carry forwards from 2022/23) was approved by Cabinet on 5 December 2023.

Medium Term Financial Strategy

- 2.10 The draft MTFS was approved as a basis for consultation by Cabinet on 5 December 2023 and has since been updated to reflect the impact of the Local Government Finance Settlement.
- 2.11 A number of savings and funding strategies have been identified as being both feasible and sustainable, via a vigorous Financial Efficiency Board process including challenge sessions for each of the Cabinet Portfolios involving Cabinet Members, the Corporate Leadership Team, Service Directors and the Finance Manager. The proposed savings identified to date for the period of the MTFS, and the remaining funding gaps have enabled a balanced financial position to be proposed for 2024/25.

Detail	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
Income	680	91	-	-	-
One Council	230	-	-	-	-
Staffing Related	199	-	-	-	-
Good Housekeeping	489	-	-	-	-
Tax Base	424	383	394	407	419
Council Tax Increase	164	166	168	170	172
Government Grants	506	-	-	-	-
TOTAL SAVINGS	2,692	640	562	577	591
UPDATED MTFS GAPS	2,692	1,557	997	1,092	547
REMAINING GAP	-	917	435	515	(44)

- 2.12 The table below shows the amendments to items included in the saving strategy reported to Cabinet on 5 December 2023 reflecting the impact of the Local Government Finance Settlement on them (further details are included at 2.39 to 2.45):

Detail	£'000
Total Savings at 6 December 2023	(2,686)
Additional New Homes Bonus Grant	(6)
Total Revised Savings	(2,692)

Draft Revenue Budget 2024/25

- 2.13 The MTFS has been updated to reflect the Local Government Finance Settlement received on 19 December 2023. It provides for a revised gap in 2024/25 of £2.692m and a gap over the 5 year period of the MTFS of £6.885m.
- 2.14 The table below shows the factors which give rise to the £2.692m gap for 2024/25:

Additional Income	£'000
Fees and Charges	(230)
Business Rates Retention	(306)
Total Additional Income	(536)
Loss of Income	
Government Grant (New Homes Bonus, Housing Benefits Admin, Services Grant)	463
Reduction in income from under achieved budgets	180
Total Loss of Income	643
Additional Expenditure	
Employees (pay awards, increments, national insurance, pension)	1,179
Premises (business rates and utilities)	146
Transport (fuel)	21
Contribution to Budget and Borrowing Support Fund	103
Borrowing	471
Other (inc. software licences, temporary/supported accommodation)	665
Total Additional Expenditure	2,585
Net Increase in Base Budget	2,692

2.15 The table below shows the amendments to items included in the MTFS 'gap' reported to Cabinet on 5 December 2023 reflecting the impact of the Local Government Finance Settlement on them (further details are included at 2.34 to 2.38):

Detail	£'000
Total Pressures at 6 December 2023	2,686
Business Rates baseline funding level	(48)
Services Grant	127
Minimum Funding Guarantee	(176)
Contribution to Budget and Borrowing Support Fund	103
Total Revised Pressures	2,692

2.16 The proposed savings identified for 2024/25 are summarised below, with further detail in Appendix 1. These savings and strategies enable a balanced financial position to be proposed for 2024/25.

Category	£'000	Comments
Income	680	Additional sources of income generation and an increased demand for services that the Council charges for
One Council	230	Efficiencies to be generated from the continued implementation of a new Council operating model and increased performance management
Staffing Related Efficiencies	199	No redundancies are anticipated to arise from these proposals

Good Housekeeping/More Efficient Processes	489	Various savings arising from more efficient use of budgets
Tax Base Increase	424	Increase in Council Tax and Business Rates tax base
Council Tax Increase	164	An assumed 1.99% per Band D equivalent increase in Council Tax
Government Grants	506	Grants in respect of New Homes Bonus and Minimum Funding Guarantee
Total	2,692	

- 2.17 As in previous years, the first draft of the savings plan set out at Appendix 1 was made available to the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee for scrutiny at its meeting on 13 December 2023. The Committee will also scrutinise this Cabinet report at its meeting on 18 January 2024.

Borough Growth Fund

- 2.18 The Borough Growth Fund was established in 2020 for the purpose of enabling investment in corporate priorities. The Borough Growth Fund is required to be used to invest in initiatives that are forecast to generate on-going revenue savings through reducing the costs of service delivery or through the generation of additional income.
- 2.19 Since the establishment of the Borough Growth Fund, investments have been made and committed to in the following areas:

Investment Area	£'000	Details
Council Modernisation	429	Embedding digitalisation across services and developing the skills of staff.
One Council Programme	100	Contribution to drive the digital programme which will transform public access to council services and drive efficiency savings.
Environmental Sustainability	139	Tree planting/carbon reduction
Walley's Quarry	75	Addressing community concerns regarding the quarry's unpleasant odour omissions.
Town Centre Support	113	Used to support the Town Deal bids for Newcastle and Kidsgrove and the rejuvenation of the Markets.
Car Parking Machines	30	Purchase of car parking machines with cashless payment options.
Commercial Property Review	20	Review to develop income generation ideas as part of the Commercial Strategy.

2.20 The savings and funding strategies identified in the table in paragraph 2.14 and in Appendix 1 will enable continued investment of £0.250m in the Council's priorities as per the Council Plan 2022-2026 via the Borough Growth Fund. The Borough Growth Fund will continue to be used to provide investment in initiatives, including Digital Delivery, that are forecast to generate on-going revenue savings through reducing the costs of service delivery or through the generation of additional income. The Council's Section 151 Officer will determine whether any proposed use of the fund complies with this guidance on a case by case basis.

2.21 The 2024/25 Borough Growth Fund investment will be used in the following areas:

Investment Area	£'000
Environmental Sustainability	100
Digital Delivery	100
Economic Development	50
Total	250

2.22 In order to boost environmental sustainability within the Borough, £0.100m per annum over the life of the MTFs continues to be ring-fenced from the Borough Growth Fund to enable such projects to be fully funded.

2.23 £0.100m of the 2024/25 Borough Growth Fund will continue to be allocated to the digital programme which will transform public access to Council services and drive efficiency savings.

2.24 The remaining £0.050m will be used within economic development on initiatives and events for boosting footfall within the town centre.

Council Tax and Collection Fund

2.25 The savings and funding strategy assumes a 1.99% per Band D equivalent property Council Tax increase, producing £0.164m of additional income. This increase in Council Tax would equate to the following monetary increases for residents:

Property Band	Annual Increase £ p	Weekly Increase £ p
A	2.84	0.05
B	3.32	0.06
C	3.79	0.07
D	4.27	0.08
E	5.21	0.10
F	6.16	0.12
G	7.11	0.14
H	8.53	0.16

- 2.26 Taking into account changes to the Council Tax base (i.e. new properties, single persons discount review), the Council Tax base has increased by 639 band D equivalent properties from 38,099 in 2023/24 to 38,738 in 2024/25.
- 2.27 The Council is required to declare its estimated surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund (for both Business Rates and Council Tax) to preceptors ahead of the financial year end for 2023/24. This surplus or deficit is then shared between the relevant preceptors in 2024/25 (a surplus if paid out to preceptors, including the Council, and a deficit is repaid to the collection fund from preceptors, including the Council).
- 2.28 The Business Rates Collection Fund is estimated to be in a deficit position at the close of 2023/24. The deficit is estimated to amount to £0.633m, of which the Council's share is £0.253m.
- 2.29 The majority of the deficit relates to reliefs funded via Section 31 grants and as such an increased amount of Section 31 grant (£0.156m) is forecast to be received by the Council, the remainder of the Council's share of the forecast deficit (£0.097m) will be transferred from the Business Rates Reserve which was established to allow for fluctuations in the Business Rates Retention scheme.
- 2.30 The Council Tax Collection Fund is estimated to be in a small surplus position as the close of 2023/24. This surplus is estimated to amount to £0.053m, of which the Council's share is £0.006m.
- 2.31 The Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024/25 was received on 18 December 2023. Overall, the MTFs provides for an increase in funding of £0.258m when compared to 2023/24. The amount receivable is provisionally an additional £0.103m than assumed in the MTFs, and it is proposed that this be paid into the Budget and Borrowing Support Fund (formally named the Budget Support Fund) in order to further safeguard against a number of recovering income budget pressures.
- 2.32 Taking account of the above, Baseline Settlement Funding (via Business Rates Retention scheme and Revenue Support Grant) and compensation for the under indexing of the business rates multiplier has increased by £0.306m when compared to 2023/24, this varies from the MTFs assumption of an increase of £0.258m by £0.048m. This compensates the Council, via Section 31 Grant, for the freeze in the business rates multiplier which would otherwise have generated additional business rates income.
- 2.33 The Services Grant was proposed for the local government finance settlement 2022 to 2023 to provide funding to all tiers of local government in recognition of the vital services delivered at every level of local government. The MTFs assumed that the Services Grant would be continued. Services Grant will be continued but at a reduced rate of £0.024m which is £0.127m less than the amount received in 2023/24.
- 2.34 The Local Government Settlement for 2024/25 announced that the New Homes Bonus (NHB) Scheme will continue for a further year, the allocation amount for the

Council is £0.506m due to the increase in properties within the borough in the last year.

- 2.35 The minimum funding guarantee has continued for 2024/25. This ensures that all authorities see an increase in core spending power of at least 3%, this will result in a grant to the Council of £0.398m for 2024/25 (primarily as compensation for the reduced Services Grant), this amounts to an increase of £0.176m. The MTFS assumes that compensation will be received in full for any reduction in New Homes Bonus in years after 2024/25 via the minimum funding guarantee.

Budget Consultation

- 2.36 Public consultation has been undertaken on the budget, the consultation ran between 1 December 2023 and 1 January 2024. The results of which will be reported to Cabinet on 6 February 2024.

Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2026/27 and Capital Strategy 2024/34

- 2.37 The Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2026/27 (Appendix 4) is based on new schemes which are vital to ensure continued service delivery and in assisting the Council to achieve its corporate and service objectives as set out in the Council Plan 2022-26. These schemes total £41.269m including major investment into the Borough via external funding in terms of the Future High Streets Fund and the Town Deals Fund for both Newcastle and Kidsgrove.
- 2.38 The Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2026/27 includes an estimate for the development of York Place, this assumes spend of £16m over the period 2024/25 to 2025/26 and a subsequent capital receipt of the same value during the first 3 year period of the Capital Programme. This is subject to the business case that is currently being developed.
- 2.39 The Capital Strategy for 2024/34 (Appendix 5) meets the requirements of statutory guidance issued by the Government in January 2018. The Council's capital investment is carried out within the statutory framework laid down by the Local Government Act 2003 and regulations under that Act. Accordingly, only expenditure which fits the definition of capital expenditure contained in the Act or Regulations pursuant to it will be capitalised.
- 2.40 The Capital Programme is produced in line with the Capital Strategy for 2024/34. In addition to the Council's corporate and service objectives, as set out in the Council Plan 2022-26, the Capital Programme is also influenced by a number of external parties and factors:
- Central government and its agencies;
 - Legislation requiring capital works;
 - Partner organisations;
 - Businesses and Developers; and,
 - The needs and views of other interested parties, particularly those of Borough residents.

- 2.41 Delivering the capital programme for 2024/25 will require prudential borrowing to be undertaken. The impact of borrowing is included in the MTFS pressures for 2024/25 and future years.
- 2.42 Advice will be sought from the Council's Treasury Management advisors, Arlingclose, as to the most beneficial timing of prudential borrowing. Their current advice remains to borrow on a short term basis (up to 4 years) from other local authorities where possible.
- 2.43 In summary, investment in the capital programme for 2024/25 to 2026/27 totalling £41.269m will be funded by:
- £11.588m External Funding;
 - £27.550m Capital Receipts; and,
 - £2.131m Prudential Borrowing.

Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 and Investment Strategy 2024/25

- 2.44 The Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25 is attached at Appendix 6. The Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2024/25 is contained in Annex C to the strategy.
- 2.45 The Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25 allows for borrowing. Although not utilised in recent years, the Council has previously considered the option of long-term borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB). After the utilisation of capital receipts and internal borrowing, the Council will now look to borrow short term from other local authorities in the first instance and will then review any other sources of funding if required.
- 2.46 The Investment Strategy for 2024/25 is attached at Appendix 7. This investment strategy meets the requirements of statutory guidance issued by the government in January 2018 and is based on guidance provided by Arlingclose, the Council's treasury management advisors. Quantitative investment indicators are included within the Strategy to allow elected members and the public to assess the Council's total risk exposure as a result of its investment decisions.

Balances and Reserves

- 2.47 A review of the Council's Balances and Reserves together with a financial resilience risk assessment informing the levels of these has been undertaken by the Council's Section 151 Officer. Details of the risk factors considered and the weightings applied to each are set out at Appendix 3.
- 2.48 It is recommended that a minimum level of unallocated reserves and contingencies (i.e. the Council's Balance and Reserve Strategy for 2023/24) of £2.157m be held in 2024/25 to reflect the levels of revenue risk shown in the draft budget for 2024/25. The increase required (£0.247m) will be funded from a VAT refund that the Council has received in relation to VAT on Leisure fees, the remainder of this refund (£0.226m) will be used to contribute to the Walley's Quarry reserve

(£0.100m) and the Budget and Borrowing Support fund (£0.126m) in order to boost the Council's financial resilience during the forthcoming financial year.

Timetable

Event	Committee	Date
Scrutiny of draft budget proposals	FAPSC	18 January 2024
Final budget proposals recommended for approval by Full Council	Cabinet	6 February 2024
Full Council to approve budget	Full Council	14 February 2024

3. Proposals

- 3.1 That the progress on the completion of the Revenue (Appendix 1) and Capital Budgets (Appendix 4) be noted.
- 3.2 That the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29 (Appendix 2) be noted.
- 3.3 That the strategy for ensuring a balanced revenue outturn position for 2023/24 be noted.
- 3.4 That the calculation of the Council Tax base and the Council Tax increase to be proposed for 2024/25 of 1.99% per Band D equivalent property be noted.
- 3.5 That the risk assessment at Appendix 3 and Section 151 Officer's recommendation on the level of reserves and contingencies provisionally required to be maintained in 2024/25 be noted.
- 3.6 That the draft Capital Strategy (Appendix 5) for 2024/34 be noted.
- 3.7 That the draft Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix 6) for 2024/25 be noted.
- 3.8 That the draft Investment Strategy (Appendix 7) for 2024/25 be noted.
- 3.9 That the draft Commercial Strategy (Appendix 8) for 2024/25 be noted.
- 3.10 That the draft Budget and Council Tax proposals be referred to Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee for comment before the final proposals are considered at Cabinet on 6 February 2024.

4. Reasons for Proposed Solution

- 4.1 The Council has a statutory duty to set a balanced budget before 11 March in the financial year preceding the one in respect of which the budget is set, per Section 30(6) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. Best practice is for financial planning to take place over a 5 year period in the form of a MTFS that sets out how the Council plans to allocate resources to meet its objectives.

5. **Options Considered**

5.1 None.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 The Council is required to set its Council Tax for 2024/25 by 10 March 2024, per Section 30(6) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. It is planned to approve the final budget and Council Tax rates on 14 February 2024.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 Local authorities have a responsibility to meet the Public Sector Duty of the Equality Act 2010. The Act gives people the right not to be treated less favourably due to protected characteristics. It is important to consider the potential impact on such groups and individuals when designing or delivering services and budgets. Budget proposals requiring changes or new services and policies will be subject to Equality Impact Assessments including consultation with affected people and organisations.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 These are addressed in the body of the report.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 Section 25 of the Local Government Acts 2003 places a duty on the Section 151 Officer to report on the robustness of the budget. The main risks to the budget include spending in excess of budget; income falling short of the budget (including capital receipts from disposal of assets); and unforeseen elements such as changes to Government funding. In the context of uncertainty regarding Government funding reforms there are significant budget risks that will need to be managed. It will be essential the Council has sufficient reserves to call on if required.

9.2 Such risks require regular and robust monitoring and it is essential that the Council has sufficient useable reserves to call on if required. The review and risk assessment indicates that overall unallocated reserves and contingencies are required to be held at a minimum level of £2.157m to reflect the levels of revenue risk shown in the draft budget for 2024/25. In addition a contingency of £1m is required to provide flexibility to manage risks relating to delivery of the capital programme.

9.3 The assessment of the Section 151 Officer is that the draft proposals included in this report are robust and will ensure an adequate level of reserves. However, it should be noted that a number of assumptions and proposals are provisional or draft, and as such this opinion will be confirmed in the Revenue and Capital Budgets and Council Tax 2024/25 reports to Cabinet on 6 February 2024 and to Council on 14 February 2024.

9.4 Treasury management is a major area of risk for the Council in that large amounts of money are dealt with on a daily basis and there are a number of limits and indicators, which must be complied with.

9.5 The overriding consideration in determining where to place the Council's surplus funds is to safeguard the Council's capital. Within this constraint the aim is to maximise the return on capital. Operational procedures, coupled with monitoring arrangements, are in place to minimise the risk of departures from the approved strategy.

10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

10.1 In shaping detailed budget proposals consideration will be given to the need for investment in order to deliver the Council's Sustainable Environment Action Plan.



11. Key Decision Information

11.1 Final approval of the budget setting process will be a key decision.

12. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

12.1 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29 (Cabinet 28 September 2023)

12.2 Revenue and Capital Budgets 2024/25 – First Draft Savings Plans (Cabinet 5 December 2023)

13. List of Appendices

13.1 Appendix 1 – 2024/25 MTFS Funding Strategy

13.2 Appendix 2 – 2024/25 to 2027/28 MTFS 'Gaps'

13.3 Appendix 3 – Risk Assessment on Required Balances/Contingency Reserve

13.4 Appendix 4 – 2024/25 to 2026/27 Capital Programme and 2023/24 Mid-Year Estimate

13.5 Appendix 5 – Capital Strategy 2024 to 2034

13.6 Appendix 6 – Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25

13.7 Appendix 7 – Investment Strategy 2024/25

13.8 Appendix 8 – Commercial Strategy 2024/25

14. Background Papers

CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice (revised December 2017)

Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement
Local Government Act
Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations

Appendix 1 – 2024/25 MTFS Funding Strategy

Ref	Service Area	Description	£000's	Detail
Income				
I1	Planning	Planning Application fees	192	National increase of 25% for minor and 35% for major planning applications
I2	Planning	Pre-Planning Application fees	10	Increase in the charge to bring in line with other Local Authorities
I3	Planning	Section 106 monitoring	7	Introduction of a fee for the monitoring of Section 106 obligations
I4	Sustainable Environment	Food waste	86	Rebate received for the collection of food waste, the contractor now pays for haulage costs
I5	Sustainable Environment	Green waste	34	A below inflation increase to the green waste collection subscription
I6	Commercial Delivery	VAT on Leisure income	120	An increase in income has occurred following a change in VAT legislation for leisure fees
I7	Commercial Delivery	Depot rent	50	Rental from the sharing of depot space with partner
I8	Commercial Delivery	Commercial property rent	70	Additional rental income being achieved following rent reviews
I9	Commercial Delivery	Bereavement Services	10	Additional income to be generated from on line sales and charges for searches
I10	Commercial Delivery	Car Parking	91	Increased demand, pricing and permits for new car park - assumed 6 months of income for 2024/25 and remaining 6 months in 2025/26
I11	Neighbourhood Delivery	Fixed Penalty Notice's	10	Introduction of a charge and new processes regarding fly tipping
			680	
One Council				
O1	Corporate	One Council	230	Further efficiencies to be generated from the One Council Programme including continuous review and development of services and increased performance management in order to maximise revenue income in line with the Council's objectives.
			230	
Staffing Related Efficiencies				
S1	Planning	Planning structure	45	Savings that have been generated through the review and digitalisation of processes under the One Council initiative
S2	Regulatory Services	Reduced hours	9	Reduction in hours of Food Safety Officer
S3	Regulatory Services	Licencing structure	33	Reduction of 1 FTE following reduced demand and more efficient processes
S4	Regulatory Services	Housing and Vulnerability structure	17	Restructure of team which includes greater utilisation of ongoing funding
S5	Neighbourhood Delivery	Professional fees	95	Application of professional fees (e.g. Landscape) to capital projects
			199	
Good Housekeeping/More Efficient Processes				
G1	ICT	Procurement savings	37	Contract and procurement savings from telephony, printing and email monitoring
G2	Commercial Delivery	Energy efficiency	14	Energy savings from the installation of pool covers at Jubilee 2
G3	Commercial Delivery	Reduction in subsidy	175	A reduction in running costs at Jubilee 2 following a 'deep dive' review of the service, this includes more efficient rota's of staffing, increased income following the benchmarking of fees and charges and the generation of addition income (e.g. swimming lessons)

G4	Sustainable Environment	Green Waste route optimisation	39	Optimisation of collection routes for green waste to increase efficiency
G5	Sustainable Environment	Streetscene route optimisation	31	Efficiencies generated from greater use of data held to optimise routes and responses
G6	Corporate	Vacancy factor	193	An increase in the assumed vacancy factor of posts from 2% to 3.5%
			489	
Alternative Sources of Finance/Other				
A1	Corporate	Tax base – Council Tax	114	Increase in tax base based on market housing supply requirement and current year tax base forecasts
A2	Corporate	Tax base – Business Rates	280	Assumed increase in tax base of 4%
A3	Corporate	Single Persons Discount review	30	Assumed increase in Council Tax from a Borough wide review of claimants of discounts
A4	Corporate	New Homes Bonus	506	Government grant ensures that there is a minimum 3% increase in core spending power (i.e. replaces any lost grant such as New Homes Bonus)
A5	Corporate	Council Tax increase	164	Assumed increase of 1.99% per Band D property
			1,094	
Grand Total			2,692	

Appendix 2 – 2024/25 to 2028/29 MTFs ‘Gaps’

Detail	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	Description
Employees:						
Increments	40	10	2	-	-	Employees due an increment
Pay awards	799	501	518	536	555	3.5% pay award for all years plus £1,925 per FTE re. 2023/24
Superannuation increases	185	112	114	118	122	22% of increase in salaries
Superannuation lump sum increases	39	41	43	45	45	Net increase of lump sum pension payment
National Insurance	116	70	72	74	77	National insurance on increase in salaries
Premises:						
Business Rates	30	32	33	34	35	Inflationary increase in business rates payable (per CPI)
Utilities	116	30	32	33	34	Inflationary increase in gas and electric (per CPI)
Transport:						
Fuel	12	13	14	14	15	Inflationary increase in fuel (per CPI)
Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil	9	9	9	10	10	Inflationary increase in HVO (per CPI)
Financing:						
Borrowing costs	471	561	-	86	32	Borrowing costs regarding financing of capital expenditure
Contribution to Budget and Borrowing Support Fund	103	-	-	-	-	Contribution to increase financial resilience
New Pressures:						
ICT software, hosting and maintenance	100	10	10	10	10	ICT costs re. systems maintenance and software licences
Audit fees	95	-	-	-	-	Increase in external audit fees
Temporary accommodation/vulnerable residents	425	-	-	-	-	Increase in both demand and costs
Staff Retention	40	-	-	-	-	Initiatives to encourage staff retention
Building Control	5	-	-	-	-	Increase in contract
Income:						
Fees and charges	(230)	(270)	(281)	(292)	(304)	4% increase in fees and charges
New Homes Bonus	500	-	-	-	-	Drop out of New Homes Bonus legacy payments
Government grant	12	12	12	12	12	Reduction in Housing Benefit /Council Tax Admin grant
Business Rates baseline funding level	(306)	(174)	(181)	(188)	(196)	Inflationary increase in baseline funding level (per CPI)
Business Rates Retention Reset	-	500	500	500	-	Funding reduction forecast to result from Fair Funding Review
Services Grant	127	-	-	-	-	Reduction in Services Grant per settlement
Minimum Funding Guarantee	(176)	-	-	-	-	To compensate for reduced Services Grant and to ensure Core
Income pressures	180	100	100	100	100	Spending Power increases by 3%
TOTAL GAPS	2,692	1,557	997	1,092	547	General income shortfalls

Appendix 3 – Risk Assessment on Required Balances (£2.157m)

Item	Risk	Potential Consequences	Risk Score I * L	Risk Rating	Specify Existing Control Measures	Final Score I * L	Final Risk Rating	Further Action Required	Balance Needed £
1	Increase in fees and charges does not result in higher income levels	Shortfall in income leading to overspends	3 x 4	High	Included in calculation of minimum balances	2 x 3	Moderate	Regular monitoring of income levels	135,000
2	Reduced Income due to non-availability of service (e.g. COVID-19 related or similar)	Shortfall in income leading to overspends	3 x 3	High	Included in calculation of minimum balances	3 x 3	High	Regular monitoring of income levels	300,000
3	Income, including collection fund income, falls short of budget because of changes in market conditions, e.g. demand fluctuations COVID-19 related or failure to fully recover	Shortfall in income leading to overspends	3 x 5	High	Included in calculation of minimum balances	3 x 3	High	Regular monitoring of income levels	180,000
4	Bad debts reduce the Council's income	Shortfall in income leading to overspends and need to top up provision	3 x 4	High	A contribution to the bad debts provision is budgeted for	3 x 3	High	Increase monitoring of collection rates	65,000
5	Employee budgets – the budget is discounted on the assumption there will be vacancies	Vacancies do not occur leading to additional costs	3 x 3	High	The budget assumes a vacancy factor of 3.5%, this is realistic compared with previous years	3 x 3	High	Regular monitoring of vacancy levels	65,000
6	Employee budgets - the 2024/25 employee pay settlement results in an increase higher than included in the budget	Additional unbudgeted costs	2 x 3	Moderate	Balances sufficient to deal with any additional costs, plus reduced job security in economy	2 x 3	Moderate	None	90,000
7	Problems with staff recruitment/retention	Additional unbudgeted costs	3 x 3	High	Subject to ongoing review	3 x 3	High	None	20,000

Item	Risk	Potential Consequences	Risk Score I * L	Risk Rating	Specify Existing Control Measures	Final Score I * L	Final Risk Rating	Further Action Required	Balance Needed £
	resulting in the payment of market supplements at extra cost								
8	Problems with staff sickness/suspensions resulting in the needs to use agency/interim staff at extra cost	Additional unbudgeted costs	3 x 3	High	Absence management procedures in place	3 x 3	High	Monitoring of sickness levels	75,000
9	Council becomes liable to pay compensation or legal fees or another unforeseen commitment arises	Additional unbudgeted costs	3 x 3	High	Included in calculation of minimum balances	3 x 3	High	None	120,000
10	Inflation relating to supplies and services exceeds the allowance in the budget	Additional unbudgeted costs	3 x 3	High	Included in calculation of minimum balances. Regular review of inflation levels	3 x 3	High	None	105,000
11	Existing commitment(s) missed out of budget	Additional unbudgeted costs	3 x 2	Moderate	Budgets subject to checking at several levels. Preparation of standstill budget for comparison	3 x 2	Moderate	None	75,000
12	Additional interest costs incurred resulting from loss of income and additional expenditure	Additional unbudgeted borrowing costs	3 x 3	High	Capital Budgets and receipt expectations have been realistically set. Allowance provided for in calculation of minimum balances	3 x 2	Moderate	None	115,000
13	Fuel costs increase by more than allowed for in budget	Additional unbudgeted costs	3 x 3	High	Realistic increases included in base budget	3 x 3	High	None	40,000

Item	Risk	Potential Consequences	Risk Score I * L	Risk Rating	Specify Existing Control Measures	Final Score I * L	Final Risk Rating	Further Action Required	Balance Needed £
14	Energy costs increase by more than allowed for in budget	Additional unbudgeted costs	3 x 3	High	Realistic increases included in base budget	3 x 3	High	None	50,000
15	Unforeseen major repairs needed to Council properties	Additional unbudgeted costs	2 x 3	Moderate	Planned maintenance programme in place and stock condition survey.	2 x 3	Moderate	None	50,000
16	Insurances – unexpected increases in premiums	Additional unbudgeted costs	3 x 3	High	Included in calculation of minimum balances	3 x 3	High	None	20,000
17	Insurances - high level of excesses to be met by Council or uninsured losses	Additional unbudgeted costs	3 x 3	High	Included in calculation of minimum balances. Insurance Provision established	3 x 3	High	Monitor level of Insurance Provision	55,000
18	Government further increase NI rates during 2024/25	Additional unbudgeted costs	2 x 3	Moderate	Included in calculation of minimum balances. Increased rate built into budget	1 x 2	Low	None	20,000
19	Savings built into Budget are not realised	Additional unbudgeted costs	3 x 3	High	Regular Budget Monitoring	3 x 3	High	None	317,000
20	New Legislation imposes extra costs but provides insufficient resources	Additional unbudgeted costs	3 x 3	High	Contingency Reserve available. Included in calculation of minimum balances	3 x 2	Moderate	None	25,000
21	Partnerships - expenses falling on Council as accountable body	Additional unbudgeted costs	2 x 3	Moderate	Monitor partnership activities and ensure carried out according to agreements	2 x 1	Low	None	5,000
22	Civil Emergency	Additional unbudgeted costs	5 x 2	High	Bellwin Scheme will meet 100% of eligible expenditure within 1 month of an emergency	4 x 2	Moderate	None	55,000

Item	Risk	Potential Consequences	Risk Score I * L	Risk Rating	Specify Existing Control Measures	Final Score I * L	Final Risk Rating	Further Action Required	Balance Needed £
23	Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) Clawback	Additional unbudgeted costs	4 x 4	Extreme	MMI Provision	4 x 3	High	Consider increasing amount of provision if necessary	25,000
24	Data Protection breach resulting in fine	Additional unbudgeted costs	3 x 3	High	Data Protection Policy Reminders to staff. All staff complete mandatory Data Protection e-learning module	3 x 3	High	None	75,000
25	Members act against officer advice resulting in cost to the Council	Additional unbudgeted costs	3 x 3	High	Agenda pre-meetings. Liaison with members. Monitoring Officer	3 x 3	High	None	75,000

Appendix 4 – 2024/25 to 2026/27 Capital Programme and 2023/24 Mid-Year Estimate

CAPITAL PROGRAMME	2023/24 MID YEAR	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	TOTAL (2024/25 to 2026/27)
	£	£	£	£	£
PRIORITY – One Council Delivering for Local People					
Service Area - Council Modernisation	2,172,370	394,000	434,000	336,000	1,164,000
Total	2,172,370	394,000	434,000	336,000	1,164,000
PRIORITY – A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough					
Service Area - Housing Improvements	1,670,000	1,620,000	1,670,000	1,670,000	4,960,000
Service Area - Managing Property & Assets	9,636,154	8,197,482	9,843,846	688,895	18,730,223
Total	11,306,154	9,817,482	11,513,846	2,358,895	23,690,223
PRIORITY – Healthy, Active and Safe Communities					
Service Area - Environmental Health	-	72,000	-	-	72,000
Service Area - Streetscene and Bereavement Services	1,001,569	210,000	250,000	160,000	620,000
Service Area - Recycling and Fleet	5,828,408	710,000	1,230,000	5,943,100	7,883,100
Service Area – Leisure and Cultural	605,862	47,000	150,000	-	197,000
Service Area - Engineering	117,300	385,000	120,000	50,000	555,000
Total	7,553,139	1,424,000	1,750,000	6,153,100	9,327,100
PRIORITY – Town Centres for All					
Future High Streets Fund	5,855,826	-	-	-	-
Town Deals – Newcastle	18,937,732	2,251,000	807,000	-	3,058,000
Town Deals - Kidsgrove	8,607,615	2,794,000	1,236,000	-	4,030,000
Total	33,401,173	5,045,000	2,043,000	-	7,088,000
CONTINGENCY (will be carried forward to 2024/25)	1,000,000	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	55,432,836	16,680,482	15,740,846	8,847,995	41,269,323
FUNDING					
Capital Receipts	3,325,000	2,450,000	21,050,000	4,050,000	27,550,000
External Contributions	35,398,990	6,545,000	3,543,000	1,500,000	11,588,000
Borrowing	16,708,846	7,685,482	(8,852,154)	3,297,995	2,131,323
TOTAL	55,432,836	16,680,482	15,740,846	8,847,995	41,269,323

This page is intentionally left blank

Capital Strategy

2024 to 2034



Contents

Introduction	3
Key Objectives and Priorities	4
Factors Influencing the Capital Programme	5
Links with Other Strategies, Policies and Plans	5
External Influences, Partners and Consultation with Other Interested Parties	7
Resources Available to Finance Capital Investment	7
Revenue Implications	9
Appraisal and Prioritisation of Investment Proposals	9
Monitoring Arrangements and Project Management	10
Statutory Framework	10
Legal and Regulatory Requirements	11
Prudential Indicators	11
Procurement	12
Future Capital Programme	13
Annex A – Definition of Capital Expenditure included in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom	15
Annex B – 2024/25 to 2033/34 Capital Programme	16
Annex C – Prudential Indicators	17

Introduction

The purpose of the Capital Strategy is to set out how the Council proposes to deploy its capital resources in order to assist it to achieve its corporate and service objectives. It takes into account other relevant Council strategies, policies and plans and the views of partners and interested parties with whom the Council is involved. It also takes account of the resources which are likely to be available to the Council to fund capital investment and the effect of that investment on the Council's revenue budget. It will serve as a useful point of reference when determining or reviewing the Council's Capital Programme.

Capital expenditure is where the Council spends money on assets, such as property or vehicles that will be used for more than one year. In local government this includes spending on assets owned by other bodies, and loans and grants to other bodies enabling them to buy assets.

Due to the ongoing impact of higher inflation, higher interest rates, uncertain government policy, and a deteriorating economic outlook, additional financial pressures have been placed on the Council. In consideration of these pressures, a review of the 2023/24 Capital Programme has been completed with the assistance of Budget Holders, members of the Capital, Assets and Commercial Investment Review Group and the Council's Efficiency Board. The rationale behind this review was to establish which of the capital projects approved in the programme were essential or health and safety related, could be deferred to the following year due to resources and services available or were no longer required.

The revised 2023/24 Capital Programme totals £55.433m which includes £35.413m for schemes funded by external sources (£27.545m Town Deals, £5.856m Future High Streets and £1.500m Disabled Facilities Grants) and is summarised below, showing the constituent categories by the priorities identified in the Council Plan:

Council Priorities	Planned Expenditure £m
One Council Delivering for Local People	2.173
A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough	11.306
Healthy, Active and Safe Communities	7.553
Capital Contingency	1.000
Town Centres for all	33.401
Total	55.433

Full Council will consider a capital programme to continue investment beyond 2023/24 on 14 February 2024.

The Strategy has been prepared against a background of continuing reductions in funding provided to local authorities by central government and its agencies, arising from the need to restrain public expenditure owing to the ongoing economic conditions and to rebalance public finances. At the same time, the Council's own resources available to finance capital projects have reduced to a low level and will need replenishing before any substantial further capital investments can be made. As a result the Council is continuing with a programme of asset disposals to address this situation. In addition the Council has also produced a Commercial Strategy with the aim to generate income through commercial activities which can then be reinvested in local priorities.

Key Objectives and Priorities

The Council's Priorities contained in the Council Plan are:

One Council Delivering for Local People
A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough
Healthy, Active and Safe Communities
Town Centres for All

Capital investment projects will be included in the Council's Capital Programme on the basis that they address issues arising from one or more of these Priority Areas. An indication is shown against each project in the Programme of the area or areas it addresses.

New proposals for capital investment will be assessed against the corporate priorities to ensure that they will contribute towards achieving the aims expressed. This assessment will be carried out as part of the appraisal process for new projects.

The Council will also endeavour, through its programme of capital investment, to maintain its assets to a standard such that they remain fit for purpose, enabling continuity of service delivery. In particular, it will carry out regular surveys of its stock of buildings and structures to ascertain their state of repair and any remedial works which may be necessary. Repair or improvement works arising from such surveys will be carried out subject to the availability of resources and consideration of the role the building plays in service delivery and the need to continue the relevant service in order to contribute to meeting corporate priorities. If a building is no longer required for service delivery, it will either be considered for alternative use by the Council or its partners or disposed of and the proceeds made available for future capital investment in priority areas. All property assets are held to either (i) provide Council services, (ii) provide an investment return or (iii) to further regeneration projects.

The Capital Assets and Commercial Investment Review Group is in place and chaired by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth. This Group keeps the Council's capital investment strategy under continuous review, including the prioritisation of projects for inclusion in future capital investment programmes over the medium term. Regular reviews of the property portfolio will be carried out by the group to identify properties or land which could potentially be disposed of, following a consultation process in the case of significant proposals, and a capital receipt obtained from the sale.

Where suitable "Invest to Save" projects can be identified the Council will actively pursue such projects as it recognises the benefits, in the form of reduced costs falling on the General Fund Revenue Account, that can result from such investment.

The Council will seek, where practicable and economically justifiable, to develop its investment projects having regard to principles of sustainability, for example in relation to materials used and environmentally friendly modes of operation once in use, following construction or purchase.

Factors Influencing the Capital Programme

Projects for inclusion in the capital programme arise from a variety of sources, some of them internally generated and some arising from external factors. The more significant of these can be summarised diagrammatically as follows:

Internal	External
Corporate Priorities, as set out in the Council Plan	Government sponsored programmes, e.g. Disabled Facilities Grants
Investment identified in Strategies, Policies and Plans	Unforeseen Emergency Works
Work needed to maintain Property Assets	Works required to comply with legislation, e.g. re disabled access, health and safety
Vehicles, Plant and Equipment replacement needs	Projects resulting from Partnership Activity
ICT Investment and Replacement	Availability of External Funding
Invest to Save Projects	Public expectation that works should be carried out

These are discussed in greater detail in sections below:

Links with Other Strategies, Policies and Plans

As well as the Council's Plan and the Capital Programme the Capital Strategy has clear links to many other strategies, policies and plans, the most significant of which are shown in the following table:

Key Strategies
Economic Development Strategy
Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Stronger and Safer Communities Strategy

Other Strategies
Asset Management Strategy
Investment Strategy
Medium Term Financial Strategy
Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy
Service and Financial Plans
Procurement Strategy
Green Spaces Strategy
Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy
Housing Strategy
Customer Service and Access Strategy
Treasury Management Strategy

An important link is to the Asset Management Strategy (AMS) in that many capital investment projects are related to the Council's fixed assets, such as its stock of buildings. Needs and priorities identified in the AMS will require consideration for inclusion in the Council's Capital Programme and have wider financial consequences. Equally important is the opportunity to generate capital receipts from the disposal of land/property where there is no current or likely future operational need.

The Investment Strategy sets out the Council's policies and practices in relation to commercial investments, for example investments in property and will include information about any such proposals, including funding the expenditure and the effect upon the revenue budget. Expenditure relating to commercial investments will be capital and will be included in the capital programme.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy will take account of the revenue effect of capital investment.

The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy sets out the conditions and arrangements in place to flexibly use Capital Receipts for qualifying expenditure on any project that is designed to generate ongoing revenue savings in the delivery of public services and/or transform service delivery to reduce costs or to improve the quality of service delivery in future years.

Appraisal, procurement and management of capital projects needs to be carried out with regard to the objectives, methodologies the principles and practices set out in the Procurement Strategy.

The various service based strategies will inform the Council's capital investment process through their identification of areas for action and of priorities within individual service areas.

The Treasury Management Strategy needs to reflect planned capital spend, particularly with regard to setting limits for tying up money over the longer term and the limits relating to the amount of permitted borrowing.

In addition the Capital Strategy will be influenced by the results of any Service Reviews which have been carried out by the Council, either as part of the budget preparation process or as one-off exercises. Where these reviews identify areas of service which are to be discontinued, this may give rise to assets which will be available for disposal and possibly generate a capital receipt which will be available for funding further capital investment. Alternatively reviews may identify areas for investment, including potential "invest to save" projects, some of which may be capital investment.

External Influences, Partners and Consultation with Other Interested Parties

The Council's capital investment plans are influenced by a number of external parties and factors: central government and its agencies, legislation requiring capital works, partner organisations, businesses, developers and by the needs and views of other interested parties, particularly those of Borough residents.

Government sponsored initiatives and programmes will influence the projects which the Council will include in its capital investment plans. In particular, its Housing Investment Programme in which the Council participates with regard to Disabled Facilities Grants, this is a major area of investment where funding is provided by Government to meet a proportion of the costs of some of these activities. This funding currently consists mainly of grant payments to partially meet the cost of disabled facilities grants payable to eligible applicants.

Where required by legislation to carry out works of a capital nature, such as to comply with the Disability Act or Health and Safety requirements, or anti-pollution regulations, the Council will consider the most effective way to discharge its obligations and appropriate provision will be made in its Capital Programme once it has determined that it shall carry out the necessary work and that this should be capitalised.

The Council works with a wide range of partners from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors, all of which have an influence over its spending priorities. Relationships with partners, including those concerning capital matters, will be governed by the Council's Partnerships Code of Practice. Wherever possible the Council will seek to work in partnership with others to deliver its capital investment programme in order to provide facilities which meet its own and partners' needs. When working with the private sector, the objective will be to maximise the benefits to the Council and the community from any projects, both in terms of outputs and in relation to obtaining funding for the project.

The Council has established a Town Centre Partnership, together with relevant parties such as representatives of retailers and businesses in the town centres of Newcastle and Kidsgrove. The partnership may identify proposals for town centre improvements which could place demands upon future capital programmes where such works align with the Council's economic development objectives. It may also present an opportunity for costs to be shared between the parties likely to benefit from their implementation.

The availability of external funding (particularly in relation to the successful Town Deals and Future High Street Fund bids) will also influence the projects which the Council will include in its capital investment plans. This is referred to in the following section of the Strategy.

Regard will be given to the Council's obligations under disabled access requirements in putting forward proposals for capital investment and in the design of any facilities which are proposed.

Wherever possible the principles of financial and environmental sustainability will be incorporated into any capital projects.

Resources Available to Finance Capital Investment

The following diagram shows the main sources of funding which are available to the Council to finance its capital investment. Individual projects may be financed solely by one of these or by a combination of a number of them.

Internal	External
Capital Receipts in Hand	Government Grants
Reserves	Borrowing
New Capital Receipts from Asset Sales	Contributions from Partners
Revenue Contributions	Other Contributions

More details of these funding sources are given in the following paragraphs:

Capital receipts have been the major source of funding for the Capital Programme in recent years. Capital receipts, alongside borrowing and external contributions, are committed to finance the currently approved Capital Programme. Additional capital projects may be financed from capital receipts obtained by asset sales or other new capital streams.

A previously significant source of capital receipts has been the Council's continuing right to a share of receipts arising from tenants of Aspire Housing under the Right to Buy legislation. However, Right to Buy sales have diminished from historically high levels, both because of the present depressed property market and there being fewer potential purchasers as time goes by. Future sales income is projected to be in the range of £0.5m per annum.

Capital receipts from sales of land and property (including covenant release payments) have been relatively modest in recent times.

The Asset Management Strategy sets out expected sales over the next ten years. It is anticipated that receipts from sales will increase in the medium term, enabling some increase in financing of capital investment from this source. The Capital, Assets and Commercial Investment Review Group meets on a bi-monthly basis and is responsible for the formulation of strategies in respect of income generation relating to asset disposals.

The use of capital receipts and reserves to finance new capital projects has an effect upon investment income receipts and hence the General Fund Revenue Account. At an investment interest rate of around 5%, every £100,000 of such capital receipts or reserve balances used will cost £5,000 to the revenue account on an ongoing basis. The use of capital receipts and reserves to finance the Capital Programme is taken account of in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Any receipts generated from the sale of assets will be invested until they are required to finance capital expenditure.

Wherever Government grants are available to meet all or part of the cost of capital projects the Council will ensure that these are applied for and used to maximise the amount of investment which can be made and the benefit which will result from that investment.

Funding will be sought towards the cost of capital projects from external parties wherever possible and appropriate. The prime examples of these being the Town Deals (£34.633m between 2023/24 and 2025/26), Future High Streets Fund (£5.856m in 2023/24) and Disabled Facilities Grants (£1.500m per year). These may include property developers, central government and government agencies, funding bodies such as the National Lottery or the Football Foundation and partner organisations that may join with the Council to bring forward particular projects of mutual benefit.

The Council is presently debt free, having no long term loans outstanding. The capital investment programme set out in Annex B will require a significant amount of borrowing if it is to be carried out in its entirety. The use of borrowing has an effect on the General Fund Revenue account in terms of interest payable and the requirement to allocate a Minimum Revenue Provision, for a typical asset with a useful life of 20 years borrowing costs currently amount to around £10,000 for every £100,000 borrowed.

The Council does not presently intend to consider the use of Private Finance Initiative type arrangements or tax increment financing to meet the cost of capital investment.

The Service Director for Finance (S151 Officer) will prepare estimates of the resources which are presently in hand plus those likely to be available in future to finance capital investment. They will keep these estimates up to date and periodically report upon them to Cabinet and Council, particularly when the Capital Programme is being considered. The Council will decide on the appropriate form of financing for projects included in the Capital Programme based on advice from the Service Director for Finance (S151 Officer) as to availability and the consequences and costs of use of the various options.

The need to have available liquid funds to be used to pay for capital projects will be considered when drawing up the Council's Treasury Management Strategy. An appropriate limit will be placed on long term investments based on predictions of the capital spending profile over the period covered by the Strategy so that there are likely to be enough readily available easily cashable investments to meet requirements.

Revenue Implications

The impact upon the General Fund Revenue Account arising from capital investment proposals will be calculated and considered at the time projects are placed before Cabinet or Full Council for inclusion in the approved Capital Programme or for specific approval. Such impact may be in the form of reduced interest receipts, where projects are to be financed from capital receipts or reserves, borrowing costs, if loan finance is to be employed, or additional running costs arising from the provision of a new or altered facility. Offset against these costs will be any savings which might accrue, for example from "invest to save" projects.

The Council will always have regard to the affordability of its proposed capital investments, in terms of the revenue implications arising.

The revenue implications of the capital programme will be taken account of in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Appraisal and Prioritisation of Investment Proposals

In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations proposals for new capital investment estimated to cost more than £250,000 will be subject to an appraisal process, whereby a business case will be made out for the proposal, considering its contribution towards meeting corporate objectives and service priorities, its outputs and milestones, its cost and sources of and its effect, if any, upon the revenue budget in future years. Less significant projects costing below £250,000 will be subject to a simplified process. All new capital investment proposals must be considered by the Capital, Assets and Commercial Investment Review Group prior to specific Cabinet approval being requested. The project will only be included in the approved Capital Programme, after considering its priority relative to other proposed projects and the overall level of resources available to fund the Capital Programme as a whole.

Work is being undertaken to develop the project prioritisation process further during 2023/24 in order to provide a robust, transparent and impartial basis for determining the relative merits of individual projects proposed for inclusion in the capital programme. No projects should be considered in isolation. They must be required to be measured against all other competing projects to determine which should go forward. This process should also apply to any projects which are proposed

subsequent to the approval of the programme, to ensure that only those projects with a high priority are proceeded with and funds are not diverted to projects of a lesser priority.

A Risk Assessment, in the approved corporate format, will be completed for capital projects over £250,000.

Monitoring Arrangements and Project Management

Progress in relation to individual projects will be monitored through the Council's arrangements for the monitoring of capital projects, which entail quarterly monitoring reports to be received by the Cabinet. The Capital Assets and Commercial Investment Review Group will also review project progress and corrective action will be initiated where projects fall behind schedule, appear likely to overspend or otherwise give cause for concern. Individual Project Forms will be maintained in respect of each project by the Service Director for Finance (S151 Officer) which will track the progress of projects and be available to officers and members with an interest in reviewing progress of those projects.

All projects will be assigned to a named officer who will be responsible for overseeing the project, including project monitoring and control and implementing exception reports and, where appropriate, corrective action if the project deviates from its planned progress or cost. Where complex major projects are to be carried out, consideration will be given to employing the Prince2 project management methodology.

All capital projects will be subject to Internal Audit review to ensure correct procedures have been followed and sums have been paid out in accordance with Financial Regulations and Standing Orders as they relate to contracts. Where projects have received funding from government or quasi-governmental sources, the expenditure will also be subject in many cases to external audit. European Union funded projects may also be subject to audit by auditors on behalf of that body. Where monitoring returns or claims for reimbursement of expenditure are required to be sent to funding bodies, these will be completed and forwarded promptly to the relevant body in compliance with any deadlines laid down by them. All capital investment proposals and project progress and management are subject to the Council's scrutiny arrangements.

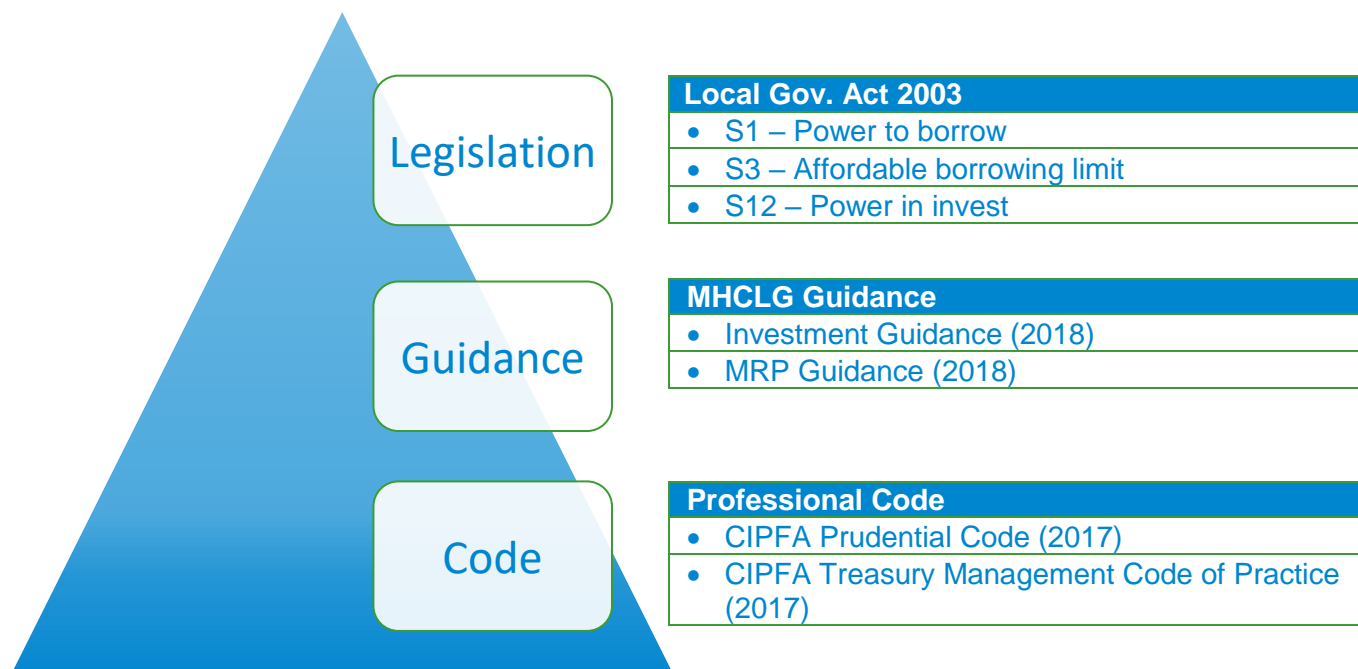
Statutory Framework

The Council's capital investment is carried out within the statutory framework laid down by the Local Government Act 2003 and regulations under that Act. Accordingly, only expenditure which fits the definition of capital expenditure contained in the Act or Regulations pursuant to it will be capitalised.

Capital expenditure is defined by the 2003 Act as that which falls to be capitalised in accordance with accounting, published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), applicable to all local authorities. Annex A sets out a summarised version of the definition provided by the Code. In addition, there are several other types of expenditure that have been defined by Regulations as being treatable as capital in nature. Generally, these do not apply to this Council.

It should be noted that the Act and Regulations are framed in a permissive way, allowing local authorities to capitalise expenditure which fits the definition but not forcing them to capitalise such expenditure. The Council will decide, therefore, whether to include a project meeting the capital definition in its capital programme or to meet its cost from a revenue account.

Legal and Regulatory Requirements



Prudential Indicators

The Council shall ensure that all its capital expenditure, investments and borrowing decisions are prudent and sustainable. In doing so it will consider its arrangements for the repayment of debt and consideration of risk and the impact, and potential impact, on the Council's overall fiscal sustainability. The Council's prudential indicators (shown in Annex C) are as follows:

- **Estimates of capital expenditure**

The Council will make reasonable estimates of the total of capital expenditure that it plans to incur during the forthcoming financial year and at least the following two financial years.

- **Actual capital expenditure**

After the year end, the actual capital expenditure incurred during the financial year will be recorded.

- **Estimates of capital financing requirement**

The Council will make reasonable estimates of the total capital financing requirement at the end of the forthcoming financial year and the following two years.

- **Actual capital financing requirement**

After the year end, the actual capital financing requirement will be calculated directly from the Council's balance sheet.

- **Ratio of financing costs to net revenue streams**

This is an indicator of affordability and highlights the revenue implications of existing and proposed capital expenditure by identifying the proportion of the revenue budget required to meet borrowing costs.

- **Authorised limit on external borrowing**

The Authorised Limit sets the maximum level of external borrowing on a gross basis (i.e., excluding investments) for the Council. This Prudential Indicator separately identifies borrowing from other long-term liabilities such as finance leases. It is consistent with the Council's existing commitments, its proposals for capital expenditure and financing and its approved treasury management policy statement and practices.

- **Operational boundary for external debt**

This indicator refers to how the authority manages its external debt to ensure it remains within the statutory authorised limit. It differs from the authorised limit in as far as it is based on the most likely scenario, in terms of capital spend and financing during the year.

- **Gross debt and capital financing requirement**

This is a key indicator of prudence. In order to ensure that over the medium-term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the local authority should ensure that debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years.

Where the gross debt is greater than the capital financing requirement the reasons for this should be clearly stated in the annual treasury management strategy.

Procurement

Regard will be given to the contents of the Council's Procurement Strategy when considering the delivery of capital projects.

Where estimated project contract costs exceed the relevant statutory threshold, the appropriate EU or other tendering procedures will be followed.

Standing Orders relating to contracts will apply to all contracts proposed to be let in relation to capital projects, together with Financial Regulations and the provisions of the Council's scheme of Delegation.

The achievement of Value for Money will be a guiding principle in the procurement of capital works and services and in managing contracts.

Future Capital Programme

Capital investment needs have been assessed over a ten year period (2024/25 to 2033/34) and are set out in Annex B.

During this period, there will be a need for some items of capital investment to be made in order to ensure continued service delivery or to comply with statutory requirements or to ensure health and safety of staff and public. Examples of these include: operational building repairs and maintenance; replacement of vehicles, plant and equipment required to deliver services; disabled facilities grants.

It may be possible to extend the lives of some of the vehicles, if they are in a fit condition when their replacement date is reached. Similarly some of the maintenance/improvement works to the Council's operational properties may be capable of being deferred; periodic stock condition surveys will inform any decisions in this regard. Additionally, some properties may be deemed surplus to operational requirements and eligible for disposal in their current condition.

In addition to the essential works outlined above, there are significant amounts of expenditure which need to be incurred:

- In respect of the Town Deals and Future High Streets Fund funding successfully bid for, these projects will have a significant impact upon the regeneration and recovery of both Newcastle and Kidsgrove Town Centres
- In respect of the commercial portfolio in order to keep properties in a state of repair such as to continue to obtain a reasonable rental income
- To maintain various engineering structures such as walls, bridges, drains, and reservoirs to ensure safety to the public
- To enable agreed actions in relation to approved policies and strategies to be progressed and to meet other Council commitments.

Over the period 2024/25 to 2033/34 it is estimated that this expenditure will total £78.715m.

Funding will depend on capital receipts from asset sales. There will be insufficient capital receipts arising from these planned sales to meet all of the costs of the investment programme. Accordingly, it is estimated that around £18.227m of net expenditure will have to be funded from borrowing over the ten year period if the programme is to be delivered in its entirety.

There will be a consequent cost to the revenue budget which will have to be included in the MTFS projections. Based on the expenditure shown in Annex B and forecasts of the amount and timing of receipts and current capital financing costs, the additional costs to the revenue budget will be around £19.124m over 10 years, with the costs in each year 2024/25 to 2033/34 being as shown below:

Year	Total £m	Year	Total £m
2024/25	0.893	2029/30	1.906
2025/26	1.478	2030/31	2.309
2026/27	1.416	2031/32	2.552
2027/28	1.470	2032/33	2.777
2028/29	1.412	2033/34	2.911
		Total	19.124

A capital programme for 2024/25 to 2026/27 totalling £41.269m will be recommended to Full Council on 14 February 2024, consistent with the detail shown in Annex B. The prudential indicators that will apply for this 3 year period are set out at Annex C.

Funding for 2024/25 expenditure is likely to be available from the following sources:

- Further capital receipts from asset sales;
- Right to Buy capital receipts;
- Government grants;
- Other external contributions; and
- Borrowing.

All of the above funding sources are likely to be limited so the programme only includes affordable projects.

As described earlier, current estimates of the amount required to be invested in projects to ensure continued service delivery and meet commitments compared with forecasts of likely receipts from asset sales and other available resources indicate that there will be insufficient resources available to fund all of these requirements. If forecast receipts from sales of assets cannot be achieved within this timeframe, the Council may have to review its stance with regard to borrowing, if this proves to be the only practical means of funding necessary investment, particularly if a major unforeseen item of capital expenditure were to materialise, for example major repairs to enable an operational building to continue to be used or new legislation requiring capital spending.

Annex A – Definition of Capital Expenditure included in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom

All expenditure that can be directly attributed to the acquisition, creation, or enhancement of items of property, plant and equipment or the acquisition of rights over certain longer-term intangible benefits is accounted for on an accruals basis and capitalised as a non-current asset. It must be probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council - the Council does not have to own the item, but it must be more than likely that it has gained the right to use the item in the provision of services or to generate cash from it. In addition, it must be possible to measure the cost of the item reliably.

Expenditure that should be capitalised will include expenditure on the:

- Acquisition, reclamation or laying out of land;
- Acquisition, construction, preparation, enhancement or replacement of roads, buildings and other structures; and
- Acquisition, installation or replacement of movable or immovable plant, machinery, apparatus, vehicles and vessels.

In this context, the definition of enhancement contained in the previous Code of Practice (SORP) is still applicable and means the carrying out of works which are intended to:

- Lengthen substantially the useful life of the asset; or
- Increase substantially the market value of the asset; or
- Increase substantially the extent to which the asset can or will be used for the purpose or in conjunction with the functions of the local authority concerned.

Under this definition, improvement works and structural repairs should be capitalised, whereas expenditure to ensure that the fixed asset maintains its previously assessed standard of performance should be recognised in the revenue account as it is incurred. Expenditure on existing fixed assets should be capitalised in three circumstances:

- Enhancement - see above;
- Where a component of the fixed asset that has been treated separately for depreciation purposes and depreciated over its individual useful life is replaced or restored; or
- Where the subsequent expenditure relates to a major inspection or overhaul of a fixed asset that restores the benefits of the asset that have been consumed by the authority and have already been reflected in depreciation.

Assets acquired on terms meeting the definition of a finance lease should be capitalised and included together with a liability to pay future rentals.

Where an asset is acquired for other than cash consideration or where payment is deferred the asset should be recognised and included in the balance sheet at fair value.

Annex B – 2024/25 to 2033/34 Capital Programme

CAPITAL PROGRAMME	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
PRIORITY - One Council Delivering for Local People											
Service Area – Council Modernisation	394,000	434,000	336,000	80,000	351,000	456,000	126,000	36,000	36,000	36,000	2,285,000
Total	394,000	434,000	336,000	80,000	351,000	456,000	126,000	36,000	36,000	36,000	2,285,000
PRIORITY - A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough											
Service Area – Housing Improvements	1,620,000	1,670,000	1,670,000	1,595,000	1,595,000	1,595,000	1,595,000	1,595,000	1,595,000	1,595,000	16,125,000
Service Area – Managing Property & Assets	1,197,482	843,846	688,895	495,475	466,053	310,000	702,022	172,500	172,500	150,000	5,198,773
Service Area – Regeneration	7,000,000	9,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,000,000
Total	9,817,482	11,513,846	2,358,895	2,090,475	2,061,053	1,905,000	2,297,022	1,767,500	1,767,500	1,745,000	37,323,773
PRIORITY - Healthy, Active and Safe Communities											
Service Area – Environmental Health	72,000	-	-	-	-	12,000	-	-	-	-	84,000
Service Area – Streetscene	180,000	240,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	155,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	1,485,000
Service Area – Recycling & Fleet	710,000	1,230,000	5,943,100	2,522,514	1,279,411	8,809,561	1,526,724	2,623,039	2,623,039	700,000	27,967,388
Service Area – Leisure and Cultural	47,000	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	197,000
Service Area – Bereavement Services	30,000	10,000	30,000	5,000	5,000	10,000	1,530,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	1,635,000
Service Area – Engineering	385,000	120,000	50,000	-	-	-	95,000	-	-	-	650,000
Total	1,424,000	1,750,000	6,153,100	2,657,514	1,414,411	8,961,561	3,306,724	2,758,039	2,758,039	835,000	32,018,388
PRIORITY - Town Centres for All											
Town Deals – Newcastle	2,251,000	807,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,058,000
Town Deals – Kidsgrove	2,794,000	1,236,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,030,000
Total	5,045,000	2,043,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,088,000
CONTINGENCY											
£1m to be carried forward from 2023/24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	16,680,482	15,740,846	8,847,995	4,827,989	3,826,464	11,322,561	5,729,746	4,561,539	4,561,539	2,616,000	78,715,161
FUNDING											
Capital Receipts	2,450,000	21,050,000	4,050,000	4,050,000	4,050,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	38,400,000
External Contributions	6,545,000	3,543,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	550,000	550,000	550,000	550,000	550,000	22,088,000
Borrowing/Leasing	7,685,482	-8,852,154	3,297,995	-722,011	-1,723,536	9,272,561	3,679,746	2,511,539	2,511,539	566,000	18,227,161
TOTAL	16,680,482	15,740,846	8,847,995	4,827,989	3,826,464	11,322,561	5,729,746	4,561,539	4,561,539	2,616,000	78,715,161

Annex C – Prudential Indicators

Capital Prudential Indicators

Actual and Estimate of Capital Expenditure

31/03/23 Actual (£000's)	31/03/24 Estimate (£000's)	31/03/25 Estimate (£000's)	31/03/26 Estimate (£000's)	31/03/27 Estimate (£000's)
7,545	55,433	16,680	15,741	8,848

The Capital Financing Requirement (The Councils Borrowing Need)

The second prudential indicator is the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The CFR is simply the total historic outstanding capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for from either revenue or capital resources. It is essentially a measure of the Council's underlying borrowing need. Any capital expenditure above, which has not immediately been paid for, will increase the CFR.

The CFR does not increase indefinitely, as the minimum revenue provision (MRP) is a statutory annual revenue charge which broadly reduces the borrowing need in line with each asset's life.

The CFR projections are below:

31/03/23 Actual (£000's)	31/03/24 Estimate (£000's)	31/03/25 Estimate (£000's)	31/03/26 Estimate (£000's)	31/03/27 Estimate (£000's)
10,682	27,376	35,061	26,210	29,508

The amounts shown above from 2023/24 onwards allow the Council to borrow during those years to finance capital expenditure which cannot be funded from other revenue or capital resources. However, the likelihood of individual schemes, the timings and the amounts involved cannot be assessed with certainty at this point.

The sale of Council assets for capital receipts will have a significant impact upon the CFR, if sales are made the Council's borrowing requirement will be reduced, if not the Council's borrowing requirement will be greater.

Affordability Prudential Indicators

Actual and Estimates of the Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream.

Financing Costs comprise the aggregate of: interest payable, interest receivable and investment income; the amount charged as MRP; depreciation and impairment charges that have not been reversed out of the revenue account.

Net Revenue Stream is defined as the 'amount to be met from government grants and local taxpayers'. This is the Council's 'budgetary requirements' figure shown in the General Fund Revenue Budget, being the net expenditure for the year before deducting government grants (Revenue Support and Business

Rates Retention) and adjusting for the Collection Fund surplus/deficit. The relevant figures for this Council are set out in the table below:

	2022/23 Actual (£000's)	2023/24 Budget (£000's)	2024/25 Estimate (£000's)	2025/26 Estimate (£000's)	2026/27 Estimate (£000's)
Net Revenue Stream	15,261	16,857	16,857	16,857	16,857
Financing Costs	44	441	905	1,467	1,407
Ratio	(0.18%)	2.62%	5.37%	8.70%	8.35%

Treasury Indicators

Limits to Borrowing Activity

The Local Government Act 2003 requires each local authority to determine and keep under review how much money it can afford to borrow. This is to be determined by the calculation of an affordable borrowing limit which Regulations to the Act specify should be calculated with regard to the CIPFA Prudential Code.

Previously borrowing has not been used to fund the capital programme because the Council has had sufficient reserves and useable capital receipts to finance capital expenditure from these sources.

The Operational Boundary

This is the limit beyond which external debt is not normally expected to exceed.

Operational boundary	2023/24 Estimate (£000's)	2024/25 Estimate (£000's)	2025/26 Estimate (£000's)	2026/27 Estimate (£000's)
Borrowing	95,000	95,000	95,000	95,000
Other long term liabilities	0	0	0	0

The Authorised Limit for External Borrowing

A further key prudential indicator represents a control on the maximum level of borrowing. This represents a limit beyond which external debt is prohibited, and this limit needs to be set or revised by the full Council. It reflects the level of external debt which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term.

This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

The Council is asked to approve the following authorised limit:

Authorised limit	2023/24 Estimate (£000's)	2024/25 Estimate (£000's)	2025/26 Estimate (£000's)	2026/27 Estimate (£000's)
Debt	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Other Long Term Liabilities	0	0	0	0

Limits on Interest Rate Exposures (fixed and variable interest rates)

The following limits will apply in relation to the Council's interest rate exposure. They relate to interest on both borrowings and investments. These limits are intended to reduce the risk of the Council suffering unduly from significant adverse fluctuations in interest rates.

Limit on Fixed Interest Rate Exposures (as a percentage of total borrowings / investments)

	Borrowing		Investments	
	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower
2023/24	100%	0%	100%	0%
2024/25	100%	0%	100%	0%
2025/26	100%	0%	100%	0%
2026/27	100%	0%	100%	0%

Limit on Variable Interest Rate Exposures (as a percentage of total borrowings/ investments)

	Borrowing		Investments	
	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower
2023/24	100%	0%	100%	0%
2024/25	100%	0%	100%	0%
2025/26	100%	0%	100%	0%
2026/27	100%	0%	100%	0%

In relation to both borrowing and investing fixed rate investments and loans may be anything between 0% and 100% of the total, with the same proportions being permitted for variable rate loans – in effect there is no limit on each type. This enables maximum flexibility to be afforded to take advantage of prevailing interest trends to obtain the best deal for the Council.

This page is intentionally left blank

Treasury Management Strategy

2024/25



Contents

Introduction	3
Economic Situation	3
Borrowing Strategy	6
Treasury Investment Strategy	8
Treasury Management Prudential Indicators	12
Related Matters	14
Financial Implications	14
Other Options Considered	14
Annex A – Arlingclose Economic & Interest Rate Forecast November 2023	16
Annex B – Existing Investment & Debt Portfolio Position	18
Annex C – Minimum Revenue Provision Policy	19
Annex D – Treasury Management Glossary of Terms	22

Introduction

Treasury management is the management of the Council's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Council may invest or borrow substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Council's prudent financial management.

Treasury risk management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 Edition* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the *Local Government Act 2003* to have regard to the CIPFA Code.

Investments held for service purposes or for commercial profit are considered in a different report, the Investment Strategy.

Economic Situation

Highlights of the report supplied by Arlingclose Ltd.

External Context

Economic background: The impact on the UK from higher interest rates and inflation, a weakening economic outlook, an uncertain political climate due to an upcoming general election, together with war in Ukraine and the Middle East, will be major influences on the Council's treasury management strategy for 2024/25.

The Bank of England (BoE) increased Bank Rate to 5.25% in August 2023, before maintaining this level in September and then again in November. Members of the BoE's Monetary Policy Committee voted 6-3 in favour of keeping Bank Rate at 5.25%. The three dissenters wanted to increase rates by another 0.25%.

The November quarterly Monetary Policy Report (MPR) forecast a prolonged period of weak Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth with the potential for a mild contraction due to ongoing weak economic activity. The outlook for CPI inflation was deemed to be highly uncertain, with near-term risks to CPI falling to the 2% target coming from potential energy price increases, strong domestic wage growth and persistence in price-setting.

Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures showed CPI (Consumer Price Index) inflation was 6.7% in September 2023, unchanged from the previous month but above the 6.6% expected. Core CPI inflation fell to 6.1% from 6.2%, in line with predictions. Looking ahead, using the interest rate path implied by financial markets the BoE expects CPI inflation to continue falling, declining to around 4% by the end of calendar 2023 but taking until early 2025 to reach the 2% target and then falling below target during the second half 2025 and into 2026.

ONS figures showed the UK economy grew by 0.2% between April and June 2022. The BoE forecasts GDP will likely stagnate in Q3 but increase modestly by 0.1% in Q4, a deterioration in the outlook compared to the August MPR. The BoE forecasts that higher interest rates will constrain GDP growth, which will remain weak over the entire forecast horizon.

The labour market appears to be loosening, but only very slowly. The unemployment rate rose slightly to 4.2% between June and August 2023, from 4.0% in the previous 3-month period, but the lack of consistency in the data between the two periods made comparisons difficult. Earnings growth remained strong, with regular pay (excluding bonuses) up 7.8% over the period and total pay (including bonuses) up 8.1%. Adjusted for inflation, regular pay was 1.1% and total pay 1.3%. Looking forward, the MPR showed the unemployment rate is expected to be around 4.25% in the second half of calendar 2023, but then rising steadily over the forecast horizon to around 5% in late 2025/early 2026.

Credit outlook: Credit Default Swap (CDS) prices were volatile during 2023, spiking in March on the back of banking sector contagion concerns following the major events of Silicon Valley Bank becoming insolvent and the takeover of Credit Suisse by UBS. After then falling back in Q2 of calendar 2023, in the second half of the year, higher interest rates and inflation, the ongoing war in Ukraine, and now the Middle East, have led to CDS prices increasing steadily.

On an annual basis, CDS price volatility has so far been lower in 2023 compared to 2022, but this year has seen more of a divergence in prices between ringfenced (retail) and non-ringfenced (investment) banking entities once again.

Moody's revised its outlook on the UK sovereign to stable from negative to reflect its view of restored political predictability following the volatility after the 2022 mini-budget. Moody's also affirmed the Aa3 rating in recognition of the UK's economic resilience and strong institutional framework.

Following its rating action on the UK sovereign, Moody's revised the outlook on five UK banks to stable from negative and then followed this by the same action on five rated local authorities. However, within the same update the long-term ratings of those five local authorities were downgraded.

There remain competing tensions in the banking sector, on one side from higher interest rates boosting net income and profitability against another of a weakening economic outlook and likely recessions that increase the possibility of a deterioration in the quality of banks' assets.

However, the institutions on our adviser Arlingclose's counterparty list remain well-capitalised and their counterparty advice on both recommended institutions and maximum duration remain under constant review and will continue to reflect economic conditions and the credit outlook.

Interest rate forecast (November 2023): Although UK inflation and wage growth remain elevated, the Council's treasury management adviser Arlingclose forecasts that Bank Rate has peaked at 5.25%. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee will cut rates in the medium term to stimulate the UK economy but will be reluctant to do so until it is sure there will be no lingering second-round effects. Arlingclose sees rate cuts from Q3 2024 to a low of around 3% by early-mid 2026.

Arlingclose expects long-term gilt yields to eventually fall from current levels (amid continued volatility) reflecting the lower medium-term path for Bank Rate. However, yields will remain relatively higher than in the past, due to quantitative tightening and significant bond supply. As ever, there will undoubtedly be short-term volatility due to economic and political uncertainty and events.

Like the BoE, the Federal Reserve and other central banks see persistently high policy rates through 2023 and 2024 as key to dampening domestic inflationary pressure. Bond markets will need to absorb significant new supply, particularly from the US government.

A more detailed economic and interest rate forecast provided by Arlingclose is in Appendix A.

Local Context

On 19th December 2023, the Council held no borrowing and £30.15 million of treasury investments, largely due to grant monies temporarily held. This is set out in further detail at Annex B. Forecast changes in these sums are shown in the balance sheet analysis in table below:

Balance Sheet Summary and Forecast	31/03/2023 Actual £m	31/03/2024 Forecast £m	31/03/2025 Forecast £m	31/03/2026 Forecast £m	31/03/2027 Forecast £m
General Fund CFR	10.7	27.4	35.1	26.2	29.5
Less: Existing external borrowing	0.0	0.0	(16.7)	(24.4)	(15.4)
Less: Usable reserves	(5.2)	(4.3)	(4.3)	(4.3)	(4.3)
Less: Working capital	(22.1)	(20.0)	(5.9)	(5.9)	(5.9)
(New Investments or Cash)/ New external borrowing	(16.6)	3.1	8.2	(8.4)	3.9

The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. The Council's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing. Where borrowing is required, this will be in line with Arlingclose's current advice of doing so from other local authorities on a short-term basis. This will be undertaken until it becomes advantageous to switch to long term debt, with the lowest cost option being considered, including such options as municipal bonds.

The Council has an increasing CFR due to the capital programme, but minimal investments and may therefore be required to borrow over the forecast period. More details in relation to the Council's CFR are included within the Capital Strategy.

CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities recommends that the Council's total debt should be lower than its highest forecast CFR over the next three years. The table above shows that the Council expects to comply with this recommendation during 2024/25.

Liability benchmark: To compare the Council's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This assumes the same forecasts as above, but that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £1m at each year-end to maintain sufficient liquidity but minimise credit risk.

The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future, and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. The liability benchmark itself represents an estimate of the cumulative amount of external borrowing the Council must hold to fund its current capital and revenue plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level required to manage day-to-day cash flow.

Liability Benchmark	31/03/2023 Actual £m	31/03/2024 Forecast £m	31/03/2025 Forecast £m	31/03/2026 Forecast £m	31/03/2027 Forecast £m
General Fund CFR	10.7	27.4	35.1	26.2	29.5
Less: Balance sheet resources	(27.3)	(24.3)	(26.9)	(34.6)	(25.6)
Net loans requirement	(16.6)	3.1	8.2	(8.4)	3.9
Plus: Liquidity Allowance	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Liquidity benchmark	(16.6)	4.1	9.2	(7.4)	4.9

Borrowing Strategy

The Council does not currently hold any loans, as per the previous year, as part of its strategy for funding previous years' capital programmes.

The balance sheet forecast, in the table above, shows that the Council expects to borrow by the end of 2024/25. The Council may also borrow additional sums to pre-fund future years' requirements, providing this does not exceed the authorised limit for borrowing.

The Council's chief objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving certainty of those costs over the period for which funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Council's long-term plans change is a secondary objective.

Given the significant cuts to public expenditure, and in particular to local government funding, the Council's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. With short-term interest rates currently much lower than long-term rates, it is likely to be more cost effective in the short-term to either use internal resources, or to borrow short-term loans instead.

By doing so, the Council is able to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk. The benefits of internal or short-term borrowing will be monitored regularly against the potential for incurring additional costs by deferring borrowing into future years when long-term borrowing rates are forecast to rise modestly. Arlingclose will assist the Council with this 'cost of carry' and breakeven analysis. Its output may determine whether the Council borrows additional sums at long-term fixed rates in 2024/25 with a view to keeping future interest costs low, even if this causes additional cost in the short-term.

Although not utilised in recent years, the Council has previously considered the option of long-term borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLb). However, consideration will now be given to long-term loans from other sources including banks, pensions and local authorities, and the Council will investigate the possibility of issuing bonds and similar instruments, in order to lower interest costs and reduce over-reliance on one source of funding in line with the CIPFA Code. PWLB loans are no longer available to local authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield; the Council intends to avoid this activity in order to retain its access to PWLB loans.

Alternatively, the Council may arrange forward starting loans, where the interest rate is fixed in advance, but the cash is received in later years. This would enable certainty of cost to be achieved without suffering a cost of carry in the intervening period.

In addition, the Council may borrow short-term loans to cover unplanned cash flow shortages.

Sources of borrowing

The approved sources of long-term and short-term borrowing are:

- HM Treasury's PWLB lending facility (formerly the Public Works Loan Board);
- UK Infrastructure Bank Ltd;
- any institution approved for investments (see below);
- any other bank or building society authorised to operate in the UK;
- any other UK public sector body;
- UK public and private sector pension funds;
- capital market bond investors; and
- UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc and other special purpose companies created to enable local authority bond issues.

Other sources of debt finance: In addition, capital finance may be raised by the following methods that are not borrowing, but may be classed as other debt liabilities:

- leasing;
- hire purchase;
- Private Finance Initiative;
- sale and leaseback; and
- Similar asset-based finance.

Municipal Bonds Agency: UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc was established in 2014 by the Local Government Association as an alternative to the PWLB. It issues bonds on the capital markets and lends the proceeds to local authorities. This is a more complicated source of finance than the PWLB for two reasons: borrowing authorities will be required to provide bond investors with a guarantee to refund their investment in the event that the agency is unable to for any reason; and there will be a lead time of several months between committing to borrow and knowing the interest rate payable. Any decision to borrow from the Agency will therefore be the subject of a separate report to Council.

Short-term and variable rate loans: These loans leave the Council exposed to the risk of short-term interest rate rises.

Debt rescheduling: The PWLB allows authorities to repay loans before maturity and either pay a premium or receive a discount according to a set formula based on current interest rates. Other lenders may also be prepared to negotiate premature redemption terms. The Council may take advantage of this and replace some loans with new loans, or repay loans without replacement, where

this is expected to lead to an overall cost saving or a reduction in risk. The recent rise in interest rates means that more favourable debt rescheduling opportunities should arise than in previous years.

Treasury Investment Strategy

The Council can hold significant invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. In the past 12 months, the Council's treasury investment balance has ranged between £16.64 million and £38.7 million. The highest figure of £38.7 million was invested in November, when the Council received monies in relation to Town Deal Funding.

The CIPFA Code requires the Council to invest its treasury funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. Where balances are expected to be invested for more than one year, the Council will aim to achieve a total return that is equal or higher than the prevailing rate of inflation, in order to maintain the spending power of the sum invested. The Council aims to be a responsible investor and will consider environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues when investing.

The Council expects to be a long-term borrower and new treasury investments will therefore be made primarily to manage day-to-day cash flows using short-term low risk instruments. The existing portfolio of strategic pooled funds will be maintained to diversify risk into different sectors and boost investment income.

Under the IFRS 9 standard, the accounting for certain investments depends on the Council's "business model" for managing them. The Council aims to achieve value from its internally managed treasury investments by a business model of collecting the contractual cash flows and therefore, where other criteria are also met, these investments will continue to be accounted for at amortised cost.

The Council may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty types in the table below, subject to the cash limits (per counterparty) and the time limits shown.

Approved investment counterparties and limits

Sector	Time limit	Counterparty limit	Sector limit
The UK Government	3 years	Unlimited	n/a
Local authorities & other government entities	3 years	£7m	unlimited
Secured investments*	3 years	£7m	unlimited
Banks (unsecured)*	13 months	£7m	unlimited
Building societies (unsecured)*	13 months	£7m	£7m
Registered providers (unsecured)*	3 years	£10m	£10m
Money market funds*	n/a	£7m	unlimited
Real estate investment trusts	n/a	£2m	£2m
Other investments	3 years	£7m	£7m

* Treasury investments in the sectors marked with an asterisk will only be made with entities whose lowest published long-term credit rating is no lower than A-. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.

For entities without published credit ratings, investments may be made either where external advice indicates the entity to be of similar credit quality.

Government: Loans to, and bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by, national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is generally a lower risk of insolvency, although they are not zero risk. Investments with the UK Government are deemed to be zero credit risk due to its ability to create additional currency and therefore may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 50 years.

Secured investments: Investments secured on the borrower's assets, which limits the potential losses in the event of insolvency. The amount and quality of the security will be a key factor in the investment decision. Covered bonds and reverse repurchase agreements with banks and building societies are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the higher of the collateral credit rating and the

counterparty credit rating will be used. The combined secured and unsecured investments with any one counterparty will not exceed the cash limit for secured investments.

Banks and building societies (unsecured): Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail. See below for arrangements relating to operational bank accounts.

Registered providers (unsecured): Loans to, and bonds issued or guaranteed by, registered providers of social housing or registered social landlords, formerly known as housing associations. These bodies are regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing (in England), the Scottish Housing Regulator, the Welsh Government and the Department for Communities (in Northern Ireland). As providers of public services, they retain the likelihood of receiving government support if needed.

Money market funds: Pooled funds that offer same-day or short notice liquidity and very low or no price volatility by investing in short-term money markets. They have the advantage over bank accounts of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a small fee. Although no sector limit applies to money market funds, the Council will take care to diversify its liquid investments over a variety of providers to ensure access to cash at all times.

Strategic pooled funds: Bond, equity and property funds that offer enhanced returns over the longer term but are more volatile in the short term. These allow the Council to diversify into asset classes other than cash without the need to own and manage the underlying investments. Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Council's investment objectives will be monitored regularly.

Real estate investment trusts: Shares in companies that invest mainly in real estate and pay the majority of their rental income to investors in a similar manner to pooled property funds. As with property funds, REITs offer enhanced returns over the longer term, but are more volatile especially as the share price reflects changing demand for the shares as well as changes in the value of the underlying properties.

Other investments: This category covers treasury investments not listed above, for example unsecured corporate bonds and company loans. Non-bank companies cannot be bailed-in but can become insolvent placing the Council's investment at risk.

Operational bank accounts: The Council may incur operational exposures, for example through current accounts, collection accounts and merchant acquiring services, to any UK bank with credit ratings no lower than BBB- and with assets greater than £25 billion. These are not classed as investments, but are still subject to the risk of a bank bail-in, and balances will therefore be kept below £7m per bank. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the Council maintaining operational continuity.

Risk assessment and credit ratings: Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Council's treasury advisers, who will notify changes in ratings as they occur. Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:

- no new investments will be made,
- any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be, and
- full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty.

Where a credit rating agency announces that a credit rating is on review for possible downgrade (also known as "negative watch") so that it may fall below the approved rating criteria, then only investments that can be withdrawn will be made with that organisation until the outcome of the review is announced. This policy will not apply to negative outlooks, which indicate a long-term direction of travel rather than an imminent change of rating.

The Council understands that credit ratings are good, but not perfect, predictors of investment default. Full regard will therefore be given to other available information on the credit quality of the organisations in which it invests, including credit default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support, reports in the quality financial press and analysis and advice from the Council's treasury management adviser. No investments will be made with an organisation if there are substantive doubts about its credit quality, even though it may otherwise meet the above criteria.

Reputational aspects: The Council is aware that investment with certain counterparties, while considered secure from a purely financial perspective, may leave it open to criticism, valid or otherwise, that may affect its public reputation, and this risk will therefore be taken into account when making investment decisions.

When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations, as happened in 2008, 2020 and 2022, this is not generally reflected in credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, the Council will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the required level of security. The extent of these restrictions will be in line with prevailing financial market conditions. If these restrictions mean that insufficient commercial organisations of high credit quality are available to invest the Council's cash balances, then the surplus will be deposited with the UK Government, or with other local authorities. This will cause investment returns to fall but will protect the principal sum invested.

Investment limits: In order that the Council will not be put at risk in the case of a single default, the maximum that will be lent to any one organisation (other than the UK Government and Registered Providers) will be £7 million. A group of entities under the same ownership will be treated as a single organisation for limit purposes.

Limits are also placed on fund managers, investments in brokers' nominee accounts and foreign countries as below. Investments in pooled funds and multilateral development banks do not count against the limit for any single foreign country since the risk is diversified over many countries.

Additional Investment limits

	Cash limit
Any group of pooled funds under the same management	£7m per manager
Negotiable instruments held in a broker's nominee account	£7m per broker
Foreign countries	£7m per country

Liquidity management: The Council uses cash flow forecasting to determine the maximum period for which funds may prudently be committed. The forecast is compiled on a prudent basis to minimise the risk of the Council being forced to borrow on unfavourable terms to meet its financial commitments. Limits on long-term investments are set by reference to the Council's medium-term financial plan and cash flow forecast.

Non-treasury investments are covered by the Council's Investment Strategy.

Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

The Council measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

Security

The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

Credit risk indicator	Target
Portfolio average credit rating	A

Liquidity

The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling three month period, without additional borrowing.

Liquidity risk indicator	Target
Total cash available within 3 months	£1m

Interest rate exposures

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on the one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise or fall in interest rates will be:

Interest rate indicator	Limit
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates	(£107,000)
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% fall in interest rates	£107,000

The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investments will be replaced at new market rates.

Maturity structure of borrowing

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of borrowing will be:

Refinancing rate risk indicator	Upper limit	Lower limit
Under 12 months	100%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	100%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	100%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	100%	0%

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

Principal sums invested for periods longer than a year

The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end will be:

Price risk indicator	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	No Fixed Date
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£25m	£25m	£25m	£25m

Long-term investments with no fixed maturity date include strategic pooled funds and real estate investment trusts but exclude money market funds and bank accounts with no fixed maturity date as these are considered short-term.

The Council's Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit for External Borrowing are detailed in the Council's Capital Strategy.

Related Matters

The CIPFA Code requires the Council to include the following in its treasury management strategy.

Financial Derivatives: Local authorities have previously made use of financial derivatives embedded into loans and investments both to reduce interest rate risk (e.g. interest rate collars and forward deals) and to reduce costs or increase income at the expense of greater risk. The general power of competence in Section 1 of the *Localism Act 2011* removes much of the uncertainty over local authorities' use of standalone financial derivatives (i.e. those that are not embedded into a loan or investment).

The Council will only use standalone financial derivatives (such as swaps, forwards, futures and options) where they can be clearly demonstrated to reduce the overall level of the financial risks that the Council is exposed to. Additional risks presented, such as credit exposure to derivative counterparties, will be taken into account when determining the overall level of risk. Embedded derivatives, including those present in pooled funds and forward starting transactions, will not be subject to this policy, although the risks they present will be managed in line with the overall treasury risk management strategy.

Financial derivative transactions may be arranged with any organisation that meets the approved investment criteria, assessed using the appropriate credit rating for derivative exposures. An allowance for credit risk calculated using the methodology in the Treasury Management Practices document will count against the counterparty credit limit and the relevant foreign country limit.

In line with the CIPFA Code, the Council will seek external advice and will consider that advice before entering into financial derivatives to ensure that it fully understands the implications.

Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID II): The Council has retained retail client status with its providers of financial services, including advisers and banks, allowing it access to a smaller range of services but with the greater regulatory protections afforded to individuals and small companies. This is believed to be the most appropriate status given the size and range of the Council's treasury management activities. The Council may upgrade their client status to professional if the requirements to do so are met during the year. This will allow a greater range of services but without the same level of regulatory protections provided by retail client status.

Financial Implications

The budget for investment income in 2024/25 is nil. The budget for debt interest paid in 2024/25 is £536,000. If actual levels of investments and borrowing, or actual interest rates, differ from those forecast, performance against budget will be correspondingly different.

Other Options Considered

The CIPFA Code does not prescribe any particular treasury management strategy for local authorities to adopt. It is believed that the above strategy represents an appropriate balance between risk management and cost effectiveness. Some alternative strategies, with their financial and risk management implications, are listed below.

Alternative	Impact on income and expenditure	Impact on risk management
Invest in a narrower range of counterparties and/or for shorter times	Interest income will be lower	Lower chance of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be greater
Invest in a wider range of counterparties and/or for longer times	Interest income will be higher	Increased risk of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be smaller
Borrow additional sums at long-term fixed interest rates	Debt interest costs will rise; this is unlikely to be offset by higher investment income	Higher investment balance leading to a higher impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be more certain
Borrow short-term or variable loans instead of long-term fixed rates	Debt interest costs will initially be lower	Increases in debt interest costs will be broadly offset by rising investment income in the medium term, but long-term costs may be less certain
Reduce level of borrowing	Saving on debt interest is likely to exceed lost investment income	Reduced investment balance leading to a lower impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be less certain

Annex A – Arlingclose Economic & Interest Rate Forecast

November 2023

Underlying assumptions:

- UK inflation and wage growth remain elevated but, following a no-change MPC decision in November, Bank Rate appears to have peaked in this rate cycle. Near-term rate cuts are unlikely, although downside risks will increase as the UK economy likely slides into recession and inflation falls more quickly.
- The much-repeated message from the MPC is that monetary policy will remain tight as inflation is expected to moderate to target slowly. In the Bank's forecast, wage and services inflation, in particular, will keep CPI above the 2% target until 2026.
- The UK economy has so far been relatively resilient, but recent data indicates a further deceleration in business and household activity growth as higher interest rates start to bite. Global demand will remain soft, offering little assistance in offsetting weakening domestic demand. A recession remains a likely outcome.
- Employment demand is easing, although the tight labour market has resulted in higher nominal wage growth. Anecdotal evidence suggests slowing recruitment and pay growth, and we expect unemployment to rise further. As unemployment rises and interest rates remain high, consumer sentiment will deteriorate. Household spending will therefore be weak. Higher interest rates will also weigh on business investment and spending.
- Inflation will fall over the next 12 months. The path to the target will not be smooth, with higher energy prices and base effects interrupting the downtrend at times. The MPC's attention will remain on underlying inflation measures and wage data. We believe policy rates will remain at the peak for another 10 months, or until the MPC is comfortable the risk of further 'second-round' effects has diminished.
- Maintaining monetary policy in restrictive territory for so long, when the economy is already struggling, will require significant policy loosening in the future to boost activity.
- Global bond yields will remain volatile, particularly with the focus on US economic data and its monetary and fiscal policy. Like the BoE, the Federal Reserve and other central banks see persistently high policy rates through 2023 and 2024 as key to dampening domestic inflationary pressure. Bond markets will need to absorb significant new supply, particularly from the US government.
- There is a heightened risk of geo-political events causing substantial volatility in yields.

Forecast:

- The MPC held Bank Rate at 5.25% in November. Arlingclose believe this is the peak for Bank Rate.
- The MPC will cut rates in the medium term to stimulate the UK economy but will be reluctant to do so until it is sure there will be no lingering second-round effects. We see rate cuts from Q3 2024 to a low of around 3% by early-mid 2026.

- The immediate risks around Bank Rate remain on the upside, but these diminish over the next few quarters and shift to the downside before balancing out, due to the weakening UK economy and dampening effects on inflation.
- Arlingclose expects long-term gilt yields to eventually fall from current levels (amid continued volatility) reflecting the lower medium-term path for Bank Rate. However, yields will remain relatively higher than in the past, due to quantitative tightening and significant bond supply.

	Current	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26
Official Bank Rate													
<i>Upside risk</i>	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00
Arlingclose Central Case	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.00	4.75	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	3.00
<i>Downside risk</i>	0.00	0.00	-0.25	-0.50	-0.75	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
3-mth money market rate													
<i>Upside risk</i>	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00
Arlingclose Central Case	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.30	5.15	4.80	4.30	4.10	3.80	3.50	3.25	3.05	3.05
<i>Downside risk</i>	0.00	0.00	-0.25	-0.50	-0.75	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
5-yr gilt yield													
<i>Upside risk</i>	0.00	0.50	0.70	0.70	0.85	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Arlingclose Central Case	4.28	4.35	4.30	4.25	4.10	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.35
<i>Downside risk</i>	0.00	-0.55	-0.75	-0.85	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
10-yr gilt yield													
<i>Upside risk</i>	0.00	0.50	0.70	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20
Arlingclose Central Case	4.32	4.40	4.35	4.30	4.25	4.15	4.00	3.80	3.75	3.65	3.60	3.65	3.70
<i>Downside risk</i>	0.00	-0.55	-0.75	-0.85	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
20-yr gilt yield													
<i>Upside risk</i>	0.00	0.50	0.70	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20
Arlingclose Central Case	4.78	4.70	4.65	4.55	4.45	4.35	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
<i>Downside risk</i>	0.00	-0.55	-0.75	-0.85	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
50-yr gilt yield													
<i>Upside risk</i>	0.00	0.50	0.70	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20
Arlingclose Central Case	4.38	4.30	4.25	4.20	4.15	4.15	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10
<i>Downside risk</i>	0.00	-0.55	-0.75	-0.85	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00

PWLB Standard Rate = Gilt yield + 1.00%

PWLB Certainty Rate = Gilt yield + 0.80%

PWLB HRA Rate = Gilt yield + 0.40%

UK Infrastructure Bank Rate = Gilt yield + 0.40%

Annex B – Existing Investment & Debt Portfolio Position

	22/11/2023 Actual Portfolio £m	22/11/2023 Average Rate %
<i>Treasury investments:</i>		
Banks & building societies (unsecured)	2.90	3.10
Government (incl. local authorities)	25.25	5.20
Money Market Funds	2.0	5.29
Total treasury investments	30.15	
Total external borrowing	0.0	
Net investments	30.15	

Annex C – Minimum Revenue Provision Policy

Background

In instances whereby Local Authorities have a positive Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Guidance requires them to adopt a prudent approach in order to fund the repayment of debt. This may be achieved by setting aside a minimum amount from revenue, known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). This means that the Council would be required to pay off an element of the accumulated General Fund capital spend each year (the CFR) through a revenue charge (the MRP).

MHCLG Regulations and Guidance have been issued which require the Full Council to approve **an MRP Statement** in advance of each year. Four options for prudent provision of the MRP are provided to councils, these being:

Option 1 – Regulatory Method

For debt which is supported by the Government through the Revenue Support Grant system, authorities may continue to use the formulae in the current regulations, since the Revenue Support Grant is calculated on that basis. Although the existing regulation 28 is revoked by regulation 4(1) of the 2008 Regulations, authorities will be able to calculate MRP as if it were still in force. Solely as a transitional measure, this option will also be available for all capital expenditure incurred prior to 1 April 2008.

Option 2 – Capital Financing Requirement Method

This is a technically much simpler alternative to Option 1 which may be used in relation to supported debt. While still based on the concept of the CFR, which is easily derived from the balance sheet, it avoids the complexities of the formulae in the old regulation 28 (though for most authorities it will probably result in a higher level of provision than Option 1).

Option 3 – Asset Life Method

For new borrowing under the Prudential system for which no Government support is being given and is therefore self-financed, there are two options included in the guidance.

Option 3 is to make provision over the estimated life of the asset for which the borrowing is undertaken. This is a possibly simpler alternative to the use of depreciation accounting (Option 4), though it has some similarities to that approach.

Within option 3, two methods are identified. The first of these, the equal instalment method, will normally generate a series of equal annual amounts over the estimated life of the asset. The original amount of expenditure ("A" in the formula) remains constant.

The cumulative total of the MRP made to date ("B" in the formula) will increase each year. The outstanding period of the estimated life of the asset ("C" in the formula) reduces by 1 each year.

For example, if the life of the asset is originally estimated at 25 years, then in the initial year when MRP is made, C will be equal to 25. In the second year, C will be equal to 24, and so on. The original estimate of the life is determined at the outset and should not be varied thereafter, even if in reality the condition of the asset has changed significantly.

The formula allows a council to make voluntary extra provision in any year. This will be reflected by an increase in amount B and will automatically ensure that in future years the amount of provision determined by the formula is reduced.

The alternative is the annuity method, which has the advantage of linking MRP to the flow of benefits from an asset where the benefits are expected to increase in later years. It may be particularly attractive in connection with projects promoting regeneration or administrative efficiencies or schemes where revenues will increase over time.

Option 4 – Depreciation Method

Alternatively, for new borrowing under the Prudential system for which no Government support is being given, Option 4 may be used. This means making the MRP in accordance with the standard rules for depreciation accounting. A step in this direction was made in the last set of amendments to the MRP rules [SI 2007/573].

However, the move to reliance on guidance rather than regulations will make this approach more viable in future.

Authorities will normally need to follow the standard procedures for calculating depreciation provision. But the guidance identifies some necessary exceptions:

- The MRP continues until the total provision made is equal to the original amount of the debt and may then cease.
- If only part of the expenditure on the asset was financed by debt, the depreciation provision is proportionately reduced.

MRP Policy in respect of Finance Leases

The introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards in 2011/12 resulted in some leases being reclassified as finance leases instead of operating leases. This resulted in a positive CFR and as such the need to set aside a MRP.

In accordance with the revised MHCLG Guidance this Council will set aside an annual MRP equal to the amount of the lease that has been taken to the Balance Sheet to reduce the finance lease liability i.e. the principal amount of the finance lease. This approach will produce an MRP charge which is the same as Option 3 in the guidance (Asset Life Method – annuity method). The revised guidance aims to ensure that authorities are in the same position as if the change in accounting standards had not occurred.

MRP Policy – Other Capital Expenditure

Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

The Council's CFR is currently positive. This means that there is a requirement to set aside a MRP for the redemption of debt. The Prudential Indicator for the CFR, shown at Table 1 in the Treasury Management Strategy, indicates that the CFR will become positive within the period covered by the Strategy. This is based on the assumption that there will be a general overall increase in expected capital expenditure, which cannot be funded from revenue or capital resources. Accordingly, the Council needs to determine the option it will employ to make the necessary MRP in respect of the amount borrowed, when this occurs.

Option for making MRP

The most appropriate of the four options permitted by the Regulations is Option 3, the Asset Life Method, within which there are two further options, an equal instalment method and an annuity method (as detailed in 1.1 – option 3). The Council is permitted to apply either of these two further options to projects on a scheme by scheme basis. However, preference will be the annuity method.

It should be noted that MRP does not commence until the year following that in which the asset concerned became operational; however, voluntary MRP can be made at any given time if considered prudent.

Annex D – Treasury Management Glossary of Terms

- **Credit Default Swap** – an additional assessment of credit worthiness by providing a risk analysis of changes in credit quality as perceived by the market.
- **CFR** – the Capital Financing Requirement is the total historic outstanding capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for from either revenue or capital resources.
- **CIPFA** – the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, is the professional body for accountants working in Local Government and other public sector organisations.
- **Counterparty** – an institution with whom a borrowing or investment transaction is made.
- **CPI** – a measure that examines the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services. The Consumer Price Index is calculated by taking price changes for each item in the predetermined basket of goods/services and averaging them; the goods are weighted according to their importance. Changes in CPI are used to assess price changes associated with the cost of living.
- **Credit Rating** – is an opinion on the credit-worthiness of an institution, based on judgements about the future status of that institution. The main rating agencies are Fitch, Standard and Poor's and Moody's.
- **Depreciation** – the measure of the cost or revalued amount of the benefits of the fixed asset that have been consumed during the period. Consumption includes wearing out, using up or other reduction in the useful life of a fixed asset whether arising from use, time or obsolescence through either changes in technology or demand for the goods and services produced by the asset.
- **GDP** – Gross Domestic Product is the market value of all officially recognised final goods and services produced within a country in a given period of time.
- **IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards)** – International accounting standards that govern the treatment and reporting of income and expenditure in an organisation's accounts, which came fully into effect from 1 April 2010.
- **Leasing** - a lease is a contractual arrangement calling for the lessee (user) to pay the lessor (owner) for use of an asset.
- **Liquidity** – relates to the amount of readily available or short term investment money which can be used for either day to day or unforeseen expenses. For example, Call Accounts allow instant daily access to invested funds.
- **MHCLG** – Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government (formerly the Department for Communities and Local Government).
- **Money Market Funds (MMF)** – Money Market Funds are investment funds that are invested by a Fund Manager in a wide range of money market instruments. MMF's are monitored by the official ratings agencies and due to many requirements that need to be fulfilled; the funds usually receive the highest quality rating (AAA) so provide minimal risk. They are very flexible and can be withdrawn in the same way as any other call deposit.

- **MPC** – interest rates are set by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee. The MPC sets an interest rate it judges will enable the inflation target to be met
- **MRP** – the Minimum Revenue Provision represents the revenue charge for the repayment of debt.
- **PWLB** – the Public Works Loan Board is a statutory board that is run within the UK Debt Management Office (DMO), its function is to lend money to Local Authorities and other prescribed bodies.

This page is intentionally left blank

Investment Strategy

2024/25



Contents

Introduction	3
Treasury Management Investments	3
Service Investments: Loans	4
Service Investments: Shares	5
Commercial Investments: Property	6
Loan Commitments and Financial Guarantees	7
Proportionality	7
Borrowing in Advance of Need	8
Capacity, Skills and Culture	8
Investment Indicators	9

Introduction

This strategy is compiled according to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Guidance on Local Government Investments ("the Guidance") and the 2017 revised CIPFA Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes ("the CIPFA TM Code") It sets out the Council's policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments.

The Guidance distinguishes between Treasury Management Investments and Other Investments. Treasury Management Investments are those which arise from the Council's cash flows and debt management activity and ultimately represent balances which need to be invested until the cash is required for use in the course of business. Other Investments are all those falling outside of normal treasury management activity, as defined above. They may be made with the express purpose of making a financial surplus for the Council, usually as a means towards balancing the revenue budget. They may be funded from borrowing where appropriate. The prime example referred to in the Guidance is direct investment in property assets. Loans, for example to voluntary organisations, local enterprises or joint ventures are also classified as Other Investments.

The Council invests its money for three broad purposes:

- because it has surplus cash as a result of its day-to-day activities, for example when income is received in advance of expenditure (known as [treasury management investments](#)),
- to support local public services by lending to or buying shares in other organisations ([service investments](#)), and
- to earn investment income (known as [commercial investments](#) where this is the main purpose).

This investment strategy meets the requirements of statutory guidance issued by the government in January 2018, and focuses on the second and third of these categories.

Possible Revisions to the Strategy

The initial strategy may be replaced with a revised strategy at any time during the year in cases where any treasury management issues (including investment issues) need to be brought to the attention of Full Council.

Treasury Management Investments

The Council typically receives its income in cash (e.g. from taxes and grants) before it pays for its expenditure in cash (e.g. through payroll and invoices). It also holds reserves for future expenditure and collects local taxes on behalf of other local authorities and central government. These activities, plus the timing of borrowing decisions, lead to a cash surplus which is invested in accordance with guidance from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. The balance of treasury management investments is expected to fluctuate between £0m and £30m during the 2024/25 financial year.

Contribution: The contribution that these investments make to the objectives of the Council is to support effective treasury management activities.

Further details: Full details of the Council's policies and its plan for 2024/25 for treasury management investments are covered in a separate document, the treasury management strategy.

Service Investments: Loans

Contribution: During 2022/23 and 2023/24 to date the Council has not lent money to local charities, housing associations or any other bodies. However the Council would consider applications from such bodies individually, in order to support local public services and stimulate local economic growth.

Security: The main risk when making service loans is that the borrower will be unable to repay the principal lent and/or the interest due. In order to limit this risk, and ensure that total exposure to service loans remains proportionate to the size of the Council, upper limits on the outstanding loans to each category of borrower have been set as follows:

Loans for service purposes in £ thousands

Category of borrower	31/03/2023 Actual			2024/25
	Balance owing	Loss allowance	Net figure in accounts	Approved Limit
Local charities	0	0	0	500
Housing associations	0	0	0	10,000
Other bodies	0	0	0	500
Total	0	0	0	11,000

Accounting standards require the Council to set aside loss allowance for loans, reflecting the likelihood of non-payment. The figures for loans in the Council's statement of accounts are shown net of this loss allowance. However, the Council makes every reasonable effort to collect the full sum lent and has appropriate credit control arrangements in place to recover overdue repayments.

Risk assessment: The Council assesses the risk of loss before entering into and whilst holding service loans on an individual basis for each proposal. The risks inherent in the proposal will be reported to members when it is placed before them for consideration together with an assessment of the likelihood of any of them materialising, their impact on the revenue budget and the mitigating controls that will be put in place. Risk factors to be assessed include:

- barriers to entry into and exit out of the market concerned;
- the nature and level of competition;
- how the market and customer needs will evolve over time;
- ongoing need for further investment to be made; and
- whether there is sufficient internal capacity to assess the business case and risks relating to the proposal.

An initial review of each proposal will be carried out by Council officers, intended to determine whether there are any risks apparent at that stage which indicate that the proposal should not be proceeded with. Provided this is not the case and it has also been determined that there is a worthwhile business case for further consideration, a more detailed risk assessment will be carried out. Where necessary, owing to lack of internal expertise, external advisors may be used to assist with the assessment of appropriate risks. Any other appropriate sources of information may be used to assess and monitor risk, including credit ratings, if these are relevant. Data used to monitor ongoing risk will be reviewed regularly and appropriate action will be taken if there are any indications of increasing risk or risks materialising.

The Council will consider the following points:

- the degree to which the loan complies with corporate policies and furthers corporate objectives;
- the overall desirability of the activity which the loan is intended to fund;
- affordability in terms of the use of capital or other resources and impact on the revenue budget;
- the likelihood that the loan will be repaid in accordance with agreed terms; and
- the total amount of loans already made to ensure that as a whole the Council is not over-exposed to the risk of default.

All proposed loans will be subject to approval by members, normally via Full Council, following consideration of a report setting out all relevant matters, including compliance with the above criteria.

All loans will be subject to credit control arrangements to recover overdue repayments. Credit risk will be determined by reference to the “expected credit loss” model for loans and receivables as set out in International Reporting Standard (IFRS) 9 Financial Instruments.

Service Investments: Shares

Contribution: The Council currently does not invest in the shares of suppliers and local businesses in order to support local public services and stimulate local economic growth. This is due to the nature of the risks associated with investing in shares i.e. they are volatile and may fall in value meaning that the initial outlay may not be recovered. If the Council was to consider investing in shares, then in order to limit the risk, upper limits on the sum invested in each category of shares would need to be set.

Shares held for service purposes in £ thousands

Category of company	31/03/2023 actual			2024/25
	Amounts invested	Gains or losses	Value in accounts	Approved Limit
Suppliers	0	0	0	250
Local businesses	0	0	0	250
Total	0	0	0	500

Non-specified Investments: Shares are the only investment type that the Council has identified that meets the definition of a non-specified investment in the government guidance. The limits above on share investments are therefore also the Council's upper limits on non-specified investments. The Council has not adopted any procedures for determining further categories of non-specified investment since none are likely to meet the definition.

If the Council were to consider placing funds in any other type of investment which would be categorised as Non-Specified, the security of the capital sum would be the paramount concern. The same requirements as to credit ratings relating to Specified Investments will apply, and in appropriate cases the advice of the Council's treasury management advisors will be sought.

Commercial Investments: Property

Contribution: The Council invests in local commercial property with the intention of making a profit that will be spent on local public services. These are held primarily to earn income to be used to support the revenue budget although in some cases there may also be a contribution towards the economic wellbeing of the Borough.

Security: In accordance with government guidance, the Council considers a property investment to be secure if its accounting valuation is at or higher than its purchase cost including taxes and transaction costs.

A fair value assessment of the Council's investment property portfolio has been made within the past twelve months, and the underlying assets provide security for capital investment.

The majority of the investment property portfolio was acquired some time ago and there is no debt associated with any of the properties and the initial investment costs have been recouped many years ago. Investment properties are valued at fair value. The values of the properties will fluctuate according to market conditions prevailing from time to time, however these fluctuations do not constitute losses of capital invested. The value of investment properties included in the Council's balance sheet at 31 March 2023 is £12.759m.

If there are any new commercial investments funded from borrowing, their value will be monitored to determine whether it is sufficient to act as security for the capital invested and outstanding borrowing. If there is a significant fall in value then this will be reported to members.

Risk assessment: There are risks associated with making and holding commercial investments which require assessment and management.

With regard to the Council's current portfolio of commercial investments, comprising investment properties, the main risk is of not achieving the budgeted amount of income or of expenditure exceeding budgeted amounts. These risks are assessed and provided for via the assessment of the appropriate amount to hold in reserve in General Fund Balances. If the result of the assessment shows that current levels are inadequate, the necessary additional contribution will be made via inclusion in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

With regard to consideration of proposed new commercial investment there will be additional risks to be assessed and taken account of. The degree of control which the Council has over the materialisation of these risks and its ability to mitigate them should they arise will be important considerations. In most, if not all, cases the Council will be operating in a competitive environment and possibly one which it is not experienced in operating within, all of which increases the level of risk.

A comprehensive risk assessment, taking account of all appropriate factors, will be carried out on an individual basis for each investment proposal. The risks inherent in the proposal will be reported to members when it is placed before them for consideration together with an assessment of the likelihood of any of them materialising, their impact on the revenue budget and otherwise and available mitigation measures. Risk factors to be assessed include:

- barriers to entry into and exit out of the market concerned;
- the nature and level of competition;
- how the market and customer needs will evolve over time;
- ongoing need for further investment to be made, for example to adapt investment property or repair defects or carry out cyclical maintenance; and
- whether there is sufficient internal capacity to assess the business case and risks relating to the proposal.

An initial review of each proposed investment will be carried out by Council officers, intended to determine whether there are any risks apparent at that stage which indicate that the proposal should not be proceeded with. Provided this is not the case and it has also been determined that there is a worthwhile business case for further consideration of the investment, a more detailed risk assessment will be carried out. Where necessary, owing to lack of internal expertise, external advisors may be used to assist with the assessment of appropriate risks. Any other appropriate sources of information may be used to assess and monitor risk, including credit ratings, if these are relevant. Data used to monitor ongoing risk will be reviewed regularly and appropriate action will be taken if there are any indications of increasing risk or risks materialising.

Liquidity: Compared with other investment types, property is relatively difficult to sell and convert to cash at short notice, and can take a considerable period to sell in certain market conditions. There is no outstanding borrowing in relation to the current portfolio so any sales proceeds would be available in full to support capital investment.

In the case of any future commercial property investments, the likely degree of liquidity will be a consideration in deciding whether to make the investment.

Loan Commitments and Financial Guarantees

Although not strictly counted as investments, since no money has exchanged hands yet, loan commitments and financial guarantees carry similar risks to the Council and are included here for completeness. To date, the Council is not contractually committed to make any loans.

Proportionality

The Council is dependent on profit generating investment activity to achieve a balanced revenue budget.

Net investment property income is subject to fluctuation according to market conditions and other factors such as bad debts and unforeseen expenditure. Accordingly the possibility of shortfalls in contribution towards the revenue budget from this source is one of the factors specifically taken into consideration in calculating the level of General Fund balance to be held as a contingency against adverse budget variances. A total of £1.910m (£2.157m for 2024/25) is currently held in balances to cover this and other risks and can be drawn upon in the event of risks materialising.

It is not planned to vary the amount of investment property held in the short term. However, in accordance with the Asset Management Strategy, all such property will be kept under review to determine whether the return obtained justifies retention and there may be instances where it is decided to dispose of property to obtain a capital receipt. The net contribution made towards balancing the revenue budget and the options for replacing any significant loss of income will be one of the factors taken into account when determining whether or not to dispose of a property.

Borrowing in Advance of Need

The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (2017) issued by CIPFA states that local authorities should not borrow more than or in advance of their needs purely to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. This is repeated in the Statutory Investment Guidance issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The reasons for making an investment are unlikely to be purely in order to make a profit since investments may also be made with the intention of furthering corporate aims or service objectives, such as economic regeneration.

Accordingly, borrowing will be permitted in respect of Other Investments. The Council will consider each proposal to borrow on its merits. As well as the corporate or service benefits due regard will be given to the financial impact upon the revenue budget in terms of capital financing costs.

All borrowing will be subject to approval by members, normally via Full Council, following consideration of a report setting out all relevant matters, including those referred to above.

Capacity, Skills and Culture

Council members and staff involved in dealing with Other Investments will have regard to the provisions of the CIPFA Prudential Code and the regulatory regime within which local authorities operate when carrying out these functions.

Investment in commercial property is a specialist area and the Council will therefore commission external advice in order to effectively appraise investment proposals, negotiate with third parties or manage certain types of investment on an ongoing basis. The external advice will be commissioned on a case by case basis and where asset management is required external managers may need to be employed, particularly if investment is made in residential property.

Decisions to make Other Investments and the means of financing them will be subject to member approval. This will normally be by Full Council (but may be by Cabinet where permitted by the Council's Constitution). Members will consider a report setting out all matters relevant to the making of an investment before making a decision. The normal scrutiny and call-in arrangements will apply.

Investment Indicators

The Council has set the following quantitative indicators to allow elected members and the public to assess the Council's total risk exposure as a result of its investment decisions.

Gross and Net Income - Historic and Current Year

	2020/21 Actual (£000's)	2021/22 Actual (£000's)	2022/23 Actual (£000's)	2023/24 Estimate* (£000's)
Commercial Properties				
Gross Income	925	864	1,053	987
Gross Expenditure - Excluding Capital Charges	(964)	(837)	(1,027)	(949)
Net Income / (Expenditure)	(40)	27	26	38
Net Service Expenditure (Whole Council)	(7,515)	(7,641)	(7,911)	(8,169)
Ratio of Net Income to Net Service Expenditure	-0.53%	0.35%	0.35%	0.47%

Gross and Net Income - Over Period of Approved Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29 – Based on 2% increase on 2023/24

	2024/25 Estimate (£000's)	2025/26 Estimate (£000's)	2026/27 Estimate (£000's)	2027/28 Estimate (£000's)	2028/29 Estimate (£000's)
Gross Income	1,007	1,027	1,047	1,068	1,090
Gross Expenditure	(967)	(987)	(1,007)	(1,027)	(1,048)
Net Income	40	40	40	41	42

Vacancy Levels

2020/21 Actual (%)	2021/22 Actual (%)	2022/23 Actual (%)	2023/24 Actual at Q2 (%)
5.7	10.2	9.4	6.9

This page is intentionally left blank

Commercial Strategy

2024 to 2025



Contents

Introduction	3
Key objectives and priorities	3
Vision	3
Strategy outcomes	4
What 'commercial' means to us?	4
Benefits	5
Objectives	6
Culture	6
Developing the programme and our priorities	6
How will we realise our strategic outcomes?	7
How will we make this happen?	8
How does the strategy support our organisational goals?	8
What is the governance structure?	9
How will risks be measured?	9
What are the tools and structures we will use?	9
How will we fund and resource the journey?	9

Introduction

Our Corporate Plan sets out an ambitious agenda for Newcastle-under-Lyme. We want to help our communities to become stronger and more vibrant and we want to continue to deliver excellent services to our residents. We are focussing on our place-shaping role to create high quality neighbourhoods, facilities, town centres and jobs. We aspire to create new and better homes for our residents and we need to respond to the climate and ecological emergency. At the same time, our funding remains under pressure. Funding from Central Government continues to fall and, as a result, both our Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy recognise the need for the Council to be a more commercial organisation.

This means that we need to improve service delivery and organisational efficiency and find ways to generate more income as a critical component of our financial strategy. Successful delivery of the Commercial Strategy should enable members and officers to make positive choices about what they want to invest in, and where, rather than being forced to make decisions about how, and where, to reduce expenditure.

Therefore, in order to deliver the priorities of the Corporate Plan, the Council needs a new, more agile, innovative, and commercially aware operating model to ensure that, in an environment of continued reductions in central funding, our limited resources are used to leverage maximum value and create a financially sustainable organisation that meets the changing needs and expectations of residents.

Key objectives and priorities

The Council's Priorities contained in the Council Plan are:

One Council Delivering for Local People
A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough
Healthy, Active and Safe Communities
Town Centres for All

Vision

Our vision is for Newcastle-under-Lyme to be a sustainable and business-oriented Council that maximises commercial opportunities in order to deliver long-term benefits for residents of the borough and support the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. As a Council which adopts a commercial mind-set across the organisation. We expect staff to think innovatively and deliver services differently. We will use commercial principles to maximise the impact of our assets (whether physical or intangible) to benefit our communities and deliver financial sustainability.

This will be achieved through:

- Generation of service efficiencies and new income streams

- We will continually identify and develop opportunities to commercialise existing and new services
- When we need to charge for our services, we will price commercially, ensuring that this covers the full cost of the service unless we have made a conscious and evidenced decision to subsidise
- We will be commercially astute – we will understand the market for our services, and know how to make it work for us
- Effective procurement and contract management
- Prudent investment in income generating assets
- We will all understand and recognise where we have a role to play in maximising the impact of the Council's assets for the benefit of residents and communities.
- Strategic asset development

Strategy outcomes

1. To generate income through commercial activity that can be reinvested in local priorities, services and improvements for our residents.
2. To build strong working relationships with public, private and third sector partners in order to maximise collaboration and generate efficiencies.
3. To embed a commercial culture within the council and ensure that our staff are equipped with the skills they need to operate in a more commercial environment.
4. To support the council in delivering the council plan and growth agenda as a key pillar of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and our goal of financial self-sufficiency.
5. To optimise the council's use of technology and support our digital agenda in order to enable new, more efficient and flexible ways of working and interacting with customers and residents.

What 'commercial' means to us

Commercial approaches are being adopted by many local authorities. However, the focus and definition of what that means is different from one council to the next.

It is important therefore, to define what we, at Newcastle-under-Lyme, mean by being commercial.

Working commercially is about using our assets and capabilities in the most efficient and effective way to create a net benefit to the Council's finances. It is about identifying and implementing opportunities, which expand the ways the Council, can secure income.

Being commercial is also about being creative and exploring new ideas and activities, which will increase income to the Council. It means that we will need to work in different ways and Council employees will need to develop new skills and behaviours to help make the delivery of the Strategy a success.

Every commercial opportunity will be robustly assessed before it is put forward for formal approval and the Council will develop a range of commercial projects within the programme to balance risks. There

will always be a clear link between any commercial endeavour and the Council delivering better services for residents.

Commercialisation is NOT just about making money. It is as much about avoiding costs, through early intervention and prevention, as it is about developing new projects.

This strategy impacts on all services across the Council. 'Being commercial' is a mindset that must underpin the way we all do our jobs.

This means 'commercialisation' at Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and includes all of the following:

- Preventing costs arising in the first place
- Creating social value to enable delivery of excellence in services to our communities
- Early intervention to prevent a cost escalating
- Redesigning our staff structures and internal processes to be most efficient and effective
- Reviewing service delivery models (e.g. outsourced, shared service, company) to be most efficient and effective
- Effectively procuring and managing our contracts
- Identifying new sources of income
- Commissioning the right outputs/outcomes
- Enhanced financial ownership by service managers
- Maximising existing sources of income
- Eliminating unnecessary demand and work
- Insight and Intelligence to make good choices

Benefits

The successful delivery of the strategy will achieve multiple benefits including:

- Ensuring our resources are stewarded wisely to deliver outcomes for our residents and businesses.
- Enhancing our ability to provide social, economic and environmental outcomes that can help to deliver against all four of our priorities: One Council Delivering for Local People; A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough; Healthy, Active and Safe Communities; Town Centres for All.
- Developing new income streams to support services and the Council's budget.
- Creating a culture where staff think and act differently to deliver new ways of service delivery to serve our residents and businesses.
- Inspiring staff by embedding a forward thinking, opportunity focused mind-set that can drive wider culture shift.

- Increasing the robustness of the organisation through the creation of a diverse commercial portfolio to ensure long term organisational sustainability.

Objectives

Primary Objective

The primary objective is to use the Council's resources as effectively and efficiently as possible when delivering the Council Plan.

Secondary Objectives

Achievement of the primary objective will come in part through the following secondary objectives:

- Developing a **commercial culture**
- Putting **sound governance** in place – being clear about responsibilities, authorities, processes, templates and funding
- Ensuring there is appropriate **performance management** in place for commercial initiatives

The overarching aim of this strategy is to deliver a financial return, which contributes to the Council's efficiencies and additional income targets. This will help to safeguard, and develop, frontline services that the Council currently provides and enhance the Council's ability to invest in its place shaping agenda.

Funding and investment will be required for the successful implementation of this strategy. It is important to note that the benefits of pursuing the Commercial Strategy are not purely financial. Becoming a commercially focused organisation means putting the customer at the heart of everything we do. We will actively encourage creative thinking to develop more effective and customer-centric ways to deliver our services.

Culture

Developing a commercial culture is an important part of this strategy. To achieve the ambitious objectives outlined in this strategy, all participants need to fulfil their roles. Whilst large commercial projects will be important, we are looking to develop a commercial culture across all service areas where, thinking in a business-like way and making business-like decisions, along with being creative and innovative is the normal way of working at the Council.

An embedded commercial culture will enable all our services to reach their potential and it will unlock new and innovative ways of delivering services to residents and businesses in Newcastle-under-Lyme. A commercial culture will encourage us to be creative and entrepreneurial, finding ways to add value to the way we serve residents. This will include behaviours such as challenging current approaches to look for improvements, seeking ways to maximise value for customers and the Council from contracts and looking for growth opportunities.

A culture can be defined as 'the way we do things round here' and the way we operate across our service areas will be ambitious and bold, working in new ways to steward the resources we have in the most effective way to deliver the priorities highlighted in the Council Plan.

Developing the programme and our priorities

A portfolio of opportunities has then been selected for further development. This approach should ensure that the Council pursues a diverse range of opportunities - different in their potential scale, complexity and nature – to balance the risks of the overall programme.

In selecting the opportunities, consideration has been given to:

- The need to generate a net financial return to support the pressures identified in the MTFS.
- The creation of large-scale commercial projects that have the potential to create long-term income for the Council.
- Development of a commercial culture across service areas, so that thinking and acting in a commercial manner becomes central to the Council's thinking and decision-making.

The following table shows the highest commercial priorities to investigate within the commercial programme.

Priority Area	Description	Impact
Commercial Waste	Developing the Commercial Waste income streams, building on the existing assumptions that form part of the Waste Transformation Programme	Increase the number of businesses using the council service and improve the level of income generated
Light Industrial	Develop and regenerate sites into light industrial units	Increased revenue generation, servicing demand in the local area and supporting economic development
Smart Parking	Utilising ANPR to increase car parking revenue from major council assets	Increase revenue substantially, provide a better parking experience and support retail in the borough
Fees and Charges	Increasing fees and charges that benchmarking has shown to be currently charged at low rates in Staffordshire	Increase in income generated
Investment Opportunities for commercial return	Continue to investigate investment opportunities that will deliver a commercial return and build up our commercial portfolio	Increased revenue generation, servicing demand in the local area and supporting economic development

How will we realise our strategic outcomes?

- Act with intelligence and agility
- Embrace transformation and innovation

- Understand that resources are required for growth and change
- Act with integrity and high ethical standards
- Embrace commercialism and maximise income
- Create and nurture commercial and development opportunities
- Act strategically for the long-term benefit of the borough and its residents
- Greater focus on procurement and contract management
- Create a sustainable commercial programme
- Know the market place and act competitively
- Establish a strong commercial culture and invest in staff and member skills
- Drive our digital agenda forward
- Demand more from service providers and contracts
- Ensure we get value for money for residents
- Listen to our staff and customers
- Actively seek and work with partners commercially
- Engage with specialist commercial advisers and professional partners
- Pursue opportunities to generate efficiencies and financial savings
- Dispose of assets when the market is no longer viable
- Extract maximum value from our property and land assets and income streams
- Stop activities that add no value or benefit to customers
- Challenge where services can be commissioned

How will we make this happen?

- Endorsement from members of the council
- Sponsorship from the Corporate Leadership Team
- Facilitated by a highly skilled commercial team
- Collaboration across all council services and teams
- External specialist advice and support
- Initiatives owned by services

How does the strategy support our organisational goals?

- Robust financial and commercial service programmes aligned to the council plan.

- Supports the MTFS and closure of funding gap.
- Uses commercial activities to leverage funding opportunities to support the regeneration of the borough.

What is the governance structure?

- Investment decisions will be taken by full Cabinet.
- Some changes may be required to the Council's Constitution to enable timely decision making as commercial opportunities present themselves.

How will risks be managed?

- Partner with industry experts and specialists
- Ensure transparency and effective communication
- Rigorous approval processes and project scrutiny
- Following corporate risk management and mitigation procedures
- Effective contract management
- Meticulous due diligence

What are the tools and structures we will use?

- Exercise statutory powers
- Shared service agreements
- Crown Commercial Service, g-cloud and local framework agreements
- Joint venture partnerships
- Arms-length management organisations and/or council owned companies

How will we fund and resource the journey?

- Generate a return on investment to fund services
- Make every penny count
- Explore opportunities to share services with other councils
- Maximise existing revenue streams
- Effective and proportionate risk management
- Robust strategic and operational planning
- Access to government grants and other funding
- Invest to save

This page is intentionally left blank

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO CABINET

16 January 2024

Report Title: **Scale of Fees and Charges 2024/25**

Submitted by: **Service Director for Finance (S151 Officer)**

Portfolios: **Finance, Town Centres and Growth**

Ward(s) affected: **All**

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
To obtain approval for the proposed scale of fees and charges to apply from 1 April 2024.			
<u>Recommendation</u>			
That Cabinet:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the proposed fees and charges, to apply from 1 April 2024, as set out in Appendix 1 2. Approve the Charging Policy, as set out in Appendix 2 			
<u>Reasons</u>			
It is necessary to review the fees and charges which the Council makes in order to keep them in line with the cost of service provision, ensure compliance with the Charging Policy and to establish the amounts to be included in the 2024/25 budget.			

1. Background

- 1.1 The Cabinet is asked annually to consider proposals for the fees and charges to be applied during the following financial year. It is proposed that the new fees and charges set out at Appendix 1 should take effect from 1 April 2024 and remain in force until 31 March 2025.
- 1.2 The Council has an approved Charging Policy, which is followed when fees and charges are proposed and agreed. This sets out the criteria that should be taken into consideration when establishing the amounts to be charged

2. Issues

- 2.1** The Medium Term Financial Strategy, reviewed by Cabinet on 5 December 2023, assumed an overall 4% increase in the amount of income raised from fees and charges in 2024/25.
- 2.2** The proposals made vary between minimal decreases, increase, and freezes to the fees and charges for the year. When these proposals are applied to the appropriate income budgets, they fall broadly in line with the assumed overall 4% increase.
- 2.3** Most of the fees and charges are inclusive of VAT but in some cases no VAT is chargeable, or VAT is added to the fee or charge. The VAT status of individual fees and charges is shown in Appendix 1.
- 2.4** When considering the level of fees and charges the principles contained in the Charging Policy should be followed.
- 2.5** In drawing up the proposed fees and charges for 2024/25 these have been considered by Service Directors who were provided with a copy of the Charging Policy and were requested to ensure that their charges were set in accordance with the Policy, considering:
- The cost of providing the service.
 - How much income it is desired to generate and why.
 - Comparison of charges made by other Councils or providers of similar services.
 - Whose use of services it is desired to subsidise and by how much.
 - Whose behaviour it is desired to influence and in what ways.
 - How will charges help to improve value for money, equity and access to services.
 - Will the cost of collecting the income outweigh the income likely to be collected.
 - Any other relevant factors.
- 2.6** It is acceptable for charges to be set at a level where costs are not fully recovered. There may be reasons for doing so, such as a desire to encourage take up of a service by specified groups, for example the unemployed, benefits recipients, the elderly, disabled persons or children, or to influence particular forms or patterns of behaviour.
- 2.7** The decision to charge less than cost ought to be a conscious one, taken by members and justified by reference to the reasons for setting charges at less than cost as set out in the charging principles contained in section 5 of the Charging Policy, shown in Appendix 2.
- 2.8** For 2024/25 a number of fees compared to previous years have remained frozen due to the ongoing impact of Covid-19 and current cost of living situation. This is due to the negative impact it may have had on service uptake. This has been factored into the Medium Term Financial Strategy assumptions.

2.9 Alongside the review of the Council's fees and charges, work has been undertaken to benchmark fees alongside those of other Authorities nationwide. This work has then been used as a basis to challenge officers' first fee proposals. In addition, there were no missed opportunities with regards the fees and charges that the Council is currently charging.

2.10 The Scale of Fees and Charges (Appendix 1) shows the current and proposed fees and charges for 2024/25 and indicates those which have been frozen at current levels. There are several new charges proposed for 2024/25. The table below shows these:

New Charges - Description of Charge	Fee / Charge 2024/25 (£)
CEMETERIES	
Interment Fees – Resident Fees	
Interment of body part	480.00
Double interment (two interments taking place at the same time)	Interment Fee + 50%
Interment Fees – Non Resident Fees	
Interment of body part	730.00
Double interment (two interments taking place at the same time)	Interment Fee + 50%
Sundry items	
Admin fee	85.00
Late removal of memorial resulting in a delay of grave excavation	150.00
Incorrect coffin size	50.00
COVENANT CONSENTS	
Initial purchase enquiry form for land smaller than 0.1ha (deducted from land transaction fee if completed otherwise non-refundable)	100.00
CREMATORIUM	
Cremation Fees	
Storage of ashes where burial is to be arranged (per week after 12 weeks)	20.00
Plaques	
Wall plaque purchase at end of lease (12" x 4")	100.00
Wall plaque purchase at end of lease (12" x 8")	200.00
Additional Memorials	
Individual memorial bench - 5-year renewal	500.00
Remembrance bench (up to 12 plaques) - initial lease of plaque 5 years	295.00
Remembrance bench (up to 12 plaques) - renewal for 5 years	175.00
Memorial leaf on tree initial 5-year lease	300.00
Memorial leaf on tree renewal for 5 years	250.00
Garden / Memorial Plaque - 5-year renewal	205.00
Admin Fee	85.00

New Charges - Description of Charge	Fee / Charge 2024/25 (£)
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH Environmental Offences - Fixed Penalty Notices Domestic Waste Section 46 (Environmental Protection Act 1990) Environmental Health Licences Hiring out Horses - new licence Vet Fee Hiring out Horses - renew licence Vet Fee Breeding Dogs - New licence Vet Fee	60.00 Price on Application Price on Application Price on Application
MARKETS Stalls - Secondary offer (16 weeks only / per day) Electricity Charge for pitches on AFG licensed markets Record Fair	50% stall rent 7.50 10.00
MUSEUM & ART GALLERY Complex collections/archive research per hour Object loans to Accredited Museums (outside the county) includes condition report 1:1 session with collections adviser (after 15 minutes) Archive/Object scans (paper or digital) A4 colour - First Scan Archive/Object scans (paper or digital) A4 colour - Subsequent Scan Archive/Object scans (paper or digital) A3 colour - First Scan Archive/Object scans (paper or digital) A3 colour - Subsequent Scan	25.00 200.00 12.50 10.00 5.00 15.00 5.00
PLANNING Section 106 Section 106 Monitoring for each obligation forming part of an agreement, excluding those elements the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council Additional time spent in monitoring over and above the expected 1 working day, per hour	300.00 40.25

2.11 Regarding Bereavement Service charges, Officers have identified the need to include a fee in relation to the interment of bodies, or body parts. This is not something that is undertaken regularly and is included as a fee for those rare instances that it is required. A review of the memorialisation items available to residents from Bereavement Services also identified that several small amendments were required with regards to the period over which a memorial is leased.

2.12 Along with changes to the maximum chargeable Fixed Penalty Notice fees for waste offences that were increased following the Government's Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan that was introduced in July 2023, a fee in relation to Domestic Waste Section 46 (Environmental Protection Act 1990).

- 2.13** A benchmarking exercise has been undertaken of the Museum fees and several archive related charges have been introduced following this.
- 2.14** It is recognised in national guidance that the formulation and then subsequent monitoring of the implementation of S106 planning obligations creates work for local planning authorities. From 1st April 2024, the Council will charge a fee for the monitoring, reporting and delivery of planning obligations.
- 2.15** Several fees and charges approved for 2023/24 have been deleted from the proposed fees and charges for 2024/25 The table below shows these:

Deleted Charges - Description of Charge	Fee / Charge 2023/24 (£)
CEMETERIES	
Purchase of Graves - Non-Resident Fees Memorial permit	950.00
Erection of Memorials (no prior right given) Replacement memorial	55.00
Sundry Items Memorial benches - maintenance by request (cleaning & staining)	184.00
CREMATORIUM	
Cremation Fees Genealogy enquiry per deceased	30.00
Obitus Fees Single Photo	13.00
Plaques Regilding existing letters	50.00
Additional Memorials Memorial benches maintenance by request (cleaning & staining)	184.00
Vases various – small	Various
Shrubs (inclusive of aluminium vase)	399.00
Each succeeding 5-year hire	171.00
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	
Environmental Offences - Fixed Penalty Notices Household waste duty of care fixed penalty notices. Environmental protection Act 1990 Section 34(2)A) (paid within 10 days)	120.00
Fly tipping (The Unauthorised Deposit of Waste (Fixed Penalties) Regulations 2016 which amends Environmental Protection Act 1990 "33ZA Fixed penalty notices for contravention of section 33(1)(a): England (paid in 10 days)	350.00

Deleted Charges - Description of Charge	Fee / Charge 2023/24 (£)
LEISURE	
Jubilee 2	
Plus Membership - annual fee	10.00
Plus Membership (Concession scheme) - yearly membership, entitles holder to concession prices, includes first session	6.00
<i>Swim / Climbing Casual Fee</i>	
Adult - Plus membership	5.00
Children u4 (swim only)	1.00
<i>Gym / Classes Casual Fee</i>	
Adult - Plus membership	6.00
Tennis Class A (Westlands, Wolstanton)	
LTA Tennis Development Initiatives	Free
Coaching / Competitions	Negotiable
LICENCES	
VEHICLES	
HCV test 10yrs+	79.00
PHV test 10yrs+	79.00
MUSEUM & ART GALLERY	
Event Fees	
Visit to Father Christmas	10.00
Talks & Classes	30.00
PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	
Houses in multiple occupation licence fee for a member of the North Staffs Landlord Accreditation Scheme	568.00
Each additional bedroom	9.00
Renewal of houses in multiple occupation licence or a member of the North Staffs Landlord	395.00

- 2.16** The fees and charges have been reviewed to identify where they do not align with the services being provided by the Bereavement Services team. This has led to a number of fees being removed, as alternative options are what is provided, or in the instance of services provided by Obitus are no longer provided.
- 2.17** Fixed Penalty Notices in relation to Environmental Offences have been subject to change due to the Government's Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan that was introduced in July 2023. This has included the removal of a reduced fee for payment within ten days.

- 2.18 The decision has been made at Jubilee 2 to no longer provide the Plus Membership which provided casual users with a £1 discount off the fee. In turn this has meant the removal of the reduced fees as well.
- 2.19 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle test fees have been removed specifically for those vehicles older than ten years. The fee is now set for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles no matter the age of the vehicle.
- 2.20 The remaining fees listed above are no longer provided and therefore have been removed.
- 2.21 Due to the commercial sensitivity of the proposed charges for the trade waste service, these are not included on part 1 of the agenda and are exempt from publication by reasons of paragraph 3 of part 1 of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972. The proposed charges can be found in part 2 of the agenda.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That the fees and charges proposed to apply from 1 April 2024, as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.
- 3.2 That the Charging Policy as set out in Appendix 2 be approved.

4. Reasons

- 4.1 Applying selective increases to fees and charges will enable economic activity to be promoted within the Borough. It will also contribute to the delivery of a sustainable budget for 2024/25 and later years and will help to keep fees and charges in line with the cost of service provision.

5. Options Considered

- 5.1 None.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1 Statutory charges are included in the scale of fees and charges and are noted as such. These are set by the government rather than by the Council. Land Charges and Licensing fees are set in accordance with a statutory requirement to balance income with expenditure. All other charges may be set by the Council in accordance with its Charging Policy.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 Local authorities have a responsibility to meet the Public Sector Duty of the Equality Act 2010. The Act gives people the right not to be treated less

favourably due to protected characteristics. It is important to consider the potential impact on such groups and individuals when designing or delivering services.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

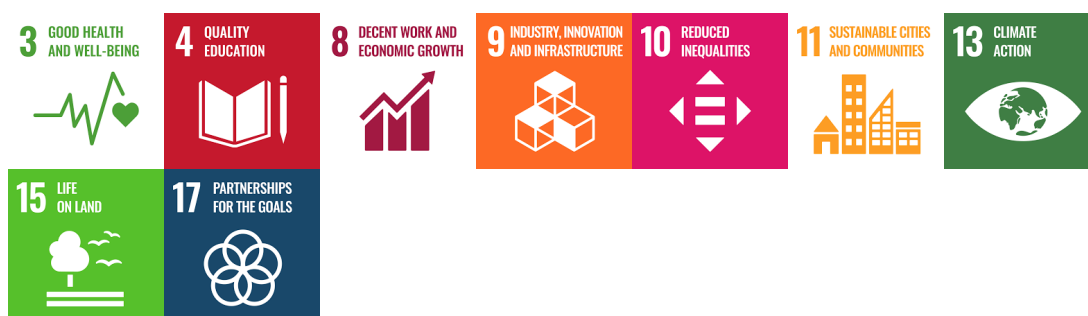
- 8.1** The approved levels of fees and charges will be incorporated in the General Fund Budget for 2024/25. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) assumes increased income of £230,000 from an average increase of 4% across the existing range of fees and charges.
- 8.2** The proposals made vary between minimal decreases to increases. When these proposals are applied to the appropriate income budgets, they fall broadly in line with the assumed overall 4% increase.

9. **Major Risks & Mitigation**

- 9.1** A major risk is that the current depressed economic situation leads to less demand from users of Council services, resulting in significant loss of income. The level of charges will in some cases influence this demand.

10. **UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)**

- 10.1** In shaping fees and charges proposals consideration will be given to the need for investment in order to deliver the Council's Sustainable Environment Action Plan and the regeneration projects detailed in the Council Plan.



11. **Key Decision Information**

- 11.1** This is a key decision; it has been included in the Forward Plan.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

- 12.1** None.

13. List of Appendices

13.1 Appendix 1 – Scale of Fees and Charges 2024/25 (Proposed)

13.2 Appendix 2 – Charging Policy

14. Background Papers

14.1 None.

SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES 2024/25

Fees and Charges	Page
ALLOTMENTS	2
BULKY RECYCLING	2
BUS DEPARTURE CHARGES	2
CAR PARKS	2
CEMETERIES	7
CIRCUSES & FAIRS	10
COVENANT CONSENTS	10
CREMATORIUM	10
DOG WARDEN SERVICE	13
ELECTIONS	13
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	15
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT	19
GARDEN WASTE RECYCLING	19
LAND CHARGES	19
LEISURE CHARGES	20
<i>Jubilee 2</i>	20
LICENCES	24
<i>Private Hire/Hackney Carriage</i>	26
MARKETS	29
MOT	30
MUSEUM & ART GALLERY	30
NAMING/ NUMBERING OF STREETS/ PROPERTIES	31
PEST CONTROL	32
PLANNING SERVICES	33
PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	35
REMOVAL OF DOMESTIC ANIMAL CARCASSES	35
SALE OF SANDBAGS	36
STREET TRADING	36
TOWN CENTRE DISPLAYS	36
TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS	36
WASTE & RECYCLING BINS/ RECEPTACLES	36

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
ALLOTMENTS				No VAT	Cabinet
Rent (per annum) per square metre	0.52	0.54	0.02		
Note: 20% concession for Junior/60+/Unemployed					
BULKY RECYCLING				No VAT	Cabinet
1-3 Items non reusable/waste items	42.50	50.00	7.50		
4-6 Items non reusable/waste items	67.50	80.00	12.50		
7-9 Items non reusable/waste items	84.00	100.00	16.00		
Reusable items	Free	Free	Freeze		
BUS DEPARTURE CHARGES				Plus VAT	Cabinet
Fee per departure	0.30	0.35	0.05		
CAR PARKS					
Charges for Infringements				No VAT	
Civil parking enforcement - higher charge	70.00	70.00	Freeze		
Civil parking enforcement - lower charge	50.00	50.00	Freeze		
Discount for block purchase of permits					
Discount for purchase of 20 or more permits	20.00	20.00	Freeze		
Construction permit (max of 1 week permit)				VAT Incl.	
Initial day rate	15.00	16.00	1.00		
Additional days	6.00	7.00	1.00		
Bankside				VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Season ticket - per quarter	156.00	165.00	9.00		
Each additional permit for the same numbered bay - per quarter	25.00	26.00	1.00		
Overnight quarterly permit - 6pm to 7am	60.00	62.00	2.00		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Blackfriars (Zone C)				VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Up to 1 hour	1.00	1.10	0.10		
Up to 2 hours	1.50	1.60	0.10		
Up to 3 hours	2.00	2.10	0.10		
Up to 4 hours	2.50	2.60	0.10		
Up to 6 hours	3.00	3.20	0.20		
6 hours to 24 hours	3.50	3.70	0.20		
Season ticket - per quarter	156.00	165.00	9.00		
Evening charge - 1pm to 8am	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Overnight quarterly permit - 8pm to 8am	60.00	65.00	5.00		
Bank Holiday	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Event Parking	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Cherry Orchard (Zone B)				VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Up to 1 hour	1.00	1.10	0.10		
Up to 2 hours	1.90	2.00	0.10		
Up to 3 hours	2.80	3.00	0.20		
Up to 4 hours	4.00	4.20	0.20		
4 hours to 24 hours	5.20	5.50	0.30		
Season ticket - per quarter	156.00	165.00	9.00		
Evening charge - 1pm to 8am	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Overnight quarterly permit - 8pm to 8am	60.00	65.00	5.00		
Bank Holiday	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Event Parking	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Corporation Street (Zone A)				VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Up to 1/2 hour	0.80	0.90	0.10		
Up to 1 hour	1.50	1.60	0.10		
Evening charge - 1pm to 8am	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Overnight quarterly permit - 8pm to 8am	60.00	65.00	5.00		
Bank Holiday	1.50	1.50	Freeze		
Event Parking	1.50	1.50	Freeze		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Fogg Street East (Zone A)					
Season ticket - per quarter	156.00	165.00	9.00	VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Each additional permit for the same numbered bay - per quarter	25.00	26.00	1.00		
Overnight quarterly permit - 6pm to 7am	60.00	65.00	5.00		
Goose Street (Zone B)				VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Up to 1 hour	1.00	1.10	0.10		
Up to 2 hours	1.90	2.00	0.10		
Up to 3 hours	2.80	3.00	0.20		
Up to 4 hours	4.00	4.20	0.20		
4 hours to 24 hours	5.20	5.50	0.30		
Season ticket - per quarter	156.00	165.00	9.00		
Evening charge - 1pm to 8am	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Overnight quarterly permit - 8pm to 8am	60.00	65.00	5.00		
Bank Holiday	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Event Parking	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Hassell Street (Zone B) (Bandings Subject to Review)				VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Up to 1 hour	1.00	1.10	0.10		
Up to 2 hours	1.90	2.00	0.10		
Up to 3 hours	2.80	3.00	0.20		
Up to 4 hours	4.00	4.20	0.20		
4 hours to 24 hours	5.20	5.50	0.30		
Season ticket - per quarter	156.00	165.00	9.00		
Resident permit - per quarter	60.00	65.00	5.00		
Evening charge - 1pm to 8am	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Overnight quarterly permit - 8pm to 8am	60.00	65.00	5.00		
Bank Holiday	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Event Parking	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
High Street (Rear of)				VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Season ticket - per quarter	156.00	165.00	9.00		
Each additional permit for the same numbered bay - per quarter	25.00	26.00	1.00		
Overnight quarterly permit - 6pm to 7am	60.00	65.00	5.00		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
King Street (Zone C)				VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Up to 1 hour	1.00	1.10	0.10		
Up to 2 hours	1.50	1.60	0.10		
Up to 3 hours	2.00	2.10	0.10		
Up to 4 hours	2.50	2.60	0.10		
Up to 6 hours	3.00	3.20	0.20		
6 hours to 24 hours	3.50	3.70	0.20		
Season Ticket - per quarter	156.00	165.00	9.00		
Evening charge - 1pm to 8am	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Overnight quarterly permit - 8pm to 8am	60.00	65.00	5.00		
Bank Holiday	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Event Parking	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Lyme Valley / Buckmaster Ave					
Up to 3 hours	Free	Free	Freeze		
Up to 4 hours	4.25	4.50	0.25	VAT Incl.	Cabinet
4 - 24 hours	6.00	6.30	0.30		
Season Ticket - per quarter	156.00	165.00	9.00		
Lyme Valley / Lyme Valley Rd					
Up to 2 hours	Free	Free	Freeze		
Up to 3 hours	3.20	3.40	0.20		
Up to 4 hours	4.25	4.50	0.25		
4 - 24 hours	6.00	6.30	0.30		
Season Ticket - per quarter	156.00	165.00	9.00	VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Midway (Zone A)					
Up to 1 hour	1.10	1.20	0.10		
Up to 2 hours	2.10	2.20	0.10		
Up to 3 hours	3.20	3.40	0.20		
Up to 4 hours	4.25	4.50	0.25		
Up to 24 hours	6.00	6.30	0.30		
Season ticket - per quarter	156.00	165.00	9.00		
Evening charge - 1pm to 8am (closed at 9pm Mon-Sat and 5.30pm on Sunday)	1.00	1.00	Freeze	VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Overnight quarterly permit - 8pm to 8am	60.00	65.00	5.00		
Bank Holiday	1.10	1.10	Freeze		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Event Parking	1.10	1.10	Freeze		
Ryecroft (Zone B)					
Up to 1 hour	1.10	1.20	0.10	VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Up to 2 hours	2.10	2.20	0.10		
Up to 3 hours	3.20	3.40	0.20		
Up to 4 hours	4.25	4.50	0.25		
Up to 24 hours	6.00	6.30	0.30		
Overnight 1pm to 8am	1.10	1.00	-0.10		
Bank Holiday	1.10	1.10	Freeze		
Event Parking	1.10	1.10	Freeze		
School Street/ Barracks Road (Zone B)					
Up to 1 hour	1.00	1.10	0.10	VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Up to 2 hours	1.90	2.00	0.10		
Up to 3 hours	2.80	3.00	0.20		
Season ticket - per quarter	156.00	165.00	9.00		
Evening charge - 1pm to 8am	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Overnight quarterly permit - 8pm to 8am	60.00	65.00	5.00		
Bank Holiday	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Event Parking	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Silverdale Road (Zone C)					
Up to 1 hour	1.00	1.10	0.10	VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Up to 2 hours	1.50	1.60	0.10		
Up to 3 hours	2.00	2.10	0.10		
Up to 6 hours	3.00	3.20	0.20		
6 hours to 24 hours	3.50	3.70	0.20		
Season ticket - per quarter	156.00	165.00	9.00		
Resident permit - per quarter	60.00	65.00	5.00		
Evening charge - 1pm to 8am	1.00	1.00	Freeze	VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Overnight quarterly permit - 8pm to 8am	60.00	65.00	5.00		
Bank Holiday	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Event Parking	1.00	1.00	Freeze		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Windsor Street (Zone B)					
Up to 1 hour	1.00	1.10	0.10		
Up to 2 hours	2.00	2.10	0.10		
Season ticket - after school (30 minutes)	30.00	31.00	1.00		
Evening charge - 1pm to 8am	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Overnight quarterly permit - 8pm to 8am	60.00	65.00	5.00		
Bank Holiday	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
Event Parking	1.00	1.00	Freeze		
CEMETERIES					
Interment Fees - Resident Fees				No VAT	Cabinet
17 years and under	1,030.00	1,085.00	55.00		
18 years & over 7ft	1,230.00	1,300.00	70.00		
18 years & over 4ft 6	1,030.00	1,085.00	55.00		
Woodland burial - Keele Cemetery (1 full interment only in each grave)	1,030.00	1,085.00	55.00		
Cremated remains at 2 feet	450.00	480.00	30.00		
Woodland burial cremated remains at 2 feet - Keele Cemetery (4 interments only in each grave)	450.00	480.00	30.00		
Additional depth for cremated remains over 2 feet	240.00	250.00	10.00		
Additional depth over 6 feet per foot	260.00	270.00	10.00		
Interment of body part	N/A	480.00	New		
Double interment (two interments taking place at the same time)	N/A	Interment fee + 50%	New		
Exhumation fee - cremated remains	Cost	1,500.00	-		
Exhumation fee	Cost	3,500.00	-		
Purchase of Graves - Resident Fees				No VAT	Cabinet
(Includes right to erect memorial for single grave)					
Exclusive Right of Burial & Memorialisation for a Single Grave	1,390.00	1,465.00	75.00		
Lawn Graves Reservation	1,990.00	2,084.00	94.00		
Exclusive Right of Burial in a Woodland Grave at Keele Cemetery (1 full interment only in each grave plus memorial tree)	1,450.00	1,465.00	15.00		
Reservation of Woodland Grave	2,050.00	2,085.00	35.00		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Exclusive Right of Burial and Memorialisation in a Cremated Remains Grave at 2ft	685.00	730.00	45.00	No VAT	Cabinet
Reservation of a Cremated Remains Grave	985.00	1,035.00	50.00		
Exclusive Right of Burial in a Woodland Cremated Remains Grave, Keele Cemetery at 2ft Inclusive of a Shrub	685.00	730.00	45.00		
Reservation of Woodland Cremated Remains Grave	1,045.00	1,095.00	50.00		
Renewal of exclusive right of burial & memorialisation (full grave)	400.00	450.00	50.00		
Renewal of exclusive right of burial & memorialisation (cremated remains grave)	200.00	250.00	50.00		
Transfer of ownership of exclusive rights of burial & memorialisation	105.00	115.00	10.00		
Duplicate deed of exclusive rights of burial & memorialisation	55.00	60.00	5.00		
Memorial fee permit	55.00	60.00	5.00		
Interment Fees - Non-Resident Fees					
17 years and under	1,560.00	1,645.00	85.00		
18 years & over 7ft	1,760.00	1,865.00	105.00		
18 years & over 4ft 6	1,560.00	1,645.00	85.00		
Woodland burial - Keele Cemetery (1 full interment only in each grave)	1,560.00	1,645.00	85.00		
Cremated remains at 2 feet	675.00	730.00	55.00	No VAT	Cabinet
Woodland burial cremated remains at 2 feet - Keele Cemetery (4 interments only in each grave)	675.00	730.00	55.00		
Interment of body part	N/A	730.00	New		
Additional depth for cremated remains over 2 feet	240.00	260.00	20.00		
Additional depth over 6 feet per foot	260.00	280.00	20.00		
Double interment (two interments taking place at the same time)	N/A	Interment fee + 50%	New		
Exhumation fee - cremated remains	Cost	1,500.00	-		
Exhumation fee	Cost	3,500.00	-		
Purchase of Graves - Non-Resident Fees (Includes right to erect memorial for single grave)					
Exclusive Right of Burial & Memorialisation for a Single Grave	2,780.00	2,930.00	150.00		
Lawn Graves Reservation	3,380.00	3,530.00	150.00		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Exclusive Right of Burial in a Woodland Grave at Keele Cemetery (1 full interment only in each grave plus memorial tree)	2,780.00	2,930.00	150.00		
Reservation of Woodland Grave	3,380.00	3,530.00	150.00		
Exclusive Right of Burial and Memorialisation in a Cremated Remains Grave at 2ft	1,370.00	1,450.00	80.00		
Reservation of a Cremated Remains Grave	1,970.00	2,050.00	80.00		
Exclusive Right of Burial in a Woodland Cremated Remains Grave, Keele Cemetery at 2ft Inclusive of a Shrub	1,370.00	1,450.00	80.00		
Reservation of Woodland Cremated Remains Grave	1,970.00	2,050.00	80.00		
Renewal of exclusive right of burial & memorialisation (cremated remains grave)	500.00	540.00	40.00		
Transfer of ownership of exclusive rights of burial & memorialisation	160.00	170.00	10.00		
Duplicate deed of exclusive rights of burial & memorialisation	85.00	95.00	10.00		
Erection of Memorials (no prior right given)				No VAT	Cabinet
Memorial not exceeding 3 feet in height	170.00	180.00	10.00		
Columbarium					
10-year lease including 1st interment	613.00	650.00	37.00	No VAT	Cabinet
2nd interment	86.00	100.00	14.00		
Renewal of 10-year lease	307.00	315.00	8.00		
Additional 5-year lease	307.00	315.00	8.00		
Use of Chapel & Community Room					
Newcastle cemetery chapel	200.00	200.00	Freeze	No VAT	Cabinet
Keele community room - service	200.00	200.00	Freeze		
Keele community room - full day hire	150.00	150.00	Freeze		
Keele community room - half day hire	75.00	75.00	Freeze		
Keele community room - per hour hire	25.00	25.00	Freeze		
Sundry Items				VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Single abstract information from registrar	80.00	30.00	-50.00		
Family history research	25.00	25.00	Freeze		
Casket - Single	93.00	95.00	2.00		
Casket - Double	118.00	120.00	2.00		
Casket Plaque for Crematorium Boxes	15.00	15.00	Freeze		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Wooden cross	51.00	55.00	4.00		
Memorial bench	1,100.00	1,500.00	400.00		
Memorial trees	405.00	420.00	15.00		
Barrier fob replacements	12.00	15.00	3.00		
Late arrival at cemeteries by more than 15 mins, Funeral Director charge	200.00	200.00	Freeze		
Late Paperwork	50.00	50.00	Freeze		
Incorrect coffin size	50.00	50.00	Freeze		
Admin fee	N/A	85.00	New		
Late removal of memorial resulting in a delay of grave excavation	N/A	150.00	New		
CIRCUSES & FAIRS				No VAT	Cabinet
Hire rate per day of site presence (based on an 8-hour day - 1 day to set up & 1 day to dismantle free of charge)	700.00	730.00	30.00		
Returnable deposit - cleaning	1,000.00	1,040.00	40.00		
Returnable deposit - damage	1,000.00	1,040.00	40.00		
COVENANT CONSENTS				No VAT	Cabinet
Covenant consents and any written responses to enquiries relating to land and property previously owned by the Council	160.00	165.00	5.00		
Initial purchase enquiry form for land smaller than 0.1ha (deducted from land transaction fee if completed otherwise non-refundable)	N/A	100.00	New		
CREMATORIUM					
Cremation Fees				No VAT	Cabinet
17 years of age and under	845.00	895.00	50.00		
Direct cremation no service or family before 9.00am, Tues, Thursday, Friday	350.00	350.00	Freeze		
18 years & over 9.20am service time only	600.00	650.00	50.00		
18 years & over from 10am	845.00	895.00	50.00		
Cremation environmental charge	80.00	85.00	5.00		
Burial of remains cremated elsewhere	250.00	260.00	10.00		
Chapel hire - additional use to cremation service	200.00	220.00	20.00		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Chapel service 40 mins	470.00	490.00	20.00	VAT Incl.	
Temporary deposit of ashes (per week after the first 4 weeks)	15.00	20.00	5.00		
Storage of ashes where burial is to be arranged (per week after 12 weeks)	N/A	20.00	New		
Obitus Fees					
Webcast Live	35.00	40.00	5.00		
Webcast Live + 28 day + downloadable	55.00	60.00	5.00		
Keepsake DVD, USB, Blu-Ray, or Audio CD	60.00	65.00	5.00		
Basic Slideshow	45.00	50.00	5.00		
Music Slideshow (Pro-Tribute)	80.00	85.00	5.00		
Family-supplied tribute checking	25.00	30.00	5.00		
Bespoke tribute	400.00	400.00	Freeze		
Themed tribute	100.00	105.00	5.00		
Extra single photo	15.00	20.00	5.00		
Extra photo charge (each extra 25 photos on a visual tribute)	30.00	35.00	5.00		
Extra work charge	25.00	30.00	5.00		
Tribute download	15.00	20.00	5.00		
Video book	95.00	100.00	5.00		
Memory box	130.00	135.00	5.00		
Obitus bundle	175.00	180.00	5.00		
Urns & Containers				VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Casket - Single	93.00	95.00	2.00	VAT Incl.	
Casket - Double	118.00	120.00	2.00		
Casket plaque for Crematorium Boxes	15.00	15.00	Freeze		
Postage & packaging	Cost + £40	Cost + £40	Freeze		
Memorialisation				VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Book of remembrance up to 2 lines	80.00	85.00	5.00	VAT Incl.	
Book of remembrance for 5 lines	170.00	180.00	10.00		
Book of remembrance for 8 lines	260.00	270.00	10.00		
Simple flower or emblem with five lines or more	100.00	120.00	20.00		
Badges or coat of arms with five lines or more	150.00	160.00	10.00		
Memorial card to match inscription	34.00	50.00	16.00		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Plaques				No VAT	Cabinet
12" x 4" new plaque & 10-year hire	500.00	520.00	20.00		
Each succeeding 5-year hire	200.00	210.00	10.00		
12" x 8" new plaque & 10-year hire	750.00	780.00	30.00		
Each succeeding 5-year hire	300.00	380.00	80.00		
Adding to existing plaque per letter or figure	12.00	12.00	Freeze		
Regilding of existing letters (per letter)	7.00	8.00	1.00		
Wall plaque purchase at end of lease (12"x4")	N/A	100.00	New		
Wall plaque purchase at end of lease (12"x8")	N/A	200.00	New		
Additional Memorials				No VAT	Cabinet
Memorial benches	1,100.00	1,500.00	400.00		
Individual memorial bench - 5-year renewal	N/A	500.00	New		
Remembrance bench (up to 12 plaques) - initial lease of plaque 5-years	N/A	295.00	New		
Remembrance bench (up to 12 plaques) - renewal for 5-years	N/A	175.00	New		
Memorial leaf on tree initial 5-year lease	N/A	300.00	New		
Memorial leaf on tree renewal for 5-years	N/A	250.00	New		
Memorial vases	500.00	520.00	20.00		
Additional characters for Kerb side vase	3.00	5.00	2.00		
Each succeeding 5-year hire	300.00	320.00	20.00		
Planters	839.00	870.00	31.00		
Each succeeding 5-year hire	342.00	355.00	13.00		
Trees	718.00	745.00	27.00		
Each succeeding 10-year hire	375.00	390.00	15.00		
Garden / Memorial Plaque	400.00	415.00	15.00		
Additional plaques in same location as family member in gardens	100.00	105.00	5.00		
Garden / Memorial Plaque - 5-year renewal	N/A	205.00	New		
Donations Memorial Fish/Bulbs	200.00	200.00	Freeze		
Service overrun at Bradwell Crem charge to be made to the Funeral Director	200.00	200.00	Freeze		
Late Paperwork	50.00	50.00	Freeze		
Incorrect coffin size	50.00	50.00	Freeze		
Early/late arrival at cemeteries by more than 15 minutes, charge to be made to the funeral directors	200.00	200.00	Freeze		
Admin Fee	N/A	85.00	New		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
DOG WARDEN SERVICE					
Recovery of Stray Dogs				No VAT	Cabinet
During normal working hours - reclaim fee	75.00	80.00	5.00		
Daily kennelling fees	Cost	Cost	Freeze		
ELECTIONS					
Rule 9 (1) Parliamentary Election Regulations & Rule/Reg 9 (1) Police Fire and Crime Commissioner Election Regulations - Candidates' Deposits				No VAT	Statutory
Parliamentary election candidate	500.00	500.00	Freeze		
Police Fire and Crime Commissioner candidate	5,000.00	5,000.00	Freeze		
Regulations 48 & 49 Representation of the People Regulations 2001				No VAT	Statutory
Supply of Full Register					
Sale of full register (printed)	10.00	10.00	Freeze		
Plus, per 1,000 names or part 1,000 (printed)	5.00	5.00	Freeze		
Sale of full register (data)	20.00	20.00	Freeze		
Plus, per 1,000 names or part 1,000 (data)	1.50	1.50	Freeze		
List of overseas electors (printed)	10.00	10.00	Freeze		
Plus, per 100 names or part 100 (printed)	5.00	5.00	Freeze		
List of overseas electors (data)	20.00	20.00	Freeze		
Plus, per 100 names or part 100 (data)	1.50	1.50	Freeze		
Supply of Edited Register				No VAT	Statutory
Sale of edited register (printed)	10.00	10.00	Freeze		
Plus, per 1,000 names or part 1,000 (printed)	5.00	5.00	Freeze		
Sale of register (data)	20.00	20.00	Freeze		
Plus, per 1,000 names or part 1,000 (data)	1.50	1.50	Freeze		
Regulations 120 Representation of the People Regulations 2001					
Supply of Marked Register				No VAT	Statutory
Supply of marked registers (printed)	10.00	10.00	Freeze		
Plus, per 1,000 entries or part 1,000	2.00	2.00	Freeze		
Supply of marked registers (data)	10.00	10.00	Freeze		
Plus, per 1,000 entries or part 1,000	1.00	1.00	Freeze		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Inspection & Copies of Documents				No VAT	Statutory
Regulation 10 representation of the people regulations 2001 - inspection of candidates' expenses	5.00	5.00	Freeze		
A4 - copies (black & white)	0.20	0.20	Freeze		
Town & Parish Elections				No VAT	
<i>Borough Council Election taking place on the same day:</i>					
Town or Parish specific printing / postage costs	Market rate + 5% admin costs	Market rate + 5% admin costs	Freeze		
- Room hire	50% of cost	50% of cost	Freeze		
- Staffing costs (polling & count)	50% of staffing rate on the same day, or full costs if the count is taking place on a different day	50% of staffing rate on the same day, or full costs if the count is taking place on a different day	Freeze		
<i>Town or Parish Election on different day i.e., by-election</i>					
- printing, postage, stationery, room hire costs and other associated costs	Full costs for each election per ward or parish	Full costs for each election per ward or parish	Freeze		
- polling station / count staff cost	Standard NULBC staffing rates	Standard NULBC staffing rates	Freeze		
Uncontested Town or Parish Election Administration Fee	100.00 per election (if warded the cost is 100.00 for each ward or parish as they are classed as separate elections).	100.00 per election (if warded the cost is 100.00 for each ward or parish as they are classed as separate elections).	Freeze		
Room hires	Full Costs	Full Costs	Freeze		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH					
Works in default of statutory notice				No VAT	Cabinet
Calculated in accordance with the following formula -	Per Formula	Per Formula	Freeze		
a) Contractor costs					
b) Officer costs (per hour at actual rate)					
c) Car mileage & subsistence					
d) On costs (b+c) + 25%					
e) Disbursements (e.g., warrant application, postage, printing, cost of invoice etc.)					
Total = a+d+e+ interest on outstanding balance as determined by council at start of financial year					
Environmental Offences - Fixed Penalty Notices				No VAT	Statutory
Waste receptacles - Section 47ZA(2) (paid in 10 days)	60.00	60.00	Freeze		
Waste receptacles - Section 47ZA(2) (paid in 14 days)	80.00	80.00	Freeze		
Failure to Produce Waste Carrier Registration Documents – Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1989 – section 5B	300.00	300.00	Freeze		
Failure to furnish documentation (waste carrier authority - Section 34(2)	300.00	300.00	Freeze		
Litter - Section 88(1) (paid in 10 days)	75.00	75.00	Freeze		
Litter - Section 88(1) (paid in 14 days)	100.00	100.00	Freeze		
Unauthorised distribution of literature on designated land - Schedule 3A (7)2 (paid in 10 days)	75.00	75.00	Freeze		
Unauthorised distribution of literature on designated land - Schedule 3A (7)2 (paid in 14 days)	100.00	100.00	Freeze		
Failure to comply with a Community Protection Notice or Public Spaces Protection Order (paid in 10 days)	75.00	75.00	Freeze		Cabinet
Failure to comply with a Community Protection Notice or Public Spaces Protection Order (paid in 14 days)	100.00	100.00	Freeze		Cabinet
Littering from vehicles outside of London (Keepers: Civil Penalties) Regulations 2018, Regulation 6 (Paid in 14 days)	75.00	75.00	Freeze		Public Protection Committee

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Littering from vehicles outside of London (Keepers: Civil Penalties) Regulations 2018, Regulation 6 (Paid in 28 days)	100.00	100.00	Freeze	No VAT	Cabinet
Graffiti and Fly Posting (Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 - Section 43) (Domestic person)	100.00	200.00	100.00		
Graffiti and Fly Posting (Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 - Section 43) (Commercial business)	100.00	500.00	400.00		
Domestic Waste Section 46 (Environmental Protection Act 1990)	N/A	60.00	New		
Household waste duty of care fixed penalty notices. Environmental protection Act 1990 Section 34(2A)	400.00	600.00	200.00		
Fly tipping (The Unauthorised Deposit of Waste (Fixed Penalties) Regulations 2016 which amends Environmental Protection Act 1990 "33ZA Fixed penalty notices for contravention of section 33(1)(a): England (from domestic property)	400.00	500.00	100.00		
Fly tipping (The Unauthorised Deposit of Waste (Fixed Penalties) Regulations 2016 which amends Environmental Protection Act 1990 "33ZA Fixed penalty notices for contravention of section 33(1)(a): England (from motor vehicle)	400.00	1,000.00	600.00		
Fly tipping (The Unauthorised Deposit of Waste (Fixed Penalties) Regulations 2016 which amends Environmental Protection Act 1990 "33ZA Fixed penalty notices for contravention of section 33(1)(a): England (from commercial business)	400.00	1,000.00	600.00		
Vehicle repair & sale offences (Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, Sections 3 & 4	100.00	100.00	Freeze		
FPN for abandoned vehicles	200.00	200.00	Freeze		
Environmental Protection Act 1990 - Part 1 Pollution Prevention & Control Act 1999 Register of Permits					
Copy of tape/CD recorded interviews	18.00	20.00	2.00		ICO Guidance
Environmental Information Regulations 1992 (requests for information), Charge per Hour (ICO guidance)	26.00	26.00	Freeze		
Noise monitoring service for Registered Social Landlords & Private Landlords for 1 period of up to 7 days & subsequent report & copy of recording	310.00	360.00	50.00		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Environmental Health Licences				No VAT	Cabinet
Dangerous wild animals - first licence	650.00	676.00	26.00		
Dangerous wild animals - renewal	323.00	336.00	13.00		
Zoo - first licence	Price on Application	Price on Application	Freeze		
Zoo - renewal	Price on Application	Price on Application	Freeze		
Selling animals as Pets – Grant new licence	364.00	379.00	15.00		
Selling animals as Pets – Renew licence	323.00	336.00	13.00		
Selling animals as Pets – Grading review (no visit)	83.00	87.00	4.00		
Selling animals as Pets – Variation	104.00	109.00	5.00		
Animal Boarding – Grant new licence	364.00	379.00	15.00		
Animal Boarding – Renew licence	323.00	336.00	13.00		
Animal Boarding – Grading review (no visit)	83.00	87.00	4.00		
Animal Boarding – Variation	104.00	109.00	5.00		
Hiring out horses – Grant new licence Exc Vet Fee	583.00	607.00	24.00		
Hiring out Horses - new licence Vet Fee	N/A	Price on Application	New		
Hiring out horses – Renew licence exc. Vet Fee	531.00	553.00	22.00		
Hiring out Horses - renew licence Vet Fee	N/A	Price on Application	New		
Hiring out horses – Grading review (no visit)	83.00	87.00	4.00		
Hiring out horses – Variation	104.00	109.00	5.00		
Hiring out horses – Annual horse check	364.00	379.00	15.00		
Breeding Dogs – Grant new licence	603.00	628.00	25.00		
Breeding Dogs - New licence Vet Fee	N/A	Price on Application	New		
Breeding Dogs – Renew licence	323.00	336.00	13.00		
Breeding Dogs – Grading review (no visit)	83.00	87.00	4.00		
Breeding Dogs – Variation	104.00	109.00	5.00		
Keeping or training animals for exhibition - Grant new licence (3yrs)	250.00	260.00	10.00		
Keeping or training animals for exhibition - Renew licence (3yrs)	250.00	260.00	10.00		
Keeping or training animals for exhibition - Variation	104.00	109.00	5.00		
Re-inspection	104.00	109.00	5.00		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Registration of premises for acupuncture, tattooing, cosmetic piercing, electrolysis & semi-permanent skin colouring	160.00	168.00	8.00		
Registration of each operative	100.00	105.00	5.00		
Additional treatment registration	83.00	87.15	4.15		
Export health certificates	172.00	180.60	8.60		
Charges for Authorised Process - Local Authority Pollution Prevention Control Act					Statutory
The scale of charges is set by DEFRA annually after consultation with Local Authorities, representatives of industry and other stakeholders. The scale of charges is designed to cover the regulatory and administrative costs (including visits, administration, advice, and time) to the regulator arising from each process. The 2018/19 charges are to be advised by DEFRA in February 2018.	As per DEFRA Guidance	As per DEFRA Guidance	Freeze		To be advised by DEFRA
Factual Statements (Food Safety Act, Health & Safety at Work Act, Environmental Protection Act)					Cabinet
Charge for factual statements - additional time	156.00	165.00	9.00		
Charge for factual statements - disclosure of documents	84.00	90.00	6.00		
Private Water Supplies				No VAT	Statutory
Risk assessment (per hour, plus mileage)	Hourly charge out rate for officer plus mileage or cost incurred if contractor (each LA sample visit to also include an additional £40 to cover UKAS accreditation)	Hourly charge out rate for officer plus mileage or cost incurred if contractor (each LA sample visit to also include an additional £40 to cover UKAS accreditation)	Freeze		
Sampling					
Investigation					
Authorisation					
Analysis - during Regulation 10	Laboratory cost	Laboratory cost	Freeze		
Analysis - during check monitoring					
Analysis - during audit monitoring					

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Swimming Pools				No VAT	Cabinet
Sampling of pool water - per annum	720.00	756.00	36.00		
Sampling of pool water - one sample	75.00	78.75	3.75		
Food Hygiene Rating Scheme				No VAT	Public Protection
Food Hygiene Rating Scheme inspection	220.00	231.00	11.00		
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT					
NULBC delivery of Facilities Management services to Community Centres on full repairing leases and Kidsgrove Town Council. Calculated in accordance with the following formula - a) Contractor costs + b) Officer costs for administration and management + c) Car mileage & subsistence + d) On costs + 5% For any exceptional requests/project related works to Bus Station on-cost 3%	As per formula	As per formula	Freeze	Plus VAT	Cabinet
GARDEN WASTE RECYCLING				No VAT	Cabinet
Garden waste service - one bin	38.50	39.95	1.45		
Every additional garden waste bin	38.50	39.95	1.45		
Delivery of each additional garden waste bin	28.50	30.00	1.50		
LAND CHARGES				Plus VAT	
Residential – Con 29 only (conveyancer search)	144.00	138.00	-6.00		
Residential – additional parcel of land - each	90.00	90.00	Freeze		
Residential - Con290 optional enquiries - each	38.00	36.50	-1.50		
Commercial – Con 29 only (conveyancer search)	360.00	344.00	-16.00		
Commercial – additional parcel of land - each	216.00	210.00	-6.00		
Commercial – Con290 optional enquiries - each	38.00	36.50	-1.50		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
LEISURE CHARGES					
Sport Development				No VAT	Cabinet
Sports Development Activities up to 2 hours	Quote based on staffing costs	Quote based on staffing costs	Freeze		
Jubilee 2					
<i>Equipment Resale</i>					
Saleable items	Market Value	Market Value	Freeze	VAT Incl.	Portfolio Holder
Equipment Hire	Market Value	Market Value	Freeze	No VAT	
<i>Junior Memberships</i>					
Active2 12-16 years: Swimming, gym*, and appropriate classes (14 years and above with a paying Adult)	16.50	18.00	1.50	No VAT	
*Access between the hours Monday – Friday 6.00 pm to 9.00pm with an appropriate adult. All other times individuals can attend unsupervised					
DJD Junior Dance - Daniel Jones Dance Junior Membership	23.00	20.00	-3.00	No VAT	
<i>Premium Membership Charges Adults</i> <i>(Including gym, classes, swim, climbing, discount on retail)</i>				No VAT	Cabinet
Joining fee (includes inductions) (16 years +) (one off fee - includes key)	20.00	20.00	Freeze		
Single Membership - 12-month minimum contract - payment monthly by direct debit.	30.00	32.00	2.00		
Single Membership - no contract - per month	39.50	41.50	2.00		
Single Membership - 12-month membership for price of 11 months - payable in advance	330.00	352.00	22.00		
Corporate membership – peak (includes Students) monthly contract	31.99	34.00	2.01		
Corporate membership - peak (includes Students) 12-month contract	25.50	27.50	2.00		
Swim and aquatic membership 12-month contract	25.00	27.00	2.00		
Swim and aquatic membership monthly contract	34.00	36.00	2.00		
Gym and group exercise classes 12-month contract	25.00	27.00	2.00		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Gym and group exercise classes monthly contract	34.00	36.00	2.00	No VAT	
Climbing only membership 12-month contract	17.00	19.00	2.00		
Blue light membership NHS, Armed Forces, Police, Fire Brigade) 12-month contract	19.99	23.00	3.01		
DJ Dance membership DJ classes and live steam only, 12-month contract	22.50	24.50	2.00		
DJ Dance Membership existing customers only	26.00	28.00	2.00		
Student membership month to month NUS card, college card letter form school 16+ month to month	20.00	23.00	3.00		
Legacy Off Peak Memberships annual % increase (rounded to nearest 10p)	4%	8%	0.04		
<i>Studio Hire</i>				VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Studio 1	42.00	42.00	Freeze		
Studio 2	42.00	42.00	Freeze		
<i>Swim / Climbing Casual Fee</i>				No VAT	
Adult - Lite membership	6.00	6.30	0.30		
Adult - Concession	4.00	4.30	0.30		
Juniors	4.00	4.30	0.30		
<i>Gym / Classes Casual Fee</i>				No VAT	
Adult - Lite membership	6.00	6.30	0.30		
Adult - Concession	4.00	4.30	0.30		
Junior 12 and over - Activities accessed in accordance with Industry guidance	4.00	4.30	0.30		
<i>Swimming Instruction</i>				No VAT	Cabinet
<i>Swimming Lessons</i>					
Adult swimming lesson (30 minutes)	9.50	9.90	0.40		
Junior swimming lesson (30 minutes) price per lesson - block of 12	6.00	6.40	0.40		
<i>Private Lessons</i>				No VAT	Cabinet
1:1 swim lesson (per 30 minutes)	21.00	22.00	1.00		
1:1 Lessons 5 consecutive sessions in payable in advance	90.00	94.00	4.00		
1:1 dance lesson with DJD Dance - 30 minutes	22.50	24.00	1.50		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
1:1 swim / dance lesson with DJD Dance - 30 minutes, block of four lessons	80.00	84.00	4.00	No VAT	Cabinet
DJ Wedding Package	200.00	210.00	10.00		
<i>Pool Courses</i>					
Rookie lifeguards (per 2-hour session) - Lyme Card	10.00	12.00	2.00		
<i>Swimming Pool Hire</i>				VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Teaching Pool Hire	70.00	75.00	5.00		
Main Pool Hire - (8 lane) (per lane per hour)	19.00	20.00	1.00		
Additional staff for pool hire (per staff member)	30.00	35.00	5.00		
Setup fee - galas	35.00	45.00	10.00	VAT Incl.	
Time equipment hire - galas	35.00	45.00	10.00		
<i>Parties</i>					
Pool Party inclusive of 1 hour studio use	95.00	100.00	5.00		
Climbing Party (six people) inclusive of studio use	95.00	100.00	5.00	No VAT	Cabinet
Additional instructor per six children	35.00	40.00	5.00		
Bowls					
Adult	4.73	5.00	0.27		
Junior/60+	2.36	3.00	0.64	No VAT	
Summer season ticket - adult	66.98	70.00	3.02		
Summer season ticket - junior/60+/unemployed	44.18	46.00	1.82		
Winter season ticket	16.54	18.00	1.46		
Summer/winter season ticket - adult	79.34	83.00	3.66	No VAT	
Summer/winter season ticket - junior/60+/unemployed	55.72	58.00	2.28		
Merit competition per player - per hour	9.00	10.00	1.00		
Greenage fees for pre-booking (plus playing fee per person)	10.98	12.00	1.02		
Tennis Class A (Westlands, Wolstanton)				No VAT	Cabinet
Adult (per hour per court)	Free	Free	Freeze		
Junior / Concession (per hour per court)	Free	Free	Freeze		
Education / Not for Profit Organisations	Free	Free	Freeze		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Tennis Class B (Chesterton, Silverdale, Birchenwood, Bradwell, Clough Hall)	Free	Free	Freeze		
Football (alternate weekly use per season)				No VAT	Cabinet
Wolstanton Marsh Pavilion	619.00	645.00	26.00		
All other pitches	430.00	450.00	20.00		
Junior pitch	60% of Fee	60% of Fee	Freeze		
Mini soccer pitch (unmarked)	251.00	262.00	11.00		
Mini soccer pitch (marked)	352.00	368.00	16.00		
Rugby (alternate weekly use per season)				No VAT	Cabinet
Bathpool	873.00	908.00	35.00		
Lyme Valley	873.00	908.00	35.00		
Clough Hall	873.00	908.00	35.00		
Junior Pitch	60% of fee	60% of fee	Freeze		
Rugby (casual use per match)	101.00	106.00	5.00	No VAT	Cabinet
Concessionary Licences				No VAT	Cabinet
Brampton Park ice cream sales	845.00	879.00	34.00		
Brampton Park use of bouncy castle	845.00	879.00	34.00		
4 Large Parks Northern part of Borough – ice cream	725.00	754.00	29.00		
4 Large Parks Southern part of Borough – ice cream	725.00	754.00	29.00		
Community Events				Plus VAT	Cabinet
Wedding Photos within a park setting	47.00	49.00	2.00		
Advertising within parks	10.00 to 5125.00	11.00 to 5,330.00	1.00 to 205.00	Plus VAT	
Booking large events - more than 6 months planning	188.00	196.00	8.00	No VAT	
Booking medium events - more than 6 months planning (firework displays, carnivals etc.)	95.00	99.00	4.00	No VAT	
Booking small events - more than 6 months planning (competitions, fun days, picnics etc.)	35.00	37.00	2.00	No VAT	

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
LICENCES					
General				No VAT	
Sex establishments - application fee	3,524.00	3,665.00	141.00		Licensing Committee
Sex establishments - Renewal	3,524.00	3,665.00	141.00		
Sex establishments - variation	1,193.00	1,241.00	48.00		
Sex establishments - transfer	1,193.00	1,241.00	48.00		
Scrap metal dealer site licence	301.00	313.00	12.00		
Scrap metal dealer collectors' licence	238.00	248.00	10.00		
Gambling Act 2005				No VAT	
Lotteries - application fee	40.00	40.00	Freeze		Statutory fees - Licensing Committee
Lotteries - annual fee	20.00	20.00	Freeze		
Bingo - application fee	3,500.00	3,500.00	Freeze		
Bingo - annual fee	1,000.00	1,000.00	Freeze		
Bingo - application to vary	1,750.00	1,750.00	Freeze		
Bingo – application for transfer	1,200.00	1,200.00	Freeze		
Bingo – application to reinstate	1,200.00	1,200.00	Freeze		
Track betting - application fee	2,500.00	2,500.00	Freeze		
Track betting - annual fee	1,000.00	1,000.00	Freeze		
Track betting - application to vary	1,250.00	1,250.00	Freeze		
Track betting - application to transfer	950.00	950.00	Freeze		
Track betting – application to reinstate	950.00	950.00	Freeze		
Betting premises - application fee	3,000.00	3,000.00	Freeze		
Betting premises - annual fee	600.00	600.00	Freeze		
Betting premises - application to vary	1,500.00	1,500.00	Freeze		
Betting premises - application to transfer	1,200.00	1,200.00	Freeze		
Betting premises – application to reinstate	1,200.00	1,200.00	Freeze		
Family entertainment centre - application fee	2,000.00	2,000.00	Freeze		
Family entertainment centre - annual fee	750.00	750.00	Freeze		
Family entertainment centre - application to vary	1,000.00	1,000.00	Freeze		
Family entertainment centre - application to transfer	950.00	950.00	Freeze		
Family entertainment centre – application to reinstate	950.00	950.00	Freeze		
Adult gaming centre - application fee	2,000.00	2,000.00	Freeze		
Adult gaming centre - annual fee	1,000.00	1,000.00	Freeze		
Adult gaming centre - application to vary	1,000.00	1,000.00	Freeze		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Adult gaming centre - application to transfer	1,200.00	1,200.00	Freeze		
Adult gaming centre – application to reinstate	1,200.00	1,200.00	Freeze		
Copy of any of the above licences (lost, stolen, damaged)	25.00	25.00	Freeze		
Notice of Intention – 2 or less gaming machines	50.00	50.00	Freeze		
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits – more than 2 machines	150.00	150.00	Freeze		
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits – more than 2 machines – Variation	100.00	100.00	Freeze		
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits – more than 2 machines – Transfer	25.00	25.00	Freeze		
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits – more than 2 machines – Annual Fee	50.00	50.00	Freeze		
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits – more than 2 machines – Change of Name	25.00	25.00	Freeze		
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits – more than 2 machines – Copy (lost, stolen, damaged)	15.00	15.00	Freeze		
Club Gaming/Club Machine Permits – New/Renew	200.00	200.00	Freeze		
Club Gaming/Club Machine Permits for holders of Club Premises Certificates (under LA03) – New/Renew	100.00	100.00	Freeze		
Club Gaming/Club Machine Permit – Annual Fee	50.00	50.00	Freeze		
Club Gaming/Club Machine Permit – Variation	100.00	100.00	Freeze		
Club Gaming/Club Machine Permit – Copy (lost, stolen, damaged)	15.00	15.00	Freeze		
UFEC (Unlicensed family entertainment Centre – 10-year licence)	300.00	300.00	Freeze		
Prize Gaming Permit – New/Renewal	300.00	300.00	Freeze		
Prize Gaming Permit – Change of Name	25.00	25.00	Freeze		
Prize Gaming Permit – Copy (lost, stolen, damaged)	15.00	15.00	Freeze		
Temporary Use Notice (TUN)	200.00	200.00	Freeze		
Casino Small – New application	7,646.00	7,952.00	306.00		
Casino Small – Annual Fee	3,823.00	3,976.00	153.00		
Casino Small - Variation	2,548.00	2,650.00	102.00		
Casino Small – Application for Transfer	1,639.00	1,705.00	66.00		
Casino Small – application to reinstate	1,639.00	1,705.00	66.00		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Private Hire/Hackney Carriage				No VAT	Public Protection
OPERATORS					
PHO Application fee	289.00	329.00	40.00		
Add/Remove Director	44.00	45.00	1.00		
Copy/Replacement Licence	8.00	8.00	Freeze		
Basic DBS	18.00	18.00	Freeze		
DRIVERS				No VAT	
Dual Driver Badge - 3 years	275.00	250.00	-25.00		
Change of address	18.00	18.00	Freeze		
Replacement badge	15.00	15.00	Freeze		
Replacement vehicle badge	15.00	15.00	Freeze		
Reissue/replacement badge (with amended details)	31.00	31.00	Freeze		
DBS (CRB check)	38.00	38.00	Freeze		
DBS (CRB check) online	64.34	64.34	Freeze		
Exemption certificates	15.00	15.00	Freeze		
Knowledge test	20.00	20.00	Freeze		
Fail to attend Knowledge Test	20.00	20.00	Freeze		
Change of Name	21.00	21.00	Freeze		
Replacement vehicle badge holder	6.00	6.00	Freeze		
DE Training replacement cert	Free	Free	Freeze		
Copy of Paper Licence	8.00	8.00	Freeze		
NEW Joint Disability and Safeguarding Training	48.00	48.00	Freeze		
VEHICLES				No VAT	
Transfer of vehicle	44.00	45.00	1.00		
Change of vehicle registration	50.00	52.00	2.00		
Failure to attend for vehicle test	74.00	73.00	-1.00		
Retest	33.00	31.00	-2.00		
Replacement plate carrier – front	10.00	11.00	1.00		
Replacement plate carrier – rear	12.00	13.00	1.00		
Replacement vehicle plate - front	9.00	9.00	Freeze		
Replacement vehicle plate - rear	11.00	12.00	1.00		
Replacement vehicle sticker signage	6.00	6.00	Freeze		
Copy of paper part of licence	8.00	8.00	Freeze		
Change of Vehicle Colour	50.00	52.00	2.00		
HCV test	79.00	79.00	Freeze		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
PHV test	79.00	79.00	Freeze	No VAT	Statutory
HCV application fee	242.00	186.00	-56.00		
PHV application fee	238.00	173.00	-65.00		
Basic DBS	18.00	18.00	Freeze		
Change of Name/Address	44.00	45.00	1.00		
Spot check	22.00	23.00	1.00		
Replacement Internal Plate	8.00	8.00	Freeze		
Licensing Act 2003 - New Application					
Premise licence, band A (rateable value of up to £4,300)	100.00	100.00	Freeze		
Premise licence, band B (rateable value of £4,301 to £33,000)	190.00	190.00	Freeze		
Premise licence, band C (rateable value of £33,001 to £87,000)	315.00	315.00	Freeze		
Premise licence, band D (rateable value of £87,001 to £125,000)	450.00	450.00	Freeze		
Premise licence, band E (rateable value of >£125,001)	635.00	635.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (5,000 to 9,999 patrons)	1,000.00	1,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (10,000 to 14,999 patrons)	2,000.00	2,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (15,000 to 19,999 patrons)	4,000.00	4,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (20,000 to 29,999 patrons)	8,000.00	8,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (30,000 to 39,999 patrons)	16,000.00	16,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (40,000 to 49,999 patrons)	24,000.00	24,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (50,000 to 59,999 patrons)	32,000.00	32,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (60,000 to 69,999 patrons)	40,000.00	40,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (70,000 to 79,999 patrons)	48,000.00	48,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (80,000 to 89,999 patrons)	56,000.00	56,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (90,000 patrons & above)	64,000.00	64,000.00	Freeze		
Licensing Act 2003 - Annual Fee				No VAT	Statutory
Premise licence, band A (rateable value of up to £4,300)	70.00	70.00	Freeze		
Premise licence, band B (rateable value of £4,301 to £33,000)	180.00	180.00	Freeze		
Premise licence, band C (rateable value of £33,001 to £87,000)	295.00	295.00	Freeze		
Premise licence, band D (rateable value of £87,001 to £125,000)	320.00	320.00	Freeze		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Premise licence, band E (rateable value of £125,001 & above)	350.00	350.00	Freeze	No VAT	Statutory
Additional fee (5,000 to 9,999 patrons)	500.00	500.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (10,000 to 14,999 patrons)	1,000.00	1,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (15,000 to 19,999 patrons)	2,000.00	2,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (20,000 to 29,999 patrons)	4,000.00	4,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (30,000 to 39,999 patrons)	8,000.00	8,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (40,000 to 49,999 patrons)	12,000.00	12,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (50,000 to 59,999 patrons)	16,000.00	16,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (60,000 to 69,999 patrons)	20,000.00	20,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (70,000 to 79,999 patrons)	24,000.00	24,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (80,000 to 89,999 patrons)	28,000.00	28,000.00	Freeze		
Additional fee (90,000 patrons & above)	32,000.00	32,000.00	Freeze		
Licensing Act 2003 - Miscellaneous Fees (Application or Notice)					
Section 25 (theft, loss, etc. of premises licence or summary)	10.50	10.50	Freeze	No VAT	Statutory
Section 29 (application for a provisional statement)	315.00	315.00	Freeze		
Section 33 (notification of change of name or address)	10.50	10.50	Freeze		
Section 37 (application to vary licence to specify individual as premises supervisor)	23.00	23.00	Freeze		
Section 42 (application for transfer of premises licence)	23.00	23.00	Freeze		
Section 47 (interim authority notice following death of licence holder)	23.00	23.00	Freeze		
Section 79 (theft, loss etc. of certificate or summary)	10.50	10.50	Freeze		
Section 82 (notification of change of name or alteration of rules of club)	10.50	10.50	Freeze		
Licensing Act 2003 - Miscellaneous Fees (Application or Notice)					
Section 83 (1) or (2) (change of relevant registered address of club)	10.50	10.50	Freeze		
Section 100 (temporary event notice)	21.00	21.00	Freeze		
Section 110 (theft, loss of temporary event notice)	10.50	10.50	Freeze		
Section 117 (application for, or renewal of personal licence)	37.00	37.00	Freeze		
Section 126 (theft, loss of personal licence)	10.50	10.50	Freeze		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Section 127 (duty to notify change of name/address)	10.50	10.50	Freeze		
Section 110 (theft or loss of temporary event notice)	10.50	10.50	Freeze		
Section 126 (theft or loss of personal licence)	10.50	10.50	Freeze		
Section 127 (duty to notify change of name/address)	10.50	10.50	Freeze		
Section 178 (right of freeholder etc.)	21.00	21.00	Freeze		
Minor Variation	89.00	89.00	Freeze		
Removal of DPS at community premises	23.00	23.00	Freeze		
MARKETS				No VAT	Cabinet
Open market - stall (per day) Monday	21.00	22.00	1.00		
Open market - second stall (per day) Monday	11.00	11.50	0.50		
Open market - stall (per day) Wednesday	12.00	12.50	0.50		
Open market - second stall (per day) Wednesday	11.00	11.50	0.50		
Open market - stall (per day) Fri/Sat	22.00	23.00	1.00		
Open market - additional space (per day) Fri/Sat	11.00	11.50	0.50		
Farmers market - stall (per day)	21.00	22.00	1.00		
Other Pitches - minimum charge (per day)	27.00	28.00	1.00		
Catering Pitches - minimum charge (per day) Fri / Sat	26.00	27.00	1.00		
Catering Pitches - minimum charge (per day) Mon / Weds	13.00	13.50	0.50		
Small Stalls (adjacent to Guildhall)	10.00	10.50	0.50		
All stalls / pitches above are charged at 50% during winter period (1st Oct - 31st March)					
New Trader - Introductory Price (16 weeks only / per day)	5.00	5.25	0.25		
Stalls - Secondary offer (16 weeks only / per day)	N/A	50% stall rent	New		
Catering Pitches - Secondary offer (16 weeks / weekly charge - up to 4 days trading)	25.00	26.00	1.00		
Antique market - stall (per day)	8.00	8.00	Freeze		
Antique Market - second stall (per day)	4.00	4.00	Freeze		
Craft fair (bric-a-brac) - stall (per day)	5.50	5.50	Freeze		
Craft fair (bric-a-brac) - second stall (per day)	2.50	2.50	Freeze		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Service Charge (for licensed markets)	29.00	29.00	Freeze		
Events Markets - per stall / pitch (e.g., CAM / Vegan)	5.00	5.25	0.25		
Electricity Charge for pitches on AFG licensed markets	N/A	7.50	New		
Record Fair	N/A	10.00	New		
MOT				No VAT	Cabinet
MOT - car	46.70	48.60	1.90		
MOT - car (for discounted partner incl. Lyme Card)	41.10	42.74	1.64		
MOT - class 7 (up to 3.5 tonnes)	58.65	61.00	2.35		
Retest	16.10	16.80	0.70		
MUSEUM & ART GALLERY					Cabinet
<i>Reproduction prints of items in collection</i>				VAT Incl.	
Photocopies	1.10	1.20	0.10	VAT Incl.	
Commission of picture sales from exhibitions	30%	30%	Freeze	Plus VAT	
Education session per pupil - half day	5.50	5.75	0.25	No VAT	
Education session per pupil - full day	7.50	7.80	0.30	No VAT	
Education sessions - minimum charge half day (20 pupils or fewer)	80.00	84.00	4.00	No VAT	
Education sessions - minimum charge full day (20 pupils or fewer)	125.00	130.00	5.00	No VAT	
Holiday activities per child	12.00	12.50	0.50	No VAT	
Adult object handling/reminiscence sessions per hour	34.00	34.00	Freeze		
Outreach fee	60.00	62.50	2.50	No VAT	
Outreach education – schools per session	85.00	89.00	4.00	No VAT	
Hire of Drawing Room per hour (Function/Corporate)	15.00	16.00	1.00		
Hire of Drawing Room per hour (Not for profit/Charity)	10.00	10.50	0.50		
Hire of Alder Room per hour (Function/Corporate)	25.00	27.00	2.00		
Hire of Alder Room per hour (Not for profit/Charity)	20.00	21.00	1.00		
Hire of Willow Room per hour (Function/Corporate)	35.00	36.50	1.50		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Hire of Willow Room per hour (Not for profit/Charity)	27.00	29.00	2.00	No VAT	
Hire of Event Space per hour (function/corporate/park business)	50.00	55.00	5.00		
Hire of Event Space per hour (Not for Profit/charity/park)	36.00	38.00	2.00		
Early entry or late stay - per hour	25.00	25.00	Freeze		
Room set up	25.00	25.00	Freeze		
Education item loan	25.00	26.00	1.00		
Saleable items	RRP	RRP	Freeze		
Open art registration - up to 2 items	5.00	5.00	Freeze		
Research/archive fees					
Complex collections/archive research per hour	N/A	25.00	New		
Object loans to Accredited Museums (outside the county) includes condition report	N/A	200.00	New	VAT Incl.	
1:1 session with collections adviser (after 15 minutes)	N/A	12.50	New		
Archive/Object scans (paper or digital) A4 colour - First Scan	N/A	10.00	New		
Archive/Object scans (paper or digital) A4 colour - Subsequent Scan	N/A	5.00	New		
Archive/Object scans (paper or digital) A3 colour - First Scan	N/A	15.00	New		
Archive/Object scans (paper or digital) A3 colour - Subsequent Scan	N/A	5.00	New		
NAMING/ NUMBERING OF STREETS/ PROPERTIES					
New or Redevelopment				No VAT	Cabinet
Charge for naming of a street	215.00	225.00	10.00		
Charge for naming of a commercial building	108.00	115.00	7.00		
Single residential property on existing street	140.00	150.00	10.00		
Number/name 2-9 properties (includes first)	215.00	225.00	10.00		
Plus - per plot	75.00	80.00	5.00		
Number/name 10 plus properties (includes first property)	215.00	225.00	10.00		
Plus - per plot	75.00	80.00	5.00		
Change to layout after notification	270.00	285.00	15.00		
Plus - per plot	43.00	45.00	2.00		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Existing Properties/Streets				No VAT	Cabinet
Adding or alteration of a house/building name	75.00	80.00	5.00		
Renaming of a street	On request	On request	Freeze		
House or building renumbering (including subdivision to flats)	270.00	285.00	15.00		
Confirmation of postal address	43.00	45.00	2.00		
Requests not included in above fees per hour	54.00	60.00	6.00		
Road closure	33.00	35.00	2.00		
PEST CONTROL				VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Treatment of rats (domestic) - prepayment (up to 4 visits)	60.00	62.40	2.40		
Treatment of rats (domestic) - payment by invoice (up to 4 visits)	80.00	83.20	3.20		
Treatment of mice (domestic) – prepayment (up to 3 visits)	60.00	62.40	2.40		
Treatment of mice (domestic) – payment by invoice (up to 3 visits)	80.00	83.20	3.20		
Fleas / Bedbugs / Cockroaches (domestic) - prepayment	120.00	124.80	4.80		
Fleas / Bedbugs / Cockroaches (domestic) - payment by invoice	140.00	145.60	5.60		
Insect control treatments (domestic) including wasps, & ants - prepayment	80.00	83.20	3.20		
Insect control treatments (domestic) including wasps & ants - payment by invoice	100.00	104.00	4.00		
Pest control commercial (other) - first hour	120.00	124.80	4.80		
Pest control commercial (other) - per 1/4 extra hour	30.00	31.20	1.20		
Mole & Rabbit control (per treatment course, max 3 visits) - prepayment	195.00	202.80	7.80		
Mole & Rabbit control (per treatment course, max 3 visits) - payment by invoice	215.00	223.60	8.60		
Squirrel control - prepayment (up to 4 visits)	145.00	150.80	5.80		
Squirrel control - payment by invoice (up to 4 visits)	165.00	171.60	6.60		
Telephone Advice (prepayment only)	15.00	15.60	0.60		
Advice Visit (no treatment) - prepayment	60.00	62.40	2.40		
Advice Visit (no treatment) - payment by invoice	80.00	83.20	3.20		
Fixed term pest control treatment agreements (commercial premises)	On request	On request	Freeze		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Works in default (Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949) first hour (invoiced) Works in default (Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949) per additional 1/4 hour (invoiced)	As per formulae for works in default	As per formulae for works in default	Freeze		
PLANNING SERVICES					
Postage & packaging	1.40	1.47	0.07	No VAT	
Copies up to £1 are free of charge					
Paper copies of planning/building control decisions & documents - per sheet (A4 black & white)	0.30	0.32	0.02	No VAT	
Paper copies of planning/building control decisions & documents - per sheet (A3 black & white)	0.50	0.52	0.02	No VAT	
Paper copies of plans - planning files - per sheet (A4 black & white)	0.30	0.32	0.02	No VAT	
Paper copies of plans - planning files - per sheet (A3 black & white)	0.60	0.63	0.03	No VAT	
Paper colour copies of an A4 sheet of planning/building control decision, planning documents or plan	0.60	0.63	0.03	No VAT	
Paper colour copies of an A3 sheet of decision, planning documents or plan	0.90	0.95	0.05	No VAT	
Scanned copies of documents - charge per hour of scanning (where legal to charge)	42.00	44.10	2.10	No VAT	
Paper copies of plans - planning files - each plan (A2)	2.80	2.94	0.14	No VAT	
Paper copies of plans - planning files - each plan (A1)	4.10	4.30	0.20	No VAT	
Paper copies of plans - planning files - each plan (A0)	5.30	5.56	0.26	No VAT	
Weekly lists - statutory consultees	Free	Free	Freeze		
Requests for site information – commercial per hour	90.00	94.50	4.50	No VAT	
Requests for site information - individuals	Cost	Cost	Freeze	No VAT	
Pre Planning Application Advice				VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Large Scale Major Developments (residential developments over 200 dwellings or where number not known, a site area of 4 ha or more. Non-residential developments over 10,000m2 of floor space or where floor space not known, a site area of 2ha or more)	810.00	972.00	162.00		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Small Scale Major Developments (residential developments of between 10 & 200 dwellings or where number not known, a site area of between 0.5ha & 4ha. Non-residential developments of between 1000m2 & 10,000m2 of floor space or where floor space not known, a site area of between 1ha & 2ha)	410.00	492.00	82.00	No VAT	Statutory
1 dwelling	125.00	150.00	25.00		
Minor Developments (residential developments of between 2 & 9 dwellings or where number not known, a site area of less than 0.5ha. Non-residential developments of under 1,000m2 of floor space or where floor space not known, a site area of less than 1ha)	185.00	222.00	37.00		
Householder Development.					
Half hour appointment	28.00	30.00	2.00		
Appointment in excess of 30 minutes	40.00	44.00	4.00		
Other Development (excluding householder development but including changes of use, advertisements, prior approval proposals & listed building proposals)	66.00	73.00	7.00		
Planning Application Fees					
Owing to the complexity of the fee structure, it is not shown here. Details of fees payable may be obtained from the Council's Planning Section. Alternatively, the fee calculator available at the Planning Portal website can be used to determine the fees payable in respect of individual applications.	Per Planning Portal	Per Planning Portal	Freeze		
Building Control fees (North Staffs Building Control Partnership)	Per Board	Per Board	Freeze		Partnership Board
Planning & development briefs (as & when prepared)	Free	Free	Freeze		
Core spatial strategy	42.00	44.10	2.10		
Local development framework proposals map - north or south	10.00	10.50	0.50		
Local development framework proposals map - north & south	16.00	16.80	0.80		
Strategic housing land availability assessment (SHLAA)	45.00	47.25	2.25		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
Section 106					
Section 106 Monitoring for each obligation forming part of an agreement, excluding those elements the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council	N/A	300.00	New		
Additional time spent in monitoring over and above the expected 1 working day, per hour	N/A	40.25	New		
PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING				No VAT	Cabinet
Houses in multiple occupation licence fee	668.00	695.00	27.00		
Each additional bedroom	9.00	9.50	0.50		
Renewal of houses in multiple occupation licence	495.00	515.00	20.00		
Each additional bedroom	9.00	9.50	0.50		
Immigration Inspections	140.00	146.00	6.00		
Provision of accommodation for homeless households	Cost	Cost	Freeze		
Annual interest to be applied to unpaid debts for enforcement action	8%	8%	Freeze		
Charges for work in default notices to remedy Housing Health & Safety issues				No VAT	Cabinet
Officer time (per hour)	Cost	Cost	Freeze		
Travelling costs (per mile)	Cost	Cost	Freeze		
Management costs (per hour)	Cost	Cost	Freeze		
Land registry fee	Cost	Cost	Freeze		
Inspection by qualified electrician or gas engineers	Cost	Cost	Freeze		
Recorded delivery	Cost	Cost	Freeze		
Other costs (stated as per individual case)	Cost	Cost	Freeze		
Administration fee (to cover service recharges)	12% Cost	12% Cost	Freeze		
Annual interest to be applied to unpaid debts for enforcement action	8%	8%	Freeze		
REMOVAL OF DOMESTIC ANIMAL CARCASSES				VAT Incl.	Cabinet
Removal of domestic animal carcasses	41.60	43.26	1.66		

	Fee/ Charge 2023/24 £.p	Proposed Fee/ Charge 2024/25 £.p	Increase/ Decrease £.p	VAT Status	Committee Approval/ Comments
SALE OF SANDBAGS				VAT Incl.	Cabinet
5 sandbags	42.64	44.50	1.86		
10 sandbags	59.28	61.75	2.47		
15 sandbags	74.88	78.00	3.12		
20 sandbags	91.52	95.00	3.48		
STREET TRADING				No VAT	Cabinet
Eastbound layby A500 (per annum)	10,100.00	10,500.00	400.00		
Northbound layby A500 (per annum)	10,100.00	10,500.00	400.00		
TOWN CENTRE DISPLAYS				No VAT	Cabinet
Local promotions (minimum charge)	30.00	32.00	2.00		
Charity & local community groups	6.50	7.00	0.50		
National promotions (minimum charge)	85.00	89.00	4.00		
TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS				No VAT	Cabinet
Single copy of a tree preservation order	35.00	35.00	Freeze		
WASTE & RECYCLING BINS/ RECEPTACLES				No VAT	Cabinet
Bins/receptacles per property on new developments (to be paid by the developer)	74.00	80.00	6.00		
Replacement bin due to loss / theft	28.50	30.00	1.50		
<i>Maximum Delivery Charge:</i>					
New property - resident	28.50	30.00	1.50		
Replacement / additional recycling bag.	28.50	30.00	1.50		



CHARGING POLICY

(January 2024)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The annual income, which the Council receives in the form of fees and charges for the services provided to its customers, amounts, in total, to a considerable sum and makes a significant contribution towards reducing the Revenue Budget.
- 1.2 Due to this and the impact that its charges may have on service users, it is important that there is a clear policy with regard to charging.
- 1.3 Not all services provided to customers are charged for. Many are provided free of charge or in some cases a charge is made but this does not recover the full cost of providing the service or facility.
- 1.4 There are various reasons for deciding to make a charge and for determining what that charge will be. The charge to be made will not always be determined purely by cost recovery considerations. In many cases charges can be used to assist in the achievement of the Council's corporate priorities, for example by encouraging people to take part in a socially beneficial activity by charging fees that they can afford, which may not necessarily fully recover costs.
- 1.5 This policy sets out what the Council intends to achieve through the charges it makes and the criteria which it will use to determine the level of charge for individual services.

2. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

- 2.1 This policy applies to all services that can, legally, be provided for a charge, where those services are provided by the Council or by other parties acting on its behalf. It does not apply to services provided via partnership arrangements, for example in respect of building control fees, although this policy will be borne in mind in any discussions the Council may have with partners in relation to setting charges in respect of partnership activities. It does not apply to those services where, by law, it is not permitted to make a charge or where an external party, such as central government, wholly determines the charge that is to be made.
- 2.2 Services as referred to in this policy also includes the supply of goods.
- 2.3 Charges are normally determined by members but may sometimes be determined by officers under delegated powers. This policy applies in both cases.

3. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The charging policy will be driven by the Council's priorities. These are:
 - One Council delivering for local people.
 - A successful and sustainable growing borough.
 - Town centres for all.

- 3.2 These are high-level objectives, which set the overall policy direction. More detailed criteria will be applied, operating within these parameters, in determining whether to make a charge and in setting that charge. These are set out in Section 5 of this policy.

4. LINKS WITH OTHER POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND PLANS

- 4.1 Other Council policies, strategies or plans, or those of partnerships which the Council is a party to, may make reference to charging policies or to the levels or amounts of particular charges or types of charge. Where relevant, regard will be had to any such instances.

5. CHARGING PRINCIPLES

- 5.1 Charges should be made for services whenever the Council has a power or duty to do so.
- 5.2 There will be a presumption that charges to be made for the provision of a service will be set at a level intended to recover the cost of providing the service.
- 5.3 However, this presumption may be modified by the application of the charging principles set out at 5.5 below, which may result in no charge being made or a lesser charge being made or in some cases a charge being made which is greater than that required for cost recovery.
- 5.4 No charge will be made in cases where the Council is not permitted to charge by law. Where charges are set by external bodies, those charges will be applied. Where maximum or minimum charges are specified externally, charges will be set in compliance with those requirements.
- 5.5 The following matters will be considered when deciding whether to set a charge, which is not to be based on cost recovery. The headings in bold indicate general areas for consideration and the bullet points below them are particular factors which should be taken into account where relevant.

The cost of providing the service

- All direct costs are to be included.
- All overheads related to the provision of the service, which may be attributed to the cost of the service, are to be included.
- Best estimates may be made of costs where it is not practical to obtain precise data or identify precisely those overheads attributable to the service.
- Unit costs are to be calculated by reference to realistic user numbers based on actual experience, either in relation to this Council or, if appropriate comparable services elsewhere.

How much income is it desired to generate and why?

- Is the service required to make a surplus or break-even?
- Does income from the service make a significant contribution to reducing the net amount of the Council's revenue budget?
- Have any targets been set for the income or class of income of which it is a component?
- Is income needed to fund future investment?

Comparison of charges made by neighbouring or similar councils or other providers of similar services

- In making this comparison it will be necessary to establish whether the services being provided by these other bodies are comparable to those provided by the Council and to make adjustments where this is not so.
- Is there a logical reason for significant differences between this Council's charges and those of others?
- Will customers be lost to other service providers if charges are set too high?

Whose use of services is it desired to subsidise and by how much?

- Can all potential users afford to pay the full cost of the service or the same charges as other users?
- Is it desirable to subsidise all users of the service, for example because there is likely to be a desirable outcome for the community as a result.
- Are there particular classes of users that should be subsidised, such as the unemployed, benefits recipients, the elderly, disabled persons or children?
- Should subsidies be given by reducing the charges payable or by offering concessions to offset the charge?

Whose behaviour is it desired to influence and in what ways?

- Is it desirable to influence users to use particular facilities, for example where they are under-used, by charging less for their use than for other similar ones?
- Is it desirable to persuade users to behave in a way which is more acceptable to the community in preference to any other or others less acceptable and can this be promoted by setting charges at a level which might achieve this?
- Is it desired to promote a particular pattern of use, for example short stay parking as opposed to another, such as long stay parking or to discourage peak time use of facilities?
- Should some behaviour or activities be discouraged by setting high charges or penalties?
- Can anti-social behaviour be reduced by charging for services which discourage people from behaving irresponsibly at a level which they will find attractive, for example charges for the collection of bulky waste to discourage fly-tipping?
- Are there desirable outcomes which the Council wishes to see realised, in line with its corporate objectives, which could be assisted through the charging regime, for example maintaining the economic vitality of the town centres through the provision of reasonably priced facilities such as car parking?

How will charges help to improve value for money, equity and access to services?

- What are users' perceptions with regard to what constitutes a fair and reasonable charge?
- Are there any issues relating to social inclusion or equalities?

Will the cost (including staff time) of collecting the income due outweigh the amount of income likely to be collected?

- Is it worth making a charge?
- Should a charge be made anyway as a matter of principle?

Any other relevant factors

It will be a matter for the Council to determine what the charge will be, based on its consideration of the above factors.

- 5.6 Where, without prior agreement by the Council, individuals or organisations engage in activities that result in a cost to the Council, the Council will seek to recover this cost, wherever possible.
- 5.7 Consideration may be given to offering a discount or other reduction, in appropriate cases, where it is felt that this may improve take up of the service or to encourage prompt payment, following consultation with the Service Director for Finance (S151 Officer) who must approve all such initiatives.
- 5.8 Penalties, in the form of fines, may also be imposed in order to deter inappropriate or antisocial behaviour, for example littering. The amount of the fine will be set at a level designed to deter such behaviour.
- 5.9 Activities carried out by the Council will be continually reviewed in order to identify any new areas where it would be appropriate to make a charge to persons or organisations benefiting (actually or potentially) from those activities. The level of the charge will be determined in accordance with these charging principles.

6. TARGETS

- 6.1 Wherever possible targets will be set in relation to major areas of charging. These will relate to:
 - The amount of income expected to be generated and which has been included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy and detailed budgets.
 - Numbers of users expected to use the service.
 - Types of users expected to use the service.
 - Outcomes to be achieved through the application of the charges.
- 6.2 The achievement of the targets set will be regularly monitored through the collection of data for performance indicators and the budget monitoring process.

7. PAYMENT METHODS AND FACILITIES

- 7.1 Charges may be collected either by requiring users to make payment at the time of service delivery (cash income) or at a later date following receipt of an invoice or notice to pay, or equivalent (credit income). In some circumstances potential users may be required to make payment in advance of receiving the service. Options employed in relation to particular charges will depend upon the circumstances applicable to the service and its users and will have regard to the convenience to users of the method chosen and the safeguarding of the Council's position in relation to the potential for non-payment.
- 7.2 Payment may be made by the following means:
 - Cash.
 - Cheque.
 - Bank transfer.
 - Giro Account Transfer.

- Credit or Debit Card in person.
 - Credit or Debit Card over the telephone.
 - Via the Council's internet site using credit or debit cards.
 - Direct Debit.
 - Via the PayPoint system.
- 7.3 Options permitted in relation to particular charges will depend upon the circumstances applicable to the service and its users.
- 7.4 Facilities for the payment of charges will, wherever possible, be accessible and convenient.
- 7.5 Service users will be strongly encouraged to make payment electronically or using automated means in order to streamline the process, thereby reducing costs and providing added security and effectiveness.
- 7.6 There will be a presumption that all income due to be paid will be collected. Full use will be made of all remedies available to collect income in cases where users do not pay, including court action where necessary. In exceptional cases, if individuals or organisations have difficulty in paying the full amount due immediately, consideration may be given to agreeing arrangements for them to pay over an extended period of time.
- 7.7 Where individuals or organisations consistently fail to pay for services provided, such services will cease to be provided to them until all outstanding charges have been paid and they may, in future, be required to pay in advance of service provision or may be refused service provision where this can be applied.
- 7.8 Refunds of overpaid or wrongly paid charges will be made promptly once it has been established that a refund is appropriate.

8. REVIEW OF CHARGES

- 8.1 The Council's charges will be reviewed regularly to ensure that they are fit for purpose, continue to contribute to the furtherance of its objectives and, where set to recover costs, continue to do so.
- 8.2 Reviews will consider the following factors, plus any others relevant to particular charges:
- The income which is being collected at current charging levels and whether this is in line with budget forecasts.
 - The cost of service provision compared to the charges being made.
 - Whether a service being provided on the basis of charges being set to recover costs should continue to be provided in cases where costs appear likely to exceed the income which it can reasonably be expected to generate. This will especially apply where there is at least one alternative service provider, particularly from within the private sector.
 - The use being made of the service, both in absolute terms and by reference to classes of users and whether this shows all classes are using the service to the extent intended or if any are being deterred from using the service.
 - Are concessions being taken up by the people at whom they are targeted?
 - What is the impact, intended or unintended, of charges on local people?
 - In cases where charges are set to either encourage or deter activity, whether this is happening and the extent to which it is happening.
 - Whether any related benefits from the charging policy being deployed are being realised and the extent of realisation.

- Comparisons with charges being made by neighbouring or similar councils or by other organisations providing similar services both as to the level of charges and the impact which charges have on changing behaviour.
- 8.3 The scale of fees and charges will be considered and approved by Cabinet on an annual basis. This does not preclude reviews of particular charges taking place at any time where it is felt that this is necessary.

9. CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 9.1 The council recognises that the charges it makes to users of its services will have an impact on those users.
- 9.2 Information will be obtained in relation to the following areas in order to properly understand how charges affect users of services and their views with regard to charges made or proposed to be made:
- Opinions as to the appropriateness of levying a charge.
 - Opinions as to the correct level of charges to be made.
 - Whether any particular classes of users will have difficulty affording the charges or feel that it is unfair to make a charge to them.
 - How particular levels of charge will affect demand for services, i.e. either encourage the use of services or discourage particular activities.
 - Whether users feel that the service and the charges made for it represent value for money.
 - Whether users would be prepared to pay a higher charge for an improved service.
- 9.3 This information may be obtained as part of general surveys, by using the e-Panel, specific surveys or by any other means which will be likely to provide a representative indication of user views or of the impact of charges upon them.
- 9.4 The Council's scale of fees and charges will be publicised via the relevant Cabinet agenda when it is reviewed annually and made available on its internet site and will be subject to scrutiny by the relevant scrutiny committees. Charges relating to specific services will be displayed or made available at service delivery points and from time to time in promotional material. Some commercially sensitive charges will, however, not be subject to such widespread publicity. At this time this only applies to trade waste charges.
- 9.5 Appropriate measures will be employed to ensure that the Council's charging objectives are clearly communicated to the public.
- 9.6 Where there is a legal requirement to consult service users or to give them a prescribed period of notice before applying a change in charges this will be done in accordance with any statutory provisions and in line with the Council's own procedures and consultation.

This page is intentionally left blank

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO CABINET

16 January 2024

Report Title: Staffordshire County Council Urban Grass Cutting Contract Delivery

Submitted by: Service Director – Sustainable Environment

Portfolios: Sustainable Environment

Ward(s) affected: All

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>To update Cabinet on the progress made in relation to negotiating the delivery of Staffordshire County Council Highways Urban Verge Grass Maintenance programme to form a contract to deliver an enhanced standard to SCC verges throughout the urban areas of Newcastle Borough.</p>	
<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorise the delivery of Staffordshire County Council's highways urban verge grass maintenance programme by the Sustainable Environment Directorate; 2. To enable the above delivery, to authorise the employment of additional staffing resources and plant acquisition; 	
<p><u>Reasons</u></p> <p>Newcastle Borough Council aims to secure an enhanced frequency and quality of grass cutting urban highway verges following complaints and perceived poor quality of operations currently carried out. this will ensure improved environmental quality is provided to residents of urban areas of the Borough.</p>	

1. Background

- 1.1 Newcastle Borough Council's Streetscene team provided a grass maintenance service to Staffordshire County Council's Highways for many years. In 2020 the service was 'handed back' to SCC Highways due to concerns relating to the costs of providing the service and SCC Highways being unable to fund the service on a full cost recharge basis. The reduction in service standards anticipated to meet the SCC budget were unacceptable to the Council.
- 1.2 The Borough Council continued however to cut and maintain the highway roundabouts on the main roads in and out of Newcastle and on the ring road, at no cost to the County Council, in order to maintain a high well maintained visual statement for the residents and visitors to the borough.

2. Issues

- 2.1 Since 2020 canvassing has taken place from political representatives to County Council in relation to the reduced service standards and the poor visual environmental impact this had on neighbourhoods throughout the borough, applying pressure to increase the cutting frequency to highways grass verges.
- 2.2 Recent partnership conversations and meetings between your and SCC officers have taken place, aiming to improve the frequency of grass cutting to highways verges to a level that is likely to be acceptable to local residents and can be afforded by SCC Highways budget constraints. Weed control will however be retained by the County Council and delivered via their existing contractor.
- 2.3 Added value opportunities have been offered in the service delivery being transferred to Newcastle Borough Council including:
 - Align litter picking to locations of need to avoid substantial litter / material shredding
 - Align grass cutting to NBC locations to provide a co-ordinated visual environmental quality to neighbourhoods
 - Removal of branch falls (where reasonable) to verge locations
 - Strimming / herbicidal treatment around street furniture where required
 - Joint communications opportunities linking into our respective sustainability and biodiversity agendas
 - Share intelligence in relation to land holdings to ensure efficiency and targeting resources at owned resources
- 2.4 Staffordshire County Council have agreed to transfer the highways urban grass-cutting contract to the Council for Newcastle Borough at short notice, with operational delivery to commence in early March 2024. A fee has been agreed, which is to be paid by the County Council per annum to enable delivery to an enhanced specification in comparison to the current delivery model deployed by the County Council.
- 2.5 To enable maximum efficiency in operating this contract, the Borough Council will operate it alongside the delivery of our existing ride on mowing operations maintained across the Borough.

- 2.6** To enable contractual delivery of the service additional staffing resources are required, within the budget allocation, to ensure enhanced environmental standards are delivered on behalf of SCC to the benefit of residents of the Borough.
- 2.7** SCC have indicated that there could be potential TUPE implications in relation to existing staffing, and this requires further information (Employer Liability Information (ELI)) to confirm the exact position which has been requested. Should TUPE be deemed to apply; current assigned staff would transfer on existing terms and conditions which are likely to be less favourable (and therefore less costly) than NUBLC terms. Full structures would need further consideration with potential need for additional supervisory staff and seasonal flex.
- 2.8** In addition to the staffing requirements above additional plant and vehicles will be required to service the contract fulfilment. £37,445 depreciation, fuel and maintenance costs have been project planned to ensure the efficient delivery of the service.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1** Authorise the delivery of Staffordshire County Council's highways urban verge grass maintenance programme by the Sustainable Environment Directorate;
- 3.2** To enable the above delivery, authorise the employment of additional staffing resources and plant acquisition;

4. Reasons

- 4.1** Delivery of this contract will enable an acceptable standard of urban grass verge maintenance throughout the borough, improving environmental standards and resident satisfaction with the standard of their neighbourhoods

5. Options Considered

- 5.1** The delivery of the contract to remain with the existing contract provider and to be managed by SCC Highways but this likely will continue to result in a less than satisfactory output.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1** Contract and service delivery requirements, no financial penalties identified

7. Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 There are no equality impact issues arising from this report.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

- 8.1 Appropriate full cost recharge funding is required, as outlined above, to ensure compliance with the service delivery standards requirements.
- 8.2 Agreement has been reached with Staffordshire County Council to undertake the highway urban verge grass cutting for £220,000 per annum. To be reviewed on an annual basis.
- 8.3 To be able to deliver the service staffing resource costs have been estimated at £182,555.

9. Major Risks & Mitigation

- 9.1 Notification of the award of this contract has been made at short notice requiring an urgent need to mobilise in relation to employing additional staff and procuring suitable plant and vehicles.
- 9.2 Confirmation is required on the term these arrangements will be in place in order that the Council can be sure in recovery of the costs of purchasing additional plant, equipment and resources. A formal signed agreement will need to be in place prior to works commencing.
- 9.3 Until further information regarding current staffing and ELI is known; workforce costs are only estimated.

10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

- 10.1 Use of electric equipment where possible and efficient transport reduction journeys compared to existing two organisation delivery model



11. Key Decision Information

- 11.1** The report is a key decision due to the financial implications of undertaking these operations on behalf of the County Council/

12. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

- 12.1** None

13. List of Appendices

- 13.1** None

14. Background Papers

- 14.1** None

This page is intentionally left blank

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO CABINET

16 January 2024

Report Title: Award of contract for the supply of Bedding Plants and Hanging Baskets

Submitted by: Service Director - Sustainable Environment

Portfolios: Sustainable Environment

Ward(s) affected: All

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>To update Cabinet on the procurement exercise undertaken for the supply of bedding plants and hanging baskets from April 2024 following the end of the current supply contract.</p>	
<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awards the contract to supply the Council with bedding plants and Hanging Baskets to Boverton Nurseries to commence from April 2024 for a period of 4 years up to April 2028. 	
<p><u>Reasons</u></p> <p>The Council has had a contract with a bedding plant supplier since November 2019, following a competitive tendering exercise. The current contract is due to expire on 31st March 2024. A procurement exercise has been undertaken to ensure seasonal provision of bedding plants are maintained. Bedding plants are an important feature of our existing grounds maintenance offer to Newcastle and Kidsgrove Town centres in addition to Bradwell Crematorium.</p>	

1. **Background**

- 1.1 The provision of good quality bedding plants, hanging baskets and floral troughs is required to ensure we are able to create colourful floral displays within a number of key locations within the borough and town centres. The floral displays created are a key component to sustaining the attractiveness of our town centres, strategic gateways and crematoria.

- 1.2 Our approach to creating attractive bedding schemes has gained considerable recognition concerning our approach to achieving consistent and significant success in Britain in Bloom playing crucial role in our achieving a gold standard in Britain in Bloom for the past 19 years. Our annual plant bedding displays also support our approach in achieving green flag status for the Queens Gardens. Perhaps more significantly we receive regular compliments from our residents with regards to the attractiveness of our bedding schemes, underpinning the pride our residents have within the borough and with Newcastle Town Centre in particular.
- 1.3 Expenditure for the purchase of annual bedding plants; hanging baskets and floral troughs has for several years been within the £50,000 budget. Cost savings have been achieved by closely reviewing the number and location of bedding plants with reductions being made with our formal parks in particular, where no bedding plants are now used. Further reductions have been achieved in reducing annual plant use concerning our bereavement services with annual plants and baskets now being displayed at Bradwell Crematoria only. We have additionally introduced more sustainable planting, including wildflower schemes in key locations with excellent effect most notably on our roundabouts to Newcastle Town Centre, Queens Gardens and Keele Cemetery.
- 1.4 Further expansion of herbaceous planting use is currently being planned with a phased introduction to a number of locations and is anticipated to reduce the number of bedding plants being purchased over the next five years.
- 1.5 Our current contract has expired which has enabled us to undertake a mini tender to test market conditions with regards to the number of nurseries that can supply our plant needs, the quality of provision, sustainability of businesses and the value and variety of plant units available.

2. Issues

- 2.1 The Council has had a contract with the current bedding plant supplier since November 2019, following a competitive tendering exercise. The contract was offered and accepted on the basis of it expiring on 31st March 2024. As this contract is due to expire it has been necessary to retender to ensure seasonal provision of bedding plants.
- 2.2 A procurement exercise has been undertaken with only one submission being received. The submission being from our incumbent supplier, Boverton Nurseries.
- 2.3 The price increases reflected in the submission, of approximately 10%, for this contract opportunity, in comparison to the tender submission in 2019 are modest and are considered to achieve good value. Should we continue to procure high volumes of bedding plants (which is scheduled to reduce over the next three years) expenditure will be achieved within our £50,000 annual budget.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That Cabinet approves the award of the contract to supply the Council with bedding plants and Hanging Baskets to Boverton Nurseries to commence from April 2024 for a period of 4 years up to April 2028.

4. Reasons

- 4.1 The current contract for the supply of bedding plants and hanging baskets will expire at the end of March 2024. There is a wish to continue using bedding plants and hanging baskets in key locations within the borough, with a view to a continued move to more sustainable planting schemes as we move forward.

5. Options Considered

- 5.1 To move away from traditional bedding plants, to perennials and other more sustainable planting. However, such a move in one season would still require significant investment and planning, and it is considered a longer-term approach is required to how formal flower and plant displays are delivered in the future.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1 The council must comply with Public Procurement Directives, deliver a transparent procurement process and evidence value for money solutions

7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 It is considered that there are positive equality impacts for residents and visitors who are able to appreciate the floral displays

8. Financial and Resource Implications

- 8.1 The procurement process confirmed an annual fee of up to £48,707.50 in value for the supply of bedding plants, hanging baskets and railing troughs for delivery on an annual basis commencing from April 2024.
- 8.2 The cost of the provision is within budget, being met from within the approved General Fund Revenue Programme for Streetscene.

9. Major Risks & Mitigation

- 9.1 There is a risk to the Council of not being able to source and take delivery of sufficient quality and quantity of bedding plants should the contract not be awarded to Boverton Nurseries.

10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

10.1 The Council has a very strong ethos in supporting its green spaces, and ensuring its town centres and parks are designed and maintained to a high standard, which has been recognised through its Britain in Bloom awards, and green flag status in a number of locations. These awards recognise the Councils commitment to sustainability goals as well as biodiversity, and nature recovery initiatives, which this procurement exercise supports.

10.2 This report supports the following UNSDG goals



11. Key Decision Information

11.1 The report is a key decision given the projected spend over the contract period up to the end of March 2028.

12. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

12.1 None

13. List of Appendices

13.1 None

14. Background Papers

14.1 None

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO CABINET

10 January 2024

Report Title: Health Inequalities Grant Projects

Submitted by: Service Director - Regulatory Services

Portfolios: Community Safety and Wellbeing plus Leisure, Culture and Heritage

Ward(s) affected: All

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
To outline to Cabinet the opportunity to bid for funding from Staffordshire County Council to enable the Council to deliver projects that meet the Health Inequalities agenda. Through the Better Care Staffordshire Programme there are identified health priorities across the County, within Newcastle there are many residents living with health issues that would benefit from additional non-medical support.			
<u>Recommendation</u> That: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet acknowledges the submission of bids as set out in the report and approves acceptance of any funding allocated as part of the Covid Outbreak Management Funding (COMF). The Service Director – Regulatory Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing is authorised to spend the grant in relation to Housing and Health Hot-spot areas, entering into any agreements necessary to deliver the projects in line with the grant. The Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Heritage is authorised to spend the grant in relation to strengthening existing health and wellbeing programmes entering into any agreements necessary to deliver the projects in line with the grant. 			
<u>Reasons</u> The Council's Constitution sets out that Cabinet should review funding bids of this scale, as it is over £100,000. It is therefore appropriate that Cabinet reviews the COMF opportunity and supports the bids for the hoarding and damp/ mould projects plus the health-based referral programme.			

1. Background

- 1.1 District/boroughs have the opportunity, via the County Council's Health Inequalities Directors' Group (HIDG), to access funding to tackle health inequalities. One of these opportunities is to utilise some of the remaining Covid Outbreak Management Funding (COMF), held by Staffordshire County Council (SCC).

1.2 There are three proposed funding streams as follows:

1.2.1 **Stream 1 - Health and Care Hardship Fund:**

This fund stream is to create a longer-term hardship fund / discretionary assistance fund for partner organisations to utilise to help create a system solution to address health and care scenarios when hardship issues are impacting on a solution to a problem.

Across Staffordshire we are seeing an increasing number of scenarios / situations that are 'falling between the gaps' in service provision and these are impacting on people's health and / or care.

Some recent examples of complex scenarios where the hardship fund would have been beneficial include:

- Flea infestations in properties which have resulted in restrictions to the level of district nursing care provided and a delay to hospital discharge.
- Homeless case of an infectious disease where there was a requirement to self-isolate to prevent the spread of infection.
- Deep clean/declutter to ensure a continuation of care.

The hardship fund, which would be accessed by partner organisations rather than individual residents of Staffordshire, aims to provide a resource to enable timely solutions to problems, however it is not intended to remove or mitigate the statutory responsibility of partner organisations. Consideration not only needs to be given to the health of the individual, but also the wider impacts on adult social care and hospital avoidance and discharge.

Collaborative multi-agency approach required including ICB, MPFT, Fire Service, mental health service, registered social landlords, housing officers, and environmental health officers, and importantly the voluntary sector and communities.

1.2.2 **Stream 2 - Strengthening existing health and wellbeing programmes or offsetting in year spend.**

This fund stream is to scale-up or to bolster existing health and wellbeing programmes. Must be aligned to health inequalities / health outcomes, as well as existing public health priorities (e.g. Better Health Staffordshire). In principle, the funding would be used to either off-set in-year spend aligned to wider determinants of health/health inequalities, which will create a longer-term 'funding pot' to address local priorities and health inequalities; or bolster/expand existing health and wellbeing programmes prior to September 2024.

Spend plans must demonstrate clear political governance for the proposed investment in addition to providing details of anticipated outcomes and evidence of impact of addressing health inequalities. With accountability of delivering actions and outcomes taken to Staffordshire Leader's Board.

Any COMF spend will need to meet the COMF grant conditions and demonstrate a measurable impact on improving health and reducing inequalities. This funding is an opportunity to ensure that agreed work programmes have the greatest impact on target populations and on addressing health inequalities.

Jointly developing and agreeing the spend principles will create effective local partnership structures that can drive collective action on tackling inequalities via the wider determinants of health.

1.2.3 Stream 3 - Housing and Health Hot-spot areas

Good housing supports health across the life course, from childhood through working life and into older age. Housing is particularly important in ensuring a healthy start in life and is a key factor in the generation of health inequalities. People's health is particularly affected by living in poor-quality housing and unintentional injuries in the home are a leading cause of morbidity and mortality.

This funding is for specific intervention / activity related to housing and health, with the aim of proposing and delivering specific targeted intervention(s) to address the housing issues identified in the hot-spot areas, based on a data informed approach.

Ten wards have been identified as having 'high' level of need, accounting for 63,400 residents or 51% of the borough population.

These wards are: Bradwell, Cross Heath, Kidsgrove & Ravenscliffe, Town, Holditch & Chesterton, May Bank, Clayton, Crackley & Red Street, Silverdale and Wolstanton.

2. Issues

- 2.1 The County Council have allocated £250,000 to the Health and Care Hardship Fund (Stream 1) which will be distributed on a county-wide basis, potentially through a voluntary sector partner.
- 2.2 Newcastle had been given a notional allocation of £404,604 which comprises £253,592 for Strengthening existing health and wellbeing programmes (Stream 2) and £151,012 for Housing and Health Hot-spot areas (Stream 3).
- 2.3 The funding proposal for Stream 2 is based on health referrals for a range of targeted exercise classes.
 - 2.4.1 The Council operates a successful wellness suite that is used by a wide range of people either maintaining their physical fitness or recovering from an illness. The Wellness Suite is fitted with supported exercise machines which enable people to build up their muscle mass sufficiently to utilise standard gym equipment. The Council also offers land and water-based exercise through Good Boost, this enables people to develop their exercise at a rate to meet their personal needs. The proposal is to extend the offer for a wide range of medical needs both based at J2 and in community locations.
 - 2.4.2 Referrals will be for a junior programme aged 12-16 years then an adult programme over 16 years. Those on the junior programme will be able to access the classes with a buddy of their choice whether it be a carer, parent or friend. It will be a twelve-week exercise referral programme, including rehabilitation classes: Pulmonary, Cancer, Obesity, Escape Pain, Slips, trips and falls plus a move or it or lose it exercise programme aimed specifically at the over 60's. Sessions will also support customers with mental wellbeing. Specific session based around nature and nurture will be run from the Brampton Museum and Brampton Park.
- 2.4 The funding proposal for Stream 3 comprises two projects:

- Hoarding Support - to provide dedicated support to individuals with hoarding tendencies following de-cluttering of premises. The project is to complement the declutter with support for the next steps to allow a long-term sustainable solution. This may include making a housing application, going on viewings, supporting with the practicalities of moving alongside supporting to access services and treatments that address underlying causes that have led to hoarding behaviour. All with a purpose of developing long term behaviour change enabling suitable, secure safe homes that provide a place to thrive.
- Damp and Mould - The essence of this project is housing on prescription, where a referral is made from a medical professional who has identified an ill health associated with housing so that it can be investigated, and improvement measures applied. The project would initially focus on developing links with social prescribers and medical professionals to establish a referral pathway. To then investigate the housing conditions, commissioning specialist services as appropriate to review damp and mould conditions. Carrying out either enforcement activity or fund finding for improvements. Hence making long term improvements to the property and improving the overall housing stock.

2.5 All projects are set to run for a minimum until September 2024, however subject to demand the aim is to enable them to run for 12 months. In addition, for some projects should as exercise classes there will be some sustainability through offering J2 membership to enable the health benefits to continue beyond the grant programme.

2.6 The business cases have been reviewed and approved with a total funding allocation of £410, 592 being allocated to the three initiatives.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That:

- 1) Cabinet acknowledges the submission of bids as set out in the report and approves acceptance of any funding allocated as part of the Covid Outbreak Management Funding (COMF).
- 2) The Service Director – Regulatory Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing is authorised to spend the grant in relation to Housing and Health Hot-spot areas, entering into any agreements necessary to deliver the projects in line with the grant.
- 3) The Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Heritage is authorised to spend the grant in relation to Strengthening existing health and wellbeing programmes entering into any agreements necessary to deliver the projects in line with the grant.

4. Reasons

4.1 Officers have developed bids based on the notional spend profiles set out by the Health Inequalities Directors Group and kept to the splits recommended between streams 2 and 3. Officers have highlighted that should further funding become available should another district not take up their allocation that Newcastle can expand our delivery programme accordingly.

4.2 Staffordshire County Council have reviewed the bids and approved funding of £410,592 to deliver the three projects.

5. **Options Considered**

- 5.1 To not submit proposals for projects and funding.
- 5.2 To submit proposals for the full financial allocation.
- 5.3 To submit proposals for over the full allocations, should other Local Authorities not utilise their full provisional allocation, that this may be awarded to Newcastle-under-Lyme to benefit our communities.
- 5.4 To accept or decline the £410,592 funding from Staffordshire County Council.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 6.1 The funding is not directly supporting the delivery of the Council's statutory duties but is providing complementary services which are needed by our residents.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 The programmes will be developed to assist our most vulnerable customers who are either living in unsuitable housing conditions or struggling with significant health issues.
- 7.2 Whilst the programmes are based on need some are clearly directed to specific groups such as the junior health programme and the over 60's exercise programme.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 8.1 If district/boroughs are unable to meet the September 2024 spend deadline they can offset this against eligible 2023/24 expenditure within their base budget; a proportion of this is carried forward to 2024/25 (and potentially future years) as a reserve.
- 8.2 Newcastle has been given a notional allocation of £404,604 which comprises £253,592 for Strengthening existing health and wellbeing programmes (Stream 2) and £151,012 for Housing and Health Hot-spot areas (Stream 3).
- 8.3 The project proposals have been developed on the following financial models:
 - Leisure & Health = £253,592 with option for extension for further months dependent on funding availability.
 - Hoarding Support = £91,000 with option for extension for further months dependent on funding availability.
 - Damp & Mould = £60,000 with option for extension for further months dependent on funding availability.
- 8.4 The grants awards across the County are a total of £2,600,000, should other Local Authorities not submit proposals for their full notional allocation, then this may be reallocated to other Local Authorities. Each of the projects has an element of extension proposed to utilise this additional funding, if available.

8.5 In terms of the 12 week health referral programme it clearly takes longer than 12 weeks to change some-one's health, therefore the key is to change their lifestyle and to make regular exercise part of their weekly routine. If attending sessions at J2 or in the community are suitable for them then they need to continue beyond the 12 weeks and it is known that if the person has made some payment then they are more likely to attend and continue attendance into the mainstream offer. Following discussions with those operating a similar scheme in Cheshire their charges are based on 3 months of prescription charges, in Cheshire health colleagues accept that customers have to pay this amount for medicines or non-medical treatments. Subject to the bid being successful officers will discuss this approach with referring agencies and adopt the charges following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Heritage.

8.6 Staffordshire County Council have received the bid submission and provided £410,592 funding for the delivery of the three projects.

9. **Major Risks & Mitigation**

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

- The risk is the lack of engagement from the target residents. The key risk is of not being able to engage with social prescribers or medical professionals to identify households for the project to work with.
- The delivery of the exercise referral programme is reliant on the recruitment of additional exercise trainers.

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

- Initial engagement has already begun to develop good working relationships and mitigate this risk.
- This is mitigated by having a dedicated support person with a role to develop that relationship. Evidence from case reviews shows usually time is the key to building this up.
- Within Leisure discussions are taking place with potential software providers to deliver a referral programme which will then also record customers health needs and participation which will in turn be useful data to prove the success of the programme.
- Recruitment of additional exercise instructors and use of current J2 staff will be considered to ensure the delivery of the new programme.

10. **UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)**

10.1 The funding is clearly aimed at improving residents' health and the following UNSDG goals:



11. Key Decision Information

- 11.1 This is a key decision due to the level of funding being requested and it will affect residents in wards across the Borough.

12. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

- 12.1 None.

13. List of Appendices

- 13.1 None.

14. Background Papers

- 14.1 The funding bids are available on request.

This page is intentionally left blank

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

Corporate Leadership Team's REPORT TO CABINET

16th January 2024

Report Title: Future delivery of Communications service

Submitted by: Service Director, Strategy, People and Performance

Portfolios: One Council, People and Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: All

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>To outline the current position in relation to communications provision at Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council; to identify needs moving forward and to propose a robust solution for communications provision whilst maintaining financial stability and ensuring our officers in post are supported.</p>	
<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>That Cabinet:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Agree to contract with Staffordshire County Council to provide a full and resilient communications service to Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council; b) Authorise the Service Director – Strategy, People and Performance, in consultation with the portfolio holder for One Council, People and Partnerships, to finalise the service specification and associated contractual arrangements to give effect to this decision. 	
<p><u>Reasons</u></p> <p>Officers have reviewed the delivery of communications services within the Borough Council. Having utilised communications support from Staffordshire County Council through a Service Level Agreement, there is an opportunity to enhance the Council's communications function by contracting with the County Council on a longer-term basis.</p>	

1. Background

- 1.1 The Communications Team at Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council has reduced in size and capacity over several years as the role of the service has adapted to Council need. The management of the Council website, which previously was a core communications responsibility, has now been devolved to service areas; and colleagues across the organisation have been empowered to undertake more of their own communications with their audiences, for instance via social media.
- 1.2 This empowerment of the services to create their own voice whilst maintaining the overall brand of the council has been met positively from residents as engagement with specific services, for example Waste and Recycling, Newcastle Green Team and The Brampton Museum is high.
- 1.3 This shift in focus creates space for the core communications team to focus on broader strategic messages which straddle service delivery and raise the profile of the organisation as a whole.
- 1.4 In line with the drive to improve performance and ensure that all services feed into the outcomes of the Council plan and strategy, it is important that all teams are strategically focused with results directly aligned to service outcomes.
- 1.5 The current budget for the communications service, including staffing, is circa £113k

2. Issues

- 2.1 Staffing changes, including the departure of the Communications Manager, over the last 12 months have enabled a review of the service and released a level of savings. As an interim measure, using these savings, the team have been supported by resource through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Staffordshire County Council. This has provided professional support, and guidance to remaining team members but is not a long term solution and will not deliver the strategic planning requirements needed to ensure that the service outputs align to the wider Council needs. The specific requirements for a robust service are as follows:
- 2.2 There is need for development of a Communications Strategy and aligned operational communications plan, which currently there is not the internal capacity to produce or deliver. The Strategy must be aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan, include measurable outcomes and illustrate the proactive work the team will do on horizon scanning and supporting the business of cabinet and council meetings.

- 2.3 There a need for development of a social media strategy and associated training plan for service delivery in line with the service empowerment aspects outlined in section 1.2.
- 2.4 The reduced requirement for operational output and the associated reduction in team size impacts on the resilience of the service and their ability to respond with agility where needed.
- 2.5 Team members currently do not have access to the variety of work and the continued professional development a wider, more mature service could offer. Therefore there is a risk that we will struggle in future to retain or recruit officers in post.

Way Forward

- 2.6 Discussions have been held with Staffordshire County Council (SCC) to explore a longer-term service model through which the service is outsourced and managed by SCC whilst maintaining the local provision and staffing via TUPE transfer (Transfer or Undertakings Protection of Employment).

- 2.7 The model proposed is as follows:

A 3 year Communications Contract (commencing 1.4.24) to include:

- a. Senior Comms Officer Account Manager (0.4 FTE)
- b. Media Officer (0.5 FTE)
- c. Communications Officer (1FTE)
- d. Graphic Designer (0.5 FTE)
- e. Communications strategy, annual workplan, social media strategy and support
- f. Cost £120,000 per annum, to be reviewed annually in line with the Local Government Pay Award.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Cabinet:-

- Agree to contract with Staffordshire County Council to provide a full and resilient communications service to Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council;
- Authorise the Service Director – Strategy, People and Performance, in consultation with the portfolio holder for One Council, People and

Partnerships, to finalise the service specification and associated contractual arrangements to give effect to this decision.

4. Reasons

- 4.1 In order to provide an effective, efficient, agile and strategic communications service, changes are required to the existing model. By outsourcing to Staffordshire County Council, the service and operational delivery will benefit from the wider experience of a broader team. Services will also benefit from wider support and training in social media skills and strategy and grow in confidence around promoting their distinct outputs.
- 4.2 The cost outlined above is represents a £7k increase on the current budget. However the proposed model provides increased resilience and agility, as well as training and support for team members.
- 4.3 This proposed cost is sufficient to cover salaries of the staff currently in house; alongside additional salaries of part time Senior Account Manager and Media Officer. When taken into account the additional out of hours provision and strategic service review as outlined; the additional costs are not significant and it can be reasonably assumed that a market search would not uncover a more cost effective solution.
- 4.4 The staff likely to TUPE would see no detriment to their employment terms and conditions and would be able to remain working from their current base.
- 4.5 Informal discussion has been held with the relevant Trade Union representative and the staff members directly affected; and the above proposal has been outlined to them. No objections have been received.

5. Options Considered

- 5.1 Alternative option considered was to fill the vacancy of Communications Manager and continue managing the service internally.
- 5.2 The vacancy currently held, is that of an operational manager and therefore it is unlikely that we could realise the strategic objectives needed if we were to move forward with this option. Alternative options would be to recruit to a part time higher graded communications business manager; however this does not provide the resilience of the model outlined in section 3.2, nor the benefit of access to the wider team and associated expertise.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1 In certain circumstances contracts between public bodies are excluded from the PCR 2015 meaning they do not need to be advertised or awarded using EU procurement procedures. It can be reasonably believed that this proposal fulfils the requirements outlined below.

6.2 Under PCR 2015 a contracting authority (such as a council) can award a contract to another body (such as a local authority company) outside of the EU rules if all of the following conditions are met:

- the contracting authority exercises control over that body which is similar to the control it exercises over its own departments.
- more than 80% of the activities of the controlled body are carried out performing tasks entrusted to it by the controlling contracting authority.
- there is no direct private capital participation in the controlled body (with certain limited exceptions).

'Similar' control means 'decisive influence over both strategic objectives and significant decisions' of the controlled body.

6.3 The above considered, no procurement process is required for this agreement to be lawful.

6.4 Consultation regarding TUPE with existing in-house staff would be required, and the legal process followed.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken on the proposal and no adverse effects have been identified Staff will suffer no detriment from the changes due to TUPE protections.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

8.1 A small increase to budget of £7k per annum would be incurred due to this model being adopted.

9. Major Risks & Mitigation

9.1 There remains a minor risk to challenge from any parties who may have wished to bid for the service, had we tendered externally. However this risk is mitigated through our conclusions outlined in section 6.

10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

10.1 The proposal, by achieving contributes towards the following UNSDGs

11. Key Decision Information

11.1 This proposal is considered a Key Decision due to cost threshold.

12. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

12.1 n/a

13. List of Appendices

13.1 n/a

14. Background Papers

14.1 n/a



Cabinet Forward Plan: Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council

Notice of Key Decisions to be taken under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings & Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 between 1 January 2024 and 30 April 2024

This plan gives notice of decisions that [Cabinet](#) is expecting to take over the next few months. It also gives, except in cases of urgency, at least 28 days notice of all “Key Decisions” that will be taken “Key Decisions” are decisions about “executive” functions that will:-

- A) result in the Council incurring expenditure or making savings of an amount which is significant having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or the function to which the decision relates. (NB: The financial threshold above which expenditure or savings become significant has been set by the Council at £100,000 Revenue and £250,000 Capital Expenditure); and/or
- B) be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards of the Borough.

We have to take some Cabinet decisions in private because they deal with confidential or “exempt” information. That is information described in one or more of the following categories set out in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under the authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals an authority proposes;

- a. to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - b. to make an order or direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of a crime

If we intend to take a decision in private, we will tell you why in the plan below. If you disagree with our reasons, you can tell us why using the contact details below. We will respond to you directly and will publish our response in the meeting agenda. If we have published the meeting agenda before we can respond, we will respond verbally at the meeting and record the response in the minutes.

You can find more information about Cabinet, Cabinet Members and their portfolios, agendas, reports and minutes [here](#).

More information on Cabinet procedures, executive functions, Key Decisions, urgent decisions and access to information is available in our [Constitution](#).

For all enquiries, please contact Democratic Services, Castle House, Barracks Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 1BL.
Telephone – 01782 742222 / Email – DemocraticServices@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	Key Decision
Draft Revenue & Capital Budget & Strategies 2024/25	To consider a report on the Draft Revenue & Capital Budget and Strategies 2024/25	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 16 January 2024	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N/A	No
Schedule of Fees and Charges 2024/25	To consider a report on the Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2024/25	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 16 January 2024	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including	Yes

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	
						the authority holding that information)	
Newcastle Borough Local Plan Consultation Responses and Next Stages	To consider a report on the Newcastle Borough Local Plan Consultation Responses and Next Stages	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Strategic Planning	Cabinet 16 January 2024	Economy and Place	All Wards	N/A	Yes
Communication s Services	To consider a report on Communications Services	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 16 January 2024	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	Yes
Approval to Award Contract for the Supply of Bedding Plants and Hanging Baskets	To consider a report for the Approval to Award Contract for the Supply of Bedding Plants and Hanging Baskets	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Sustainable Environment	Cabinet 16 January 2024	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	Yes
Health Inequalities Grant Projects	To consider a report on Health Inequalities Grant Projects	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Leisure, Culture & Heritage,	Cabinet 16 January 2024	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	Yes

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	
		Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Community Safety and Wellbeing					
Walleys Quarry Update Report	To receive an update on odour issues at Walleys Quarry	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 16 January 2024	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	No
Revenue and Capital Budget and Strategies	To consider a report on the Revenue and Capital Budget and Strategies	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 6 February 2024	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N/A	No
Town Centre Regeneration Update	To consider an update report on the Town Centre Regeneration	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 6 February 2024	Economy and Place	Town	3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	Yes
Kidsgrove Town Deal Contract Award - Shared Services and Garage	To consider a report on the Kidsgrove Town Deal Contract Award - Shared Services and Garage Replacement	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth, Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People	Cabinet 6 February 2024	Economy and Place	Kidsgrove & Ravenscliffe	3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including	Yes

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	
Replacement		and Partnerships				the authority holding that information)	
Procurement of Streetscene Vehicles including EV's	To consider a report on the procurement of Streetscene Vehicles including EV's	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Sustainable Environment	Cabinet 6 February 2024	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	Yes
Corporate Enforcement Policy	To consider a report on the Corporate Enforcement Policy	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Sustainable Environment	Cabinet 6 February 2024	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	Yes
Quarter 3 Finance and Performance Report 2023/24	To consider a report on the Quarter 3 Finance and Performance Report 2023/24	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth, Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 6 February 2024	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N/A	No
Walleys Quarry Update Report	To consider an update report on odour issues at Walleys Quarry	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 6 February 2024	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	No
IT Data Centre	To consider a report in	Cabinet Portfolio	Cabinet 6	Health, Wellbeing	All Wards	N/A	No

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	
Replacement	IT Data Centre Replacement	Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	February 2024	and Environment			
War Widow(er) Pension Disregard - Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction	To consider a report on War Widow(er) Pension Disregard - Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 6 February 2024	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N/A	No
Procurement of the Council's Long Term Agreement (Insurance)	To consider a report of the outcome of the procurement process in utilising the 'YPO - Insurance Placement DPS - 978 framework' for the delivery of a new 5 year (3 + 1+ 1) Long Term Insurance Agreement and seek agreement to contract.	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 6 February 2024	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N/A	Yes
EV Charging Points for Castle Car Park	To consider a report on EV Charging Points for Castle Car Park	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 19 March 2024	Economy and Place	Town	3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority	Yes

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	
						holding that information)	
Re-award of contract for Wammy Changing Rooms	To consider a report on the re-awarding of contract for Wammy Changing Rooms	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 19 March 2024	Economy and Place	Cross Heath	3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	Yes
Newcastle Town Deal Digital Infrastructure Project Update	To consider a report on the Newcastle Town Deal Digital Infrastructure Project Update	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 19 March 2024	Economy and Place	Town	N/A	Yes
Tree and Biodiversity Management Plan	To consider a report on the Tree and Biodiversity Management Plan	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Sustainable Environment	Cabinet 19 March 2024	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	No
Taxi Metered Fares	To consider a report on Taxi Metered Fares	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 19 March 2024	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N/A	Yes
Refreshed Sustainable Environment	To consider a report on the Refreshed Sustainable	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Sustainable Environment	Cabinet 23 April 2024	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	Yes

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	
Strategy and Action Plan	Environment Strategy and Action Plan						

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank