Date of meeting Tuesday, 5th November, 2024

Time 2.00 pm

Venue Astley Room - Castle

Contact Geoff Durham 742222



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

Cabinet

AGENDA

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 - 28)
5	CONTRACT AWARD FOR YORK PLACE	(Pages 29 - 36)
6	CONTRACT AWARD FOR RYECROFT	(Pages 37 - 44)
7	CONTRACT AWARD FOR MIDWAY	(Pages 45 - 52)
8	TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER AMENDMENTS	(Pages 53 - 64)
9	QUARTER 2 - FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT 2024/25	(Pages 65 - 100)
10	FORWARD PLAN	(Pages 101 - 106)

11 URGENT BUSINESS

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

12 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.

Contacting the Council: Switchboard 01782 717717 . Text 07800 140048

Email webmaster@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk. www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

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 (Leader) (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.

<u>Meeting Quorums</u>: Where the total membership of a committee is 12 Members or less, the quorum will be 3 members....Where the total membership is more than 12 Members, the quorum will be one quarter of the total membership.

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

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

Substitute Members:

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

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

NOTE: IF THE FIRE ALARM SOUNDS, PLEASE LEAVE THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY THROUGH THE FIRE EXIT DOORS.

ON EXITING THE BUILDING, PLEASE ASSEMBLE AT THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING BY THE STATUE OF QUEEN VICTORIA. DO NOT RE-ENTER THE BUILDING UNTIL ADVISED TO DO SO.

Agenda Item 3

Cabinet - 15/10/24

CABINET

Tuesday, 15th October, 2024 Time of Commencement: 2.00 pm

View the agenda here

Watch the meeting here

Present: Councillor Simon Tagg (Chair)

Councillors: Sweeney Fear Hutchison

Heesom Skelding

Officers: Gordon Mole Chief Executive

Simon McEneny Deputy Chief Executive
Anthony Harold Service Director - Legal &

Governance / Monitoring Officer

Sarah Wilkes Service Director - Finance /

S151 Officer

Geoff Durham Civic & Member Support Officer Sam Clark Service Director - IT & Digital

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 10 September, 2024 be

agreed as a correct record.

3. WALLEYS QUARRY UPDATE

The Leader introduced an update report on Walleys Quarry looking at the complaints, monitoring information, actions of the Environment Agency (EA) and the Borough Council.

The Chief Executive advised that odour complaints in August and September had been lower than in previous months but, in the first week of October, complaints had risen significantly. There had been three 'odour events' in September where, over ten complaints had been received in a single day.

In terms of monitoring, officers had completed both five minute odour assessment and spot assessment. Both of which identified a range of odour intensities.

The percentage exceedance of the World Health Organisation's annoyance level per week were shown in the report at table 2.12, showing that the level of hydrogen sulphide was variable – with the week commencing 1 September showing 18.7% exceedance.

Complaints continued to correlate well to air quality data. The graph at table 2.13 of the report showed good correlation throughout that period.

1

Cabinet - 15/10/24

At its last meeting, Cabinet was updated on the actions arising from the Committee of Inquiry which was presented to Full Council on 25 September and the recommendations were shown at paragraph 2.10 of the report.

The Chief Executive highlighted the EA's CAR (Compliance Assessment Report) forms which were published by the EA and shown in the report at paragraph 2.17. Reference was made to the form dated 31 March, 2024 where A 16.1 compliance score was given. The EA had stated that they were concerned that non-compliances from 2023 had continued into this year. Walleys Quarry Ltd (WQL) had been issued with a warning in respect of the Quarter 4 2023 Environmental Monitoring Report non-compliances but had failed to take appropriate remedial action.

On 10 September WQL published an information update into their investigations following the fire at the site in August which was available on their website and shown at paragraphs 2.22 and 2.33 of the report.

The Leader stated that complaints were edging up again as the cooler weather approached with some of the monitoring equipment showing an increase.

No concrete action from the EA had still yet been seen. This Council agreed that the site should be appropriately closed, with capping off and restoration taking place.

There was a Walleys Quarry Liaison Meeting taking place later today which the Leader would be attending and it was highlighted that there had been some director-level changes at the company.

The Minister for Nature had responded to the Leader's letter of July, refusing a public inquiry at this stage. However, the Leader and Chief Executive had met with the Health Minister- via Teams, who was keen to try and support the community and to get the message to his colleagues in DEFRA that the EA needed to take urgent action.

The latest position on the legal action that the Council was taking had, as far as possible, gone public with more information being available towards the end of this month.

Councillor Fear stated that the notion that the EA was taking 'robust measures' was bizarre but the evidence proved that it was not the case. The Council should continue to press hard for a public inquiry.

Councillor Sweeney asked the Chief Executive about reference to the smell being different on a couple of days. Councillor Sweeney had noticed this but it had been over more than two days and asked if there was any further information on this.

The Chief Executive stated that the point had been that officers had been looking at whether there were concurrent events happening such as spreading on nearby fields for example, as there had been an intense smell in the town on 20 and 21 August. However, for those living near to the site it was a personal experience and highly variable in terms of atmospheric conditions. The odour was affecting people's lives both physically and mentally. The Council would continue working with the UK Health Security Agency and others to bring the matter to a conclusion.

The Leader stated that since the last meeting of Cabinet, the Committee of Inquiry report had been taken through Full Council and the Chief Executive was moving forward on implementing the recommendations which sat with the Council. The

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pressure needed to be kept up on the desire for a public inquiry and the legal action progressed.

There had been an upsurge in complaints regarding lorry movements around the site, particularly at early hours in the morning. The County Council and Police had been made aware and would take joint action on that.

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

Watch the debate here

4. CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

The Portfolio Holder for Finance Town Centres and Growth introduced a report providing an update on the procurement of a partner for the delivery of a fibre network in the Newcastle Town Deal Area and sought authority to appoint the selected delivery partner.

The deployment of a fibre network would bring substantial benefits, enabling businesses and the community-digital connectivity in areas that were not being served by the commercial market or where there was potential to overcome digital exclusion in local communities.

The Leader welcomed this which would cover the Newcastle Town Deal Area urban wards. It was key to increase connectivity in a sustainable way. The Town Deal money was an opportunity to get a good, fast internet connection for residents and businesses. Using Community Centres as hubs could give them a new lease of life and would also create connectivity in the local area.

There was a confidential report attached to this item that would be discussed in closed session at the end of he meeting.

Resolved:

- (i) That the appointment of ITS Technology Group as a delivery partner for the delivery of a fibre network in the Newcastle Town Deal area, be approved.
- (ii) That the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder be authorised to sign any such agreements as may be necessary to enable the deployment of a fibre network in the Newcastle Town Deal area and to establish an Indefeasible Right of Use agreement with the selected provider.
- (iii) That a further report be received to consider the option to invest in further provision as part of the Council's commercialisation programme.
- (iv) That the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder be authorised to take forward development of the digital hubs in our communities and is authorised to sign any

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agreements that are necessary between the respective parties to enable their development.

Watch the debate here

5. BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION COSTS AND FUNDING

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning introduced a report regarding funding of the Local Plan Examination Process.

When the Local Plan arrives at the Planning Inspectorate at the beginning of next year it would go forward to examination and the examiners charge a large fee per day. In addition, very detailed information could be asked for, from consultants outside of the Council.

Attention was drawn to paragraph 2.3 of the report which pointed out that the figures shown in paragraph 2.2 were only an estimate and at paragraph 2.5, a successful bid of £100,000 had been allocated to the Council from the previous government's Planning Skills Delivery Fund.

The Leader said that the grant was good news. The Council had met the required deadline, following consultation, of the Full Council meeting in July which had proved important as, a day later, the Deputy Prime Minister had raised the housing figures.

The Leader proposed a second resolution – to recognise receipt of the grant from the Planning Skills Delivery Fund.

Resolved:

- (i) That the allocation of up to £200,000 from the Budget Support Fund to fund the Local Plan programme and examination, be approved.
- (ii) That the allocation of £100,000 received from the previous government's Planning Skills Delivery Fund, be noted.

Watch the debate here

6. **PROPOSED ANIMAL WELFARE CHARTER**

The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Environment introduced a report presenting a draft Animal Welfare Charter for Newcastle-under-Lyme.

The Charter put into writing actions that the Council was already undertaking. It would be ongoing and therefore change as time went on. It had been to the Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 16 September with positive comments. It would be taken to Full Council for formal approval on 20 November.

Councillor Richard Gorton asked if the Charter would be used to reinforce the message to allotment holders that the use of pesticides had dire consequences for wildlife. Also, what plans had been put in place to promote awareness of the Charter which would be of interest to a range of groups. Finally, Councillor Gorton asked if any thought had been given to doing a version for schools.

The Portfolio Holder had previously checked with the Service Director for Sustainable Environment regarding pesticides on Borough Council land and they would no longer

be used. Allotments, however, had not been considered but would be discussed with the Service Director for Neighbourhood Delivery and would inform Councillor Gorton, in writing, of the outcome. A press release would be going out on the Charter, following this meeting and the Charter would be on the Council's website. The Portfolio Holder would enquire as to other means of promoting the Charter.

The idea of doing a Charter for schools was an excellent idea and the Portfolio Holder was sure that the Sustainable Environment Team would also welcome the idea and would report back when that had been done.

The Leader, referring to the use of pesticides, stated that the Council had passed the Nature Recovery motion a couple of years ago which included that the Council would phase out the use of pesticides from its own operations. Publicity for the Charter could be achieved through the Council's many channels of communication. In addition, a Civic Pride initiative was soon to be launched and the Charter could be included in that also.

Resolved:

- (i) That the draft Animal Welfare Charter, be received and the comments from the Health Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee, be noted.
- (ii) That the draft Animal Welfare Charter be forwarded to Full Council, for approval and adoption, subject to any proposed further amendments.
- (iii) That officers be authorised to canvas other local authorities to establish the appetite for collectively writing to the UK Government urging a ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on public and private land.

Watch the debate here

7. FORWARD PLAN

The Leader went through the Cabinet Forward Plan

Resolved: That the Forward Plan be received and noted.

Watch the debate here

8. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no Urgent Business. However, the Leader referred to the statue of Queen Elizabeth II that was unveiled in the Queens Gardens last Friday and urged people, coming into town, to go and see it.

5

9. **DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION**

Resolved:-

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration if the following matter because it is likely that there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs contained within Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

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10. CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT (CONFIDENTIAL REPORT)

Cabinet considered the report that was an element of the Contract Award for the Digital Infrastructure Project at item 5 on the agenda.

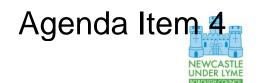
Resolved: That the recommendations, as set out in the confidential report,

be agreed

Councillor Simon Tagg Chair

Meeting concluded at 2.40 pm

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S

REPORT TO CABINET

05 November 2024

Report Title: Walleys Quarry – Odour Issues

Submitted by: Chief Executive

<u>Portfolios</u>: Sustainable Environment; One Council, People & Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

Key Decision Yes \square No \boxtimes

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

Recommendation

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note the contents of this update report.

Reasons

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

1. Background

- 1.1 For a number of years, parts of the borough have suffered from foul odours from the Walleys Quarry Landfill Site in Silverdale operated by Walleys Quarry Ltd. The Environment Agency (EA) is the lead regulator for such sites, testing and enforcing compliance with the permit under which the site operates. The Council also has a role in influencing the operation and performance of such sites, where an operator fails to comply with actions required under an abatement notice issued by the Council in relation to any statutory nuisance caused by the site.
- 1.2 In March 2021, Council held an extraordinary meeting to receive the report of the Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee review into the Walleys Quarry issues, and to debate a motion demanding the immediate suspension of operations and acceptance of waste at the Walleys Quarry Landfill site.
- 1.3 Following extensive work, officers determined that the odours from the Walleys Quarry site amounted to a Statutory Nuisance and, on 13 August 2021, served an Abatement Notice on Walleys Quarry Ltd. (WQL). Following an appeal by Walleys Quarry Ltd, and a successful mediation process, His Honour District Judge Grego approved the settlement that the parties had reached and issued a court order upholding the Abatement Notice and dismissing WQL's appeal on 6 October 2022.

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- 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)]. This would determine what action the Council would take, and whether that would be formal or informal. Enforcement is usually considered sequentially but should the circumstances or nature of the breach be such, escalation direct to prosecution is possible. The Council needs to obtain the consent of the Secretary of State before it is able to prosecute an offence of breaching an abatement notice, as the site is permitted by the Environment Agency. Such consent has been obtained.
- 1.5 Members and Officers attend Liaison Meetings to maintain contact with Walleys Quarry Ltd, and with other agencies involved with the issue. Cabinet has received monthly updates on the issues relating to the odours, and Council has also been regularly updated.

2. Complaint Data

2.1 Below is a schedule of complaints received by the Council and by the Environment Agency from June 2024, reported on a weekly basis. Historical complaint data is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

	Complaints to NuLBC	Complaints to Environment Agency
August 2024 29/07/24- 04/08/24	61	162
05/08/24-11/08/24	53	143
12/08/24-18/08/24	50	160
19/08/24-25/08/24	35*	185
September 2024 26/08/24-01/09/24	7	46
02/09/24 -08/09/24	14	42
09/09/24 -15/09/24	25	95
16/09/24 -22/09/24	43	118
23/09/24 -29/09/24	16	53
October 2024 30/09/24 -06/10/24	52	147
07/10/24 -13/10/24	80	187
14/10/24 - 20/10/24	37	136
21/10/24 - 27/10/24	100	311
November 2024 28/10/24 -03/11/24	41	

^{*}Revised figure

October 2024

The number of odour events has increased to 12 in the month of October compared to 3 odour events reported in September.:

- Thursday 03 October 2024
- Friday 04 October 2024



- Saturday 05 October 2024
- Monday 07 October 2024
- Thursday 10 October 2024
- Friday 11 October 2024
- Saturday 12 October 2024
- Saturday 19 October 2024
- Monday 21 October 2024
- Tuesday 22 October 2024
- Wednesday 23 October 2024
- Saturday 26 October 2024
- 2.2 The overall trend is for "spikes" in complaints when odours are prevalent.

NULBC Odour Assessments

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

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

In September,

12 assessments were undertaken over a 5-minute period:

- Each assessment detected landfill related odour.
- 10 of 12 assessments recorded a maximum intensity rating of 4 (strong odour)
- 2 of 12 assessments recorded a maximum intensity rating of 5 (very strong odour).

42 spot assessments were undertaken of which 19 detected landfill related odour ranging from 2 (slight/weak) to 5 (very strong).

NULBC 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 in the community was 35.96ppb on 22 October 2024 at 20:46.

NULBC Actions

- 2.5 Critically, under the law, whilst odours may exist off site at levels which could be considered a breach of the notice, that breach would be unenforceable (or a defence against creating a statutory nuisance) if the operator can show that Best Practical Means (BPM) are routinely deployed in the management of the site. Whilst the existence or not of BPM can be debated, it would be a court which would determine whether BPM was in place at the time of the breach. That said, prior to entering any formal legal action it is necessary for the Council to formulate a view with regard to this matter, this is ongoing.
- At the core of next steps are two issues whether the action taken by the Environment Agency as the primary enforcement agency for this site have been successful in remedying the issues; and whether a defence of BPM exists. Where either of these are assessed to be in place it would not be in the public interest for the Council to pursue this matter further.

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- 2.7 On 29 July 2024 the Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP, Secretary of State Environment, Food and Rural Affairs responded to the Leader's request for permission to prosecute Walleys Quarry Ltd. under statutory nuisance legislation, confirming that he would grant consent for the prosecution to proceed.
- 2.8 On 30 September 2024 the Chief Executive confirmed an intention to move to legal action, noting "We are moving as quickly as possible in a complex situation. There are very few precedents for taking legal action against an operator regulated by a Government agency, so there is a great deal of legal advice and preparation involved, however I believe we will be ready to take the next step by the end of October."
- 2.9 On 31 October 2024 the Chief Executive Gordon Mole, Chief Executive of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, updated by noting "The process is underway now that we have appointed Jeremy Phillips KC and Horatio Waller, both of FTB Chambers, which has a strong reputation in this field. There is a complex, detailed process to be followed and whilst understandably we cannot provide a running commentary on progress we would hope to share the latest position with the public in the next few weeks."
- **2.10** It is intended that an update report on legal action will be brought to full Council.

Scrutiny- Committee of Inquiry

- 2.11 Following the issuance of letters to enact the recommendations of the Committee of Inquiry, the Chief Executive has written to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to ask that the Department continues to actively consider a public inquiry and to take forward actions within the Committee of Inquiry report, following correspondence from the Minister for Nature to the Leader of the Council, where it was noted that the Government was not minded to hold a Public Inquiry.
- 2.12 The Leader of the Council noted on 31st October 2024 that "We have asked the Government to take action to help our community, but we're told that ministers have full confidence in the Environment Agency. Unfortunately, I do not share that confidence which is why Newcastle Borough Council is doing all it can, with its limited powers and resources, on behalf of residents to resolve this problem."

Air Quality:

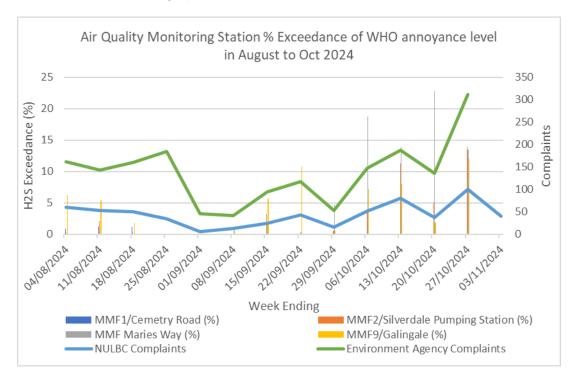
- 2.13 The Council, Staffordshire County Council, and the Environment Agency have jointly funded a campaign of air quality monitoring utilising three static air monitoring stations. The Environment Agency manage and operate these air quality monitoring stations. Data from these stations has been routinely published weekly by the Environment Agency (EA).
- 2.14 The latest H2S data is set out in the table below, defining the proportion of the time periods where H2S levels were above the WHO Odour Annoyance guideline of 7ug/m³. Historic data is available in Appendix 3.

Time Period	MMF1 (%)	MMF 2 (%)	MMF 9 (%)
29 July - 04 August 2024	0.9	0.3	6.3



05 August - 11 August 2024	1.2	2.1	5.4
12 August - 18 August 2024	1.2	0.3	1.8
19 August - 25 August 2024	0	0	0
26 August - 01 September 2024	0	0	0.6
Time Period	MMF Maries Way (%)	MMF Silverdale Pumping Station (%)	MMF Galinagle View (%)
02 September - 08 September 2024	0.6	0.0	1.1
09 September - 15 September 2024	1.8	3.3	5.7
16 September - 22 September 2024	0.3	0.0	10.8
23 September - 29 September 2024	4.8	0.6	0.6
30 September - 06 October 2024	18.7	3.6	7.2
07 October - 13 October 2024	14.0	11.3	8.0
14 October –20 October 2024	22.8	5.09	1.8
21 October – 27 October 2024	13.4	14.0	12.0

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



H2S Data Adjustment Method

2.16 On 18 September 2024, the EA following a public meeting with UKHSA on 28 August 2024, published answers to the <u>Slido questions</u> on the EA <u>hydrogen sulphide calibration issue</u> web page.

Environment Agency Regulatory and Enforcement Action

2.17 The Environment Agency has continued to provide updates on their regulatory activity on the Walleys Quarry Landfill and can be accessed here:

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https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/hub-page/walleys-quarry-landfill

- 2.18 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 <u>EA website</u>) provide further details of the site visits undertaken.
- **2.19** 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
03.09.24	12.09.24	DP3734DC/0518924	Site inspection – announced	0
02.10.23	16.10.23	DP3734DC/0476949	Amended and reissued CAR	31

Non-compliance identified in Compliance and Assessment Reports

- 2.20 The EA on 31 October 2024 published an amended and reissued Compliance Assessment Report 0476949 (the CAR).
- 2.21 The CAR records that: "The non-compliance with permit condition 2.4.1 in respect of the Capping and Phasing Plan has been removed because the Environment Agency accepts that the Capping and Phasing Plan was not incorporated as a specified operating technique for the purposes of condition 2.4.1.
- 2.22 References to the estimated completion dates of temporary capping now appear under the heading *Advice and Guidance* in the CAR.
- 2.23 The total CCS score for this CAR remains unchanged as the 2 non-compliances in the original CAR were consolidated to give a single score of 31 CCS points. The amended and re-issued CAR now records 1 non-compliance for condition 2.4.1 with a score of 31 CCS points. The site compliance band for 2023 for Walleys Quarry remains unchanged.

Walleys Quarry update

- 2.24 On 15 October 2024 the Walleys Quarry Liaison Committe was held. The link to the recording of the meeting can be found here in the latest information for November on the WQL website.
- **2.25** On 25 October 2024 WQL published an information update as follows:

Aligned with the proven record on continual development and investment in the Walleys Quarry (WQ) Facility, Walleys Quarry Ltd (WQL) is currently undertaking several projects across the site. These have been facilitated by the operational infilling of the available void, which has been fundamental in the development of the site to its current position.

Capping:

Earlier in 2024 a significant area of the western flank was temporary capped, utilising a geomembrane media comprised of LLDPE plastic. This material was placed across the western flank, including areas previously capped utilising locally sourced engineering clay. Following this extensive work, the remaining areas of the western



flank, now available for capping due to continued infill of the landfill facility have been subject to further capping. Using the same LLDPE geomembrane, the entire western flank has been capped. At the northern and southern extremities, this temporary capping has been integrated into the existing permanent capping, which covers the eastern half of the WQ facility. The works are now complete.

In addition, the central area of the facility comprising an area of approximately 11,000m2 is being subjected to permanent capping. Utilising the same high specification LLPE geomembrane, the works are currently in the process of concluding meaning that the central area of the facility is now fully encapsulated, with the newly installed permanent capping integrated into the areas of capping previously completed in the north, south and eastern quadrants of the facility.

Sidewall Engineering:

In order to complete the basal lining of the Walleys Quarry facility and to allow it to safely continue through the operational phase and into restoration and aftercare, the last remnants of sidewall engineer are being completed to the western edge of the historic quarry wall. The works, which have been impacted by the inclement weather experienced through 2023 and 2024 are focussed on the installation of high-quality, locally sourced engineering clay. This material has an incredibly low permeability and is being constructed under the process of Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) aligned with a specification approved by the Environment Agency. Works continue, and subject to the effects of weather should conclude in 2024.

Landfill Gas Infrastructure:

As the site develops, the infrastructure installed across the facility with the aim of collecting and transferring landfill gas to the on-site Gas Utilisation Plant is also subject to continued development. This process, steered through the Walleys Quarry Landfill Gas Management Plan leads to the continued development of the system and the installation of a series of vertical, horizontal and sacrificial wells into the waste mass to facilitate this gas capture. Utilising negative pressure generated through the Gas Utilisation Plant, landfill gas which is created through the natural degradation of waste whilst in the landfill environment is encouraged from the waste mass to the Gas Utilisation Plant. Here, it is successfully treated through energy recovery to generate electricity which is supplied directly into the grid. Commencing in late October, the latest series of wells will be installed into the current active area, located in the west of the facility. These are installed utilising a drilling rig, to allow for the installation of perforated well casing to be installed, connected and integrated into the system and thus increasing the scope of gas capture at the facility.

"As always, we remain dedicated to working with our community and the regulators to provide a clean, responsible and sustainable operation for Newcastle-under-Lyme".

Impact Study

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

Key Performance Data



- 2.27 Through the settlement agreement both Walleys Quarry Ltd and the Council have developed key performance indicators in relation to relevant data from each organisation. The key performance indicators are shown in Appendix 2.
- 2.28 The data from the Council covers the period from August 2024 to October 2024 and provides complaint numbers and officer assessments.
- 2.29 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 for September has not been submitted by the operator.

3. Recommendation

3.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

Note the contents of this update report.

4. Reasons for Proposed Solution

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

5. Options Considered

5.1 To provide regular updates to Cabinet.

6. <u>Legal and Statutory Implications</u>

- 6.1 Part III of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 is the legislation concerned with statutory nuisances in law. This is the principal piece of legislation covering the Council's duties and responsibilities in respect of issues relating to odour nuisance:
 - The Environmental Protection Act 1990, section 79 sets out the law in relation to statutory nuisance. This is the principal piece of legislation covering the Council's duties and responsibilities in respect of issues relating to odour nuisance.
 - The relevant part of Section 79 defines a statutory nuisance as any smell or other effluvia arising on industrial, trade or business premises which is prejudicial to health or a nuisance. The Council is responsible for undertaking inspections and responding to complaints to determine whether a statutory nuisance exists.
 - Where a statutory nuisance is identified or considered likely to arise or recur, section 80 of the Act requires that an abatement notice is served on those responsible for the nuisance. The abatement notice can either prohibit or restrict the nuisance and may require works to be undertaken by a specified date(s).



- It is then a criminal offence to breach the terms of the abatement notice. Because the site is regulated by the Environment Agency under an Environmental Permit, the council would need to obtain the consent of the Secretary of State before it is able to prosecute any offence of breaching the abatement notice.
- The Act provides powers in respect of a breach. If a person on whom an abatement notice is served, without reasonable excuse, contravenes or fails to comply with any requirement or prohibition imposed by the notice, they shall be guilty of an offence. If this is on industrial, trade or business premises shall be liable on conviction to an unlimited fine. It is a defence that the best practicable means were used to prevent, or to counteract the effects of, the nuisance.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 The work of the Council in this regard recognises that the problematic odours in the area may impact on some groups more than others. The work is focussed on minimising this impact as soon as possible.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

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

9. Major Risks

- **9.1** A GRACE risk assessment has been completed including the following main risks:
 - Failure to achieve a reduction in odour levels;
 - Community dissatisfaction at odour levels;
 - The ability to take enforcement action against abatement notice;
 - Failure to evidence a breach of the abatement notice;
- **9.2** Controls have been identified and implemented in order to control these risks; the main controls include:
 - Provisions in settlement agreement ensures greater transparency for public;
 - Provisions in settlement agreement ensures regular meetings with Walleys Quarry which enable issues to be discussed;
 - Dedicated officer resource for Walleys Quarry work has been secured;
 - Continued air quality monitoring provision;
 - Robust procedure for investigating complaints with experienced officers;



- Specialist expert advice maintained;
- Multi-Agency partnership working continues.

10. <u>UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)</u>

















11. One Council

One Commercial Council

One Green Council

12. Key Decision Information

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

13. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

12.1 This matter has been variously considered previously by Economy, Environment & Place Scrutiny Committee, Council and Cabinet on 21 April 2021, 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, 20th April 2022, 7th June 2022, 19th July 2022, 6th September 2022, 18th October 2022, 8th November 2022, 6th December 2022, 10th January 2023, 7th February 2023, 13th March 2023, 5th April 2023, 6th June 2023, 18th July 2023, 19th September 2023, 17th October 2023, 7th November 2023, 5th December 2023, 16th January 2024, 6th February 2024, 14th February 2024, 19th March 2024, 10th April 2024, 4th June 2024, 16th July 2024, 10th September 2024, 25th September 2024.

14. <u>List of Appendices</u>

- **14.1** Appendix 1. Historical Complaint data
- 14.2 Appendix 2. NULBC Key Performance Data
- **14.3** Appendix 3. Percentage exceedance above WHO odour annoyance guideline

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

	Complaints	Complaints	Week	Complaints	Complaints
Week Ending	Complaints to NuLBC	to Environment Agency	Ending	Complaints to NuLBC	to Environment Agency
11-Jun	19	75	24-Mar	120	330
18-Jun	76	154	31-Mar	81	254
25-Jun	80	170	07-Apri	56	220
02-Jul	40	99	14-April	17	75
09-Jul	18	46	21-April	32	145
16-Jul	20	54	28-April	55	196
23-Jul	15	73	05-May	41	167
30-Jul	28	97	12-May	75	311
06-Aug	21	67	19-May	76	192
13-Aug	7	30	26-May	89	240
20-Aug	10	44	02-June	75	207
27-Aug	8	38	09-June	38	114
03-Sep	11	59	16-June	50	147
10-Sept	26	71	23-June	67	189
17-Sept	12	72	30-June	117	298
24-Sept	8	31	07-July	45	103
01-Oct	8	26	14-July	52	155
08-Oct	8	37	21-July	118	277
15-Oct	29	64	28-July	93	189
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			
2024					
07-Jan	236	627			
14-Jan	76	268			
21-Jan	270	824			
28-Jan	86	261			
04-Feb	133	416			
11-Feb	382	905			
18-Feb	186	527			

25-Feb	397	1264		
03-Mar	333	990		
10-Mar	218	694		
17-Mar	103	374		



Appendix 2 – NULBC Key Performance Indicators

N	IULBC	Information	Measurement	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024
KPI 1	COMPLAINTS	Complaints reported to	Number	174 * revised	100	290
		NULBC		Number of unique properties reporting complaints = 95	Number of unique properties reporting complaints = 50	Number of unique properties reporting complaints = 106
				Rating 0 = 2 complaints Rating 1 = 1 complaints Rating 2 = 1 complaints Rating 3 = 15 complaints Rating 4 = 33 complaints (19.0%) Rating 5 = 49 complaints (28.2%) Rating 6 = 73 complaints (42.0%) % of complaints reporting odour entering the property = 138 (79.3%)	Rating 0 = 0 complaints Rating 1 = 0 complaints Rating 2 = 3 complaints Rating 3 = 8 complaints Rating 4 = 24 complaints (24%) Rating 5 = 20 complaints (20 %) Rating 6 = 45 complaints (45%) % of complaints reporting odour entering the property = 81 (81%)	Rating 0 = 0 complaints Rating 1 = 1 complaints Rating 2 = 2 complaints Rating 3 = 12 complaints Rating 4 = 60 complaints (20.7%) Rating 5 = 75 complaints (25.9%) Rating 6 = 140 complaints (48.3%) % of complaints reporting odour entering the property = 225 (77.6%)
				% of complaints reporting health effects = 132 (75.9%)	% of complaints reporting health effects = 69 (69%)	% of complaints reporting health effects =240 (82.8%)
KPI 2		Complaints reported (daytime 07:00- 23:00)	Number	147	94	254
KPI 3		Complaints reported (night- time 23:00-07:00)	Number	27	6	36
KPI 4		Highest number of complaints during the period	Date (number of complaints)	13/08/24 (16 complaints)	19/09/24 (18 complaints)	26/10/24 (33 complaints)

		Information	Measurement	MMF Reference	August 2024	MMF Location Name	September 2024	October 2024
KPI 5	AIR QUALITY	Percentage	%	MMF1	0.8%	MMF Maries Way	2.5%	Awaiting data
		exceedance Odour		MMF2	0.5%	MMF Silverdale Pumping Station	1.1%	Awaiting data
		Annoyance Guideline (Hydrogen Sulphide 30- minute average)		MMF9	1.9%	MMF Galingale View	3.6%	Awaiting data
KPI 6		Monthly Average H₂S	ug/m3 over the month	MMF1	1.4ug/m3	MMF Maries Way	2.0 ug/m3	Awaiting data
		-		MMF2	1.0ug/m3	MMF Silverdale Pumping Station	1.2ug/m3	Awaiting data
				MMF9	1.0ug/m3	MMF Galingale View	1.4ug/m3	Awaiting data
KPI 7	H₂S PEAK LEVEL	Level measured	ug/m3	MMF1	26.54ug/m3	MMF Maries Way	22.68ug/m3	Awaiting data
		over a 5- minute		MMF2	17.16 ug/m3	MMF Silverdale Pumping Station	34.40ug/m3	Awaiting data
		period Date & Time		MMF9	33.86 ug/m3	MMF Galingale View	46.58ug/m3	Awaiting data
KPI 8	OFFICER ASSESSMENTS	Odour Rating - Officer odour assessment (5 minute)	Max Odour Rating		2 assessments – max rating 4 on 04/08/24		10 assessments – of which 7 recorded a max rating of 4 on 12/09/24 & 13/09/24	12 assessments - of which 10 recorded a max rating of 4 and 2 recorded a max rating of 5 on 22/10/24

Time Period	BARAF4 (0/)	BARAT O (O()	BARAT O (O()
00 Ostabar - 00 Ostaba - 0000	MMF1 (%)	MMF 2 (%)	MMF 9 (%)
02 October – 08 October 2023			0
09 October – 15 October 2023			9.4
16 October – 22 October 2023	0.9	0	7.8
23 October – 29 October 2023	13.7	3.0	10.4
30 October – 5 November 2023	7.8	0.6	NR
6 November – 12 November 2023	8.9	1.5	5.6
13 November – 19 November 2023	6.9	0.6	3
20 November – 26 November 2023	3.3	2.9	14.33
27 November – 3 December 2023	14.9	7.4	26.2
4 December – 10 December 2023	21.4	3.0	10.2
11 December – 17 December 2023	13.4	2.68	8.33
18 December – 24 December 2023	0	0	0.6
25 December- 31 December 2023	23.21	0.3	1.9
01 January – 07 January 2024	16.9	8.7	17.7
08 January – 14 January 2024	0		5.0
15 January – 21 January 2024	17.4		18.4
22 January – 28 January 2024	37.8		11.6
29January – 04 February 2024	18.6		23.4
05 February – 11 February 2024	20.8		22.6
12 February – 18February 2024	30.8		9.6
19 February – 25 February 2024	27.4		21.1
26 February – 03 March 2024	33.7		20.1
04 March – 10 March 2024	34		13
11 March – 17 March 2024	17.0		6.0
18 March – 24 March 2024	8	1.8	4.5
25 March – 31 March 2024	37.8	1.8	2.1
01 April - 07 April 2024	15.6	1.2	5.4
08 April – 14 April 2024	10.7	0	4.8
15 April – 21 April 2024	0.9	1.2	7.9
22 April –28 April 2024	1.8	0	6.7
29 April – 05 May 2024	2.4	0.6	9.0
06 May – 12 May 2024	6.85	0.3	14.3
13 May – 19 May 2024	3.3	0	12.2
20 May – 26 May 2024	1.8	0.6	8.6
27 May – 02 June 2024	5.7	1.2	6.0
03 June – 09 June 2024	0.0	0.0	8.1
10 June – 16 June 2024	0.6	0.0	4.2
17 June – 23 June 2024	0.9	0.6	8.7
24 June – 30 June 2024	0.0	0.3	6.9

01 July - 7 July 2024	0.6	0.0	4.2
08 July - 14 July 2024	0.3	0.0	8.9
15 July - 21 July 2024	7.2	7.5	16.5
22 July - 28 July 2024	2.7	0.0	15.2

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO CABINET

12 November 2024

Report Title: Contract Award for York Place

Submitted by: Deputy Chief Executive

Portfolios: Finance, Town Centres and Growth, and One Council, People and

Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: Town

Purpose of the Report

Key Decision

Yes ⊠ No □

To provide Cabinet with an update on the progress made by Capital&Centric on York Place in Newcastle Town Centre, and to make recommendations to Council to enable the projects to progress to the next stage.

Recommendation

That Cabinet:

- 1. Notes the progress made to date by Capital&Centric on the York Place project in Newcastle Town Centre;
- 2. Approve expenditure of up to £836,843 to develop the scheme to the end of RIBA Stage 4, for construction drawings, tender of a contractor, programme and agreement of a final project costs for the build out of the scheme to completion (subject to a separate Council approval at a future date);
- 3. Authorise the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, and Portfolio Holder for One Council, People and Partnerships to progress legal agreements to enable the appointment of Capital&Centric under a Pre-Development Services Agreement (PDSA) for the development of the scheme through a direct award under the Pagabo Development Management Framework;
- 4. Note that the future submission of a separate Council Report for the final authorisation to award a construction contract for the build out of the scheme.

Reasons

The Council has been developing plans for several key sites across the Town Centre of Newcastle-under-Lyme as part of the Future High Street Fund and Town Deal Fund.

This report enables progress to be made on York Place.

Each of the individual town centre regeneration projects that have been subject to previous reports and approvals are now being taken through individual approval routes to allow the breakdown of projects into specific approvals / projects with stand-alone approvals as each project will eventually



be purchased by a Special Purpose Vehicle company as a stand-alone asset within Capital&Centric, as per their over-riding business model.

1. Background

- 1.1 As reported to previous Cabinet meetings, the Council has secured Future High Street Fund and Town Deal Fund for the re-development of several key regeneration sites across the Town Centre. In September 2023 the Council appointed Capital&Centric to undertake feasibility studies for the re-development of the former York Place Shopping Centre and agreed in February 2024 that they would :-,
 - Develop the scheme design and costs for York Place site to RIBA Stage 3, under an individual Pre-Development Services Agreement.
 - Manage the procurement and delivery of the re-development works at York
 Place including stripping out and retaining the concrete frame to suit the
 design for the overall scheme, again under an individual Pre-Development
 Services Agreement, which is now underway and will be complete shortly.
 - Submit a cost for the next stage of the design and cost development that of RIBA Stage 4, for construction drawings, tender of a contractor, programme and agreement of a final project costs for the build out of the scheme to completion, for a subsequent Council approval to move to full build out.
- 1.2 This incremental approach enables the Council to take a phased approach to the development, with cost certainty secured before progressing to the next stage.
- 1.3 This report deals only with updating on progress to date across the site and securing commitment to progressing to RIBA Stage 4 designs and costs for York Place.

2. Update

Update on Current Position

- 2.1 All of the tenants vacated the shopping centre by the end of February 2024 as planned. Some asbestos removal and survey work was undertaken in the months that followed whilst a demolition scope of works was drawn up and a price for the works sought through Capital&Centric.
- 2.2 Capital&Centric have agreed to appoint AW Demolition to undertake the strip out and partial demolition works which began in October 2024 and are due to be complete by February 2025. As previously reported the works are based upon the principles of retaining as much of the existing concrete frame as possible and re-engineering the structure for commercial and residential purposes. The costs associated with this work were included in the budget for the project as agreed at Council in February 2024.
- 2.3 Discussions have been continuing with Joules Brewery for the live music venue adjacent to The Bulls Head Pub and Capital&Centric have been investigating how this element of the scheme can be incorporated.
- 2.4 Capital&Centric have held a consultation event in Newcastle which covered all of the three sites that they are working on, York Place, Ryecroft and The Midway, which was very well attended and had mainly positive feedback from. A further event is being held with businesses who might potentially want to lease space within the commercial elements of the development. Again, this was well attended and had positive feedback.



- 2.5 Detailed designs and façade treatments were also shown and explained to a design review panel as part of the planning application process which was encouraged by the design, scale of development and philosophy of the regeneration aspirations.
- 2.6 The planning application for the development was submitted in October 2024 and is due to be considered by the Planning Committee later in the year. If approved then the scheme can proceed.
- 2.7 The costs for taking the project to RIBA Stage 4 (the final design and construction costs confirmation) are estimated at £836,843 with a project timeline of 6 months to submit the final package with tendered prices and a full design and programme.
- 2.8 As highlighted in previous Cabinet reports but worth reiterating here again, Capital&Centric are a social impact property developer who pride themselves on the design quality of their developments. Their model of retaining assets beyond completion ensures that they have a vested interest in the long-term success of the development with a focus on the experience of the end user, aspirational placemaking and creating developments which are an asset to the community.
- 2.9 Their approach, whereby they retain ownership and management of the developments once completed has a significant positive impact for the Council in terms of both financial and operational risk.
- 2.10 This model requires only short-term financing by the Council, rather than long term borrowing. This reduces interest costs from c.40 years to 2-3 years; the model also removes the need for the Council to fund Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), which is in effect the "capital repayment" element of PWLB borrowing as the asset would transfer ownership once complete and shifts the ongoing risk of maintaining occupancy of the finished development away from the Council and onto the operator.

Next Steps

- 2.11 As previously highlighted, but again worthwhile reiterating here, whilst the Capital&Centric model envisages taking developments through to completion and then purchasing the completed development and assuming the lead role in managing the operation of the development, there are a series of gateways controlled by the Council through which the projects must pass to ensure their viability. These gateways will be pre-agreed and form part of the Pagabo Pre-Development Services Agreement. Further Cabinet and Council approval will be required to progress to the next stage of the process (detailed design and procurement) and the delivery stage of each project. At each gateway an updated business plan will be presented for each scheme including updated costs and a delivery programme.
- 2.12 As highlighted in the September 2023 and February 2024 Cabinet reports the gateways through which schemes must pass to assure their viability were listed but it is worth noting them here again for clarity of where the Council currently sits and what is still to be commissioned / undertaken.
 - Stage 2 Feasibility was assessed as viable and we progressed to developing the scheme design and costs to RIBA Stage 3 under a new Pre-Development Services Agreement which will included obtaining planning permission and establishing a cost envelope for each site. This also included the management of the procurement and delivery of redevelopment works at York Place including stripping out and retaining the concrete frame to suit the design for the overall scheme, again under an individual Pre-Development Services Agreement.



- Stage 3 (The subject of this Cabinet Report) Upon receipt and approval
 of the fully costed RIBA Stage 4 designs and costs along with the receipt of
 planning permission, the Council would then determine whether to enter
 into a further contract for the construction and marketing works on each
 site.
- Stage 4 Once a fixed price has been received and agreed, we will seek further approval from Full Council to progress to the delivery stage of the project.
- 2.14 Subject to this Cabinet report being approved the Council would progress to stage 3 and incur the expenses for full construction drawings, a fully tendered construction contract, programme of works and a planning approval. As highlighted above the costs for this element of the work is £836,843.
- 2.15 The final decision on whether or not to commit to borrow and develop is then taken before the final Stage 4 and would be subject to a subsequent Council approval, after the submission of Stage 4 (RIBA 4) designs and costs.

3. Proposal

3.1 That Cabinet:

- Notes the progress made to date by Capital&Centric on the York Place project in Newcastle Town Centre;
- Approve expenditure of up to £836,843 to develop the scheme to the end
 of RIBA Stage 4, for construction drawings, tender of a contractor,
 programme and agreement of a final project costs for the build out of the
 scheme to completion (subject to a separate Council approval at a future
 date);
- Authorise the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, and Portfolio Holder for One Council, People and Partnerships to progress legal agreements to enable the appointment of Capital&Centric under a Pre-Development Services Agreement (PDSA) for the development of the scheme through a direct award under the Pagabo Development Management Framework;
- Note that the future submission of a separate Council Report for the final authorisation to award a construction contract for the build out of the scheme.

4. Reasons for the Proposed Solution

- 4.1 The decision will enable the project to progress as per the programme agreed with Government and the Future High Street Fund awards and commitments and get York Place underway.
- 4.2 To use this Government funding opportunity to support delivery of Council Plan objectives.
- 4.3 To uplift the status of Newcastle Town Centre as the heart of economic, social and community life in the Borough.
- 4.4 Bring a national developer to Newcastle to assist in the transformational programme of regeneration that is being undertaken.



5. Options Considered

5.1 The report above highlights the options that have been considered in some detail.

6. <u>Legal and Statutory Implications</u>

- 6.1 Section 2(1) of the Local Government Act 2000 permits local authorities to do anything they consider likely to promote or improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area. That would include actions to deliver the Future High Street Fund and Town Deal Fund programme for Newcastle Town Centre.
- 6.2 Pre-construction services agreements (PCSA) are used to appoint a design and build contractor to carry out services before entering into a formal building contract. A PCSA is sometimes referred to as a pre-construction agreement (PCA) and is used in two stage tendering to obtain further design input, buildability/technical advice and detailed costs information from a prospective contractor. This is a formal agreement to provide the specified services/works and is not a letter of intent.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 The nature of the project is intended to seek benefits for all people who use the town centre and to support the economic and social health of Newcastle Town Centre as a destination.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

Cost Summary

Site	Pre- Application Gateway 1 (£)	Planning Submission Gateway 2 (£)	Pre Contract Submission Gateway 3 (£)	Total Costs (£)
York Place	90,000	1,175,020	836,843	2,101,863
Total Cost	90,000	1,175,020	836,843	2,101,863

- 8.1 Approval was given at the Cabinet meeting on 19 September 2023 to spend up to £256,500 with Capital&Centric to develop plans and business cases for the Ryecroft site, York Place and Midway Car Park. This budget in relation to York Place is shown in the above table (Pre-application / Gateway 1 £90,000). The actual spend for this stage amounted to £86,636.
- 8.2 The Gateway 2 stage was to commission works to take the regeneration projects to the next stage (Planning Submission / Gateway 2) for which approval was given at Full Council on 14 February 2024. The works covered the development plans up to and including the submission of the planning applications. The budget for completing this stage was £1,175,020 with the actual spend amounting to £1,124,973.
- 8.3 The RIBA 4 (Gateway 3) Stage costs cover the final design and construction costs. Part of these works will be funded through the Future High Street Fund (£90,528) with the remaining balance being funded via the capital programme. £16m has been included in the capital programme for the estimated development costs of York Place.



Funding of RIBA 4 (Gateway 3) Stage

8.4 The table below summaries the Future High Street Fund allocations and expenditure up to 22 October 2024:-

Project	FHSF allocation (inc contingency) (£)	Spend as at 15/01/24 (£)	Balance remaining (£)
Ryecroft Site	3,756,191	3,449,238	306,953
MSCP Development	3,500,000	3,500,000	0
York Place (Purchase, relocation and re-development)	3,015,218	2,924,690	90,528
Stone public realm	321,251	125,992	195,259
Market Stalls	75,600	75,574	26
Programme Management	380,000	379,333	667
Total	11,048,260	10,454,827	593,433

9. Major Risks & Mitigation

- 9.1 The proposed re-development of York Place is in a densely occupied town centre location and therefore will require careful management throughout the contract.
- 9.2 The potential for multiple re-development and / or construction projects being undertaken in a short period of time in the town centre could impact negatively on the enjoyment of the town amenities by users and will need careful messaging and monitoring. Each stakeholder will be able to assist with this.
- 9.3 The inflationary pressures and the cost of borrowing is a risk to the delivery of all of the schemes and each needs to be planned carefully to minimise the effects of each prior to the start or award of any contract. Construction inflationary pressures are now easing but are still a consideration.
- 9.4 Each scheme / project will have a dedicated risk register for the potential risks of each scheme from the feasibility stage to the construction phases.

10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

10.1 Newcastle Town Centre is a highly accessible location, encouraging greater use of its land and assets enhances its role as a centre for services, leisure, retail and living and its connection to local residents. Furthermore this project is intended to enable the redevelopment of an underused retail complex that is in a poor state of repair and currently blocks good connectivity between the Ryecroft site and Ironmarket / High Street, bringing with it sustainability improvements, regeneration and economic benefits as well as in that respect, the project supports the realisation of the following UNSDG objectives:-





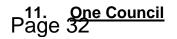














Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council

One Digital Council

One Green Council

12. Key Decision Information

12.1 This is a Key Decision.

13. <u>Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions</u>

- 13.1 October 2019, Cabinet concerning development of the second stage FHSF bid and procurement of consultancy support.
- 13.2 December 2019, Economy Environment & Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Town Centre Funding Update (information item).
- 13.3 July 2020, Cabinet concerning approval for submission of bid into MHCLG (now DLUHC).
- 13.4 April 2021 Cabinet accepting FHSF Grant monies and grant conditions.
- 13.5 December 2021 Cabinet purchase of York place Newcastle under Lyme.
- 13.6 March 2022 Cabinet award of contract for design and build contractor
- 13.7 January 2023 Cabinet progress report on the York Place project
- 13.8 June 2023 Cabinet award of contract for the demolition of York Place
- 13.9 September 2023 Cabinet approval for Town Centre Regeneration Feasibility Studies
- 13.10 6 February 2024 Cabinet approval for Town Centre Regeneration Update
- 13.11 14 February 2024 Council approval for Town Centre Regeneration Update

14. List of Appendices

14.1 None.

15. Background Papers

15.1 None.



NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO CABINET

12 November 2024

Report Title: Contract Award for Ryecroft

Submitted by: Deputy Chief Executive

Portfolios: Finance, Town Centres and Growth, and One Council, People and

Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: Town

Purpose of the Report

Key Decision

Yes ⊠

No □

To provide Cabinet with an update on the progress made by Capital&Centric on The Ryecroft project in Newcastle Town Centre, and to make recommendations to Council to enable the projects to progress to the next stage.

Recommendation

That Cabinet:

- 1. Notes the progress made to date by Capital&Centric on the Ryecroft project in **Newcastle Town Centre**;
- 2. Approve expenditure of up to £748,329 to develop the scheme to the end of RIBA Stage 4, for construction drawings, tender of a contractor, programme and agreement of a final project costs for the build out of the scheme to completion (subject to a separate Council approval at a future date);
- 3. Approve expenditure of up to £174,920 to develop the Aspire element of the wider scheme to the end of RIBA Stage 4, for construction drawings, tender of a contractor, programme and agreement of a final project costs for the build out of the scheme to completion (subject to a separate Council approval at a future date);
- 4. Authorise the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, and Portfolio Holder for One Council, People and Partnerships to progress legal agreements to enable the appointment of Capital&Centric under a Pre-Development Services Agreement (PDSA) for the development of the two schemes through a direct award under the Pagabo **Development Management Framework;**
- 5. Authorise the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, and Portfolio Holder for One Council, People and Partnerships to progress legal agreements to enable the sale of a portion of the site to Aspire Housing for their residential development (site boundaries and sale price to be determined through the next stage of design development), and reclaim the monies spend on this section of the site, namely £541,258:
- 6. Note that the future submission of a separate season authorisation to award a construction contract for the build out of the scheme.

 Page 35 Note that the future submission of a separate Council Report for the final



Reasons

The Council has been developing plans for several key sites across the Town Centre of Newcastle-under-Lyme as part of the Future High Street Fund and Town Deal Fund.

This report enables progress to be made at Ryecroft site.

Each of the individual town centre regeneration projects that have been subject to previous reports and approvals are now being taken through individual approval routes to allow the breakdown of projects into specific approvals / projects with stand-alone approvals as each project will eventually be purchased by a Special Purpose Vehicle company as a stand-alone asset within Capital&Centric, as per their over-riding business model. In the case of the Aspire element of the scheme, at the point of contract award to Capital&Centric for the build out (a separate Council approval) then Aspire Housing would purchase their element of the site, reimburse the Council for fees paid up to that date and then contract directly with Capital&Centric for the build out phase.

1. Background

- 1.1 As reported to previous Cabinet meetings, the Council has secured Future High Street Fund and Town Deal Fund for the re-development of several key regeneration sites across the Town Centre. In September 2023 the Council appointed Capital&Centric to undertake feasibility studies for the re-development of the Ryecroft and agreed in February 2024 that they would:-,
 - Develop the scheme design and costs for The Midway Car Park site to RIBA Stage 3, under an individual Pre-Development Services Agreement.
 - Submit a cost for the next stage of the design and cost development that of RIBA Stage 4, for construction drawings, tender of a contractor, programme and agreement of a final project costs for the build out of the scheme to completion, for a subsequent Council approval to move to full build out.
- 1.2 This incremental approach enables the Council to take a phased approach to the development, with cost certainty secured before progressing to the next stage.
- 1.3 This report deals only with updating on progress to date across the wider site and securing commitment to progressing to RIBA Stage 4 designs and costs for The Ryecroft site, namely the development of residential units and a hotel or an aparthotel along Merrial Street and the Aspire housing development integrated into the overall scheme between the McCarthy Stone and new Castle Car Park developments.

2. Update

Update on Current Position

- 2.1 In January 2024 foundation works commenced on the new Castle Car Park, through the construction contract with Morgan Sindall, signed in 2023. Works will be complete in late 2024.
- 2.2 In July 2024 the Council sold a portion of the site to McCarthy and Stone for the development of an over 55-year-old residential apartment block. A planning application will be submitted shortly with works expected to commence works in 2025.
- 2.3 Work on the hotel continues through the design development of the wider scheme with Capital&Centric and design consultants have fed into developing the design for this element of the site.



- 2.4 Discussions have also been progressing with Aspire Housing and their aspirations for residential units on the site to sit alongside the other elements of the site. It has been agreed that Capital&Centric will be undertaking this work alongside the Council and other works so the designs, public realm and approach will be consistent across the wider site. Capital&Centric will contract with Aspire directly and that the land required for this will be sold by the Council to Aspire to allow them to enter into this development / construction agreement. All fees and costs incurred by the Council for this element of the development will be reimbursed by Aspire at the same time as the land sale agreement is completed, to allow a back-to-back contract between Aspire and Capital&Centric for the build out stages of their section of the site.
- 2.5 The costs for taking the Council element of the project to RIBA Stage 4 (the final design and construction costs confirmation) are estimated at £748,329 with a project timeline of 6 months to submit the final package with tendered prices and a full design and programme, and for the same stage and level of information for the Aspire element is estimated at £174,920 with a project timeline of 6 months. A total of £923,249.
- 2.6 As highlighted in previous Cabinet reports but worth reiterating here again, Capital&Centric are a social impact property developer who pride themselves on the design quality of their developments. Their model of retaining assets beyond completion ensures that they have a vested interest in the long-term success of the development with a focus on the experience of the end user, aspirational placemaking and creating developments which are an asset to the community.
- 2.7 Their approach, whereby they retain ownership and management of the developments once completed has a significant positive impact for the Council in terms of both financial and operational risk.
- 2.8 This model requires only short-term financing by the Council, rather than long term borrowing. This reduces interest costs from c.40 years to 2-3 years; the model also removes the need for the Council to fund Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), which is in effect the "capital repayment" element of PWLB borrowing as the asset would transfer ownership once complete and shifts the ongoing risk of maintaining occupancy of the finished development away from the Council and onto the operator.

Next Steps

- 2.9 As previously highlighted, but again worthwhile reiterating here Whilst the Capital&Centric model envisages taking developments through to completion and then purchasing the completed development and assuming the lead role in managing the operation of the development, there are a series of gateways controlled by the Council through which the projects must pass to ensure their viability. These gateways will be pre-agreed and form part of the Pagabo Pre-Development Services Agreement. Further Cabinet and Council approval will be required to progress to the next stage of the process (detailed design and procurement) and the delivery stage of each project. At each gateway an updated business plan will be presented for each scheme including updated costs and a delivery programme.
- 2.10 As highlighted in the September 2023 Cabinet report the gateways through which schemes must pass to assure their viability were listed but it is worth noting them here again for clarity of where the Council currently sits and what is still to be commissioned / undertaken.
 - Stage 2 Once feasibility is assessed then the scheme design and costs will be developed for each of the three sites to RIBA Stage 3 under a new Pre-Development Services Agreement will be entered into for each project – Page 37



these agreements will include obtaining planning permission and establishing a cost envelope for each site.

- Stage 3 Upon receipt and approval of the fully costed RIBA Stage 3 designs and costs along with the receipt of planning permission, the Council would then determine whether to enter into a further contract for the construction and marketing works on each site.
- Stage 4 Once a fixed price has been received and agreed, we will seek further approval from Full Council to progress to the delivery stage of the project.
- 2.12 Subject to this Cabinet report being approved the Council would progress to step 3 and incur the expenses for full construction drawings, a fully tendered construction contract, programme of works and a planning approval. As highlighted above the costs for this element of the work is £748,329 for the Council element and a further £174,920 for the Aspire element (to be reimbursed) a total of £923,249.
- 2.13 The final decision on whether or not to commit to borrow and develop is then taken before the final Stage 4 and would be subject to a subsequent Council approval, after the submission of Stage 4 (RIBA 4) designs and costs later in 2024.

3 Proposal

3.1 That Cabinet:

- Notes the progress made to date by Capital&Centric on the Ryecroft project in Newcastle Town Centre;
- Approve expenditure of up to £748,329 to develop the scheme to the end of RIBA Stage 4, for construction drawings, tender of a contractor, programme and agreement of a final project costs for the build out of the scheme to completion (subject to a separate Council approval at a future date);
- Approve expenditure of up to £174,920 to develop the Aspire element of the wider scheme to the end of RIBA Stage 4, for construction drawings, tender of a contractor, programme and agreement of a final project costs for the build out of the scheme to completion (subject to a separate Council approval at a future date);
- Authorise the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, and Portfolio Holder for One Council, People and Partnerships to progress legal agreements to enable the appointment of Capital&Centric under a Pre-Development Services Agreement (PDSA) for the development of the two schemes through a direct award under the Pagabo Development Management Framework;
- Authorise the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, and Portfolio Holder for One Council, People and Partnerships to progress legal agreements to enable the sale of a portion of the site to Aspire Housing for their residential development (site boundaries and sale price to be determined through the next stage of design development), and reclaim the monies spend on this section of the site, namely £541,258:
- Note that the future submission of a separate Council Report for the final authorisation to award a construction contract for the build out of the scheme.



4 Reasons for the Proposed Solution

- 4.1 The decision will enable the project to progress as per the programme agreed with Government and the Future High Street Fund awards and commitments and get York Place underway.
- 4.2 To use this Government funding opportunity to support delivery of Council Plan objectives.
- 4.3 To uplift the status of Newcastle Town Centre as the heart of economic, social and community life in the Borough.
- 4.4 Bring a national developer to Newcastle to assist in the transformational programme of regeneration that is being undertaken.

5 Options Considered

5.1 The report above highlights the options that have been considered in some detail.

6 Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1 Section 2(1) of the Local Government Act 2000 permits local authorities to do anything they consider likely to promote or improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area. That would include actions to deliver the Future High Street Fund and Town Deal Fund programme for Newcastle Town Centre.
- 6.2 Pre-construction services agreements (PCSA) are used to appoint a design and build contractor to carry out services before entering into a formal building contract. A PCSA is sometimes referred to as a pre-construction agreement (PCA) and is used in two stage tendering to obtain further design input, buildability/technical advice and detailed costs information from a prospective contractor. This is a formal agreement to provide the specified services/works and is not a letter of intent.

7 **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 The nature of the project is intended to seek benefits for all people who use the town centre and to support the economic and social health of Newcastle Town Centre as a destination.

8 Financial and Resource Implications

Cost Summary

Site	Pre- Application Gateway 1 (£)	Planning Submission Gateway 2 (£)	Pre Contract Submission Gateway 3 (£)	Total Costs (£)
Ryecroft Aspire – Housing	40,000	326,338	174,920	541,258
Ryecroft Hotel/Residential	41,500	522,759	748,329	1,312,588
Total Cost	81,500	849,097	923,249	1,853,846

8.1 Approval was given at the Cabinet meeting on 19 September 2023 to spend up to £256,500 with Capital&Centric to develop plans and business cases for the Ryecroft site, York Place and Midway Car Park. This budget in relation to the Ryecroft site is shown in the above table (Pre-application / Gateway 1 £81,500). The actual spend for this stage amounted to £63.053.



- 8.2 The Gateway 2 stage was to commission works to take the regeneration projects to the next stage (Planning Submission / Gateway 2) for which approval was given at Full Council on 14 February 2024. The works covered the development plans up to and including the submission of the planning applications. The budget for completing this stage was £849,097 with the actual spend amounting to £734,474.
- 8.3 The RIBA 4 (Gateway 3) Stage works cover two projects on the Ryecroft Site, these are the Aspire Housing residential scheme and the hotel / aparthotel including Capital&Centric commercial proposals.
- 8.4 The Aspire Housing residential scheme will involve the delivery of 41 homes. It is anticipated that an agreement will be made for Capital&Centric to enter into a forward funding agreement with Aspire Housing. The costs of £174,920 to fund the final design and construction cost confirmation will be refunded to the Council from Aspire Housing. Once planning permission is obtained then Aspire Housing contract directly with Capital&Centric resulting in no further costs to the Council. In addition Aspire Housing will pay the Council a capital receipt for the acquisition of the land as previously agreed with them in the Heads of Terms.
- 8.5 The hotel/residential including Capital&Centric commercial proposals will cost £748,329 and will be funded through the Future High Street Fund as detailed in the table below and the refund from Aspire for the pre-development and design costs. Further developments of this design are required but early indications commercial space, 130 homes and 110 key hotel or aparthotel with associated amenity area.

Funding of RIBA 4 (Gateway 3) Stage

8.6 The table below summaries the Future High Street Fund allocations and expenditure up to 22 October 2024:-

Project	FHSF allocation (inc contingency) (£)	Spend as at 15/01/24 (£)	Balance remaining (£)
Ryecroft Site	3,756,191	3,449,238	306,953
MSCP Development	3,500,000	3,500,000	0
York Place (Purchase, relocation and re-development)	3,015,218	2,924,690	90,528
Stone public realm	321,251	125,992	195,259
Market Stalls	75,600	75,574	26
Programme Management	380,000	379,333	667
Total	11,048,260	10,454,827	593,433

9 Major Risks & Mitigation

- 9.1 The potential for multiple re-development and / or construction projects being undertaken in a short period of time in the town centre could impact negatively on the enjoyment of the town amenities by users and will need careful messaging and monitoring. Each stakeholder will be able to assist with this.
- 9.2 The inflationary pressures and the cost of borrowing is a risk to the delivery of all of the schemes and each needs to be planned carefully to minimise the effects of each prior to the start or award of any contract. Construction inflationary pressures are now easing but are still a consideration.



9.3 Each scheme / project will have a dedicated risk register for the potential risks of each scheme from the feasibility stage to the construction phases.

10 UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

10.1 Newcastle Town Centre is a highly accessible location, encouraging greater use of its land and assets enhances its role as a centre for services, leisure, retail and living and its connection to local residents. Furthermore this project is intended to enable the redevelopment of an underused retail complex that is in a poor state of repair and currently blocks good connectivity between the Ryecroft site and Ironmarket / High Street, bringing with it sustainability improvements, regeneration and economic benefits as well as in that respect, the project supports the realisation of the following UNSDG objectives:-















11. One Council

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

One Commercial Council

One Green Council ⊠

12 **Key Decision Information**

12.1 This is a Key Decision.

13 Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

- 13.1 October 2019, Cabinet concerning development of the second stage FHSF bid and procurement of consultancy support.
- 13.2 December 2019, Economy Environment & Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Town Centre Funding Update (information item).
- 13.3 July 2020, Cabinet concerning approval for submission of bid into MHCLG (now DLUHC).
- 13.4 April 2021 Cabinet accepting FHSF Grant monies and grant conditions.
- 13.5 March 2022 Cabinet award of contract for design and build contractor
- 13.6 June 2023 Cabinet approval for procurement of Hotel Brand and Design and Build Contractor
- 13.7 June 2023 Cabinet award of contract for Castle Multi Storey Car Park
- 13.8 September 2023 Cabinet approval for Town Centre Regeneration Feasibility Studies
- 13.9 6 February 2024 Cabinet approval for Town Centre Regeneration Update
- 13.10 14 February 2024 Council approval for Town Centre Regeneration Update

14 List of Appendices



14.1 None.

15 **Background Papers**

15.1 None

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO CABINET

12 November 2024

Report Title: Contract Award for Midway

Submitted by: Deputy Chief Executive

Portfolios: Finance, Town Centres and Growth, and One Council, People and

Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: Town

Purpose of the Report

Key Decision

Yes ⊠

No □

To provide Cabinet with an update on the progress made by Capital&Centric on the Midway Car Park in Newcastle Town Centre, and to make recommendations to Council to enable the projects to progress to the next stage.

Recommendation

That Cabinet:

- 1. Notes the progress made to date by Capital&Centric on the Midway Car Park project in Newcastle Town Centre:
- 2. Approve expenditure of up to £854,117 to develop the scheme to the end of RIBA Stage 4, for construction drawings, tender of a contractor, programme and agreement of a final project costs for the build out of the scheme to completion (subject to a separate Council approval at a future date);
- 3. Authorise the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, and Portfolio Holder for One Council, People and Partnerships to progress legal agreements to enable the appointment of Capital&Centric under a Pre-Development Services Agreement (PDSA) for the development of the scheme through a direct award under the Pagabo Development Management Framework;
- 4. Note that the future submission of a separate Council Report for the final authorisation to award a construction contract for the build out of the scheme.

Reasons

The Council has been developing plans for several key sites across the Town Centre of Newcastle-under-Lyme as part of the Future High Street Fund and Town Deal Fund.

This report enables progress to be made across the Midway site.

Each of the individual town centre regeneration projects that have been subject to previous reports and approvals are now being taken through individual approval routes to allow the breakdown of projects into specific approvals / projects with stand-alone approvals as each project will eventually



be purchased by a Special Purpose Vehicle company as a stand-alone asset within Capital&Centric, as per their over-riding business model.

1. Background

- 1.1 As reported to previous Cabinet meetings, the Council has secured Future High Street Fund and Town Deal Fund for the re-development of several key regeneration sites across the Town Centre. In September 2023 the Council appointed Capital&Centric to undertake feasibility studies for the re-development of the Midway Car Park and agreed in February 2024 that they would :-,
 - Develop the scheme design and costs for the Midway Car Park to RIBA Stage 3, under an individual Pre-Development Services Agreement.
 - Submit a cost for the next stage of the design and cost development that of RIBA Stage 4, for construction drawings, tender of a contractor, programme and agreement of a final project costs for the build out of the scheme to completion, for a subsequent Council approval to move to full build out.
- 1.2 This incremental approach enables the Council to take a phased approach to the development, with cost certainty secured before progressing to the next stage.
- 1.3 This report deals only with updating on progress to date across the site and securing commitment to progressing to RIBA Stage 4 designs and costs for Midway Car Park.

2. Update

Update on Current Position.

- 2.1 The Midway Car park will close in late 2024 upon completion of the new Castle Car Park on The Ryecroft site. Morgan Sindall are due to complete the work by the end of 2024.
- 2.2 Since their appointment in November 2023 Capital&Centric have been developing plans for the re-development of the Midway structure, based around the principle of retaining the concrete frame and floors and re-engineering the structure for residential purposes. This not only saves all the embodied carbon in the concrete frame, but also creates both time and cost savings for the development, whilst also creating an architecturally aspirational development.
- 2.3 Capital&Centric have held a consultation event in Newcastle which covered all of the three sites that they are working on, York Place, Ryecroft and The Midway, which was very well attended and had mainly positive feedback from. A further event is being held with businesses who might potentially want to lease space within the commercial elements of the development. Again, this was well attended and had positive feedback.
- 2.4 The planning application for the development was submitted in September 2024 and is due to be considered by the Planning Committee later in the year. If approved then the scheme can proceed.
- 2.5 The costs for taking the project to RIBA Stage 4 (the final design and construction costs confirmation) are estimated at £854,117 with a project timeline of 6 months to submit the final package with tendered prices and a full design and programme. This cost will be funded through the Newcastle Town Deal Fund as detailed in section 8 of this report.



- 2.6 As highlighted in previous Cabinet reports but worth reiterating here again, Capital&Centric are a social impact property developer who pride themselves on the design quality of their developments. Their model of retaining assets beyond completion ensures that they have a vested interest in the long-term success of the development with a focus on the experience of the end user, aspirational placemaking and creating developments which are an asset to the community.
- 2.7 Their approach, whereby they retain ownership and management of the developments once completed has a significant positive impact for the Council in terms of both financial and operational risk.
- 2.8 This model requires only short-term financing by the Council, rather than long term borrowing. This reduces interest costs from c.40 years to 2-3 years; the model also removes the need for the Council to fund Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), which is in effect the "capital repayment" element of PWLB borrowing as the asset would transfer ownership once complete and shifts the ongoing risk of maintaining occupancy of the finished development away from the Council and onto the operator.

Next Steps

- 2.9 As previously highlighted, but again worthwhile reiterating here, whilst the Capital&Centric model envisages taking developments through to completion and then purchasing the completed development and assuming the lead role in managing the operation of the development, there are a series of gateways controlled by the Council through which the projects must pass to ensure their viability. These gateways will be pre-agreed and form part of the Pagabo Pre-Development Services Agreement. Further Cabinet and Council approval will be required to progress to the next stage of the process (detailed design and procurement) and the delivery stage of each project. At each gateway an updated business plan will be presented for each scheme including updated costs and a delivery programme.
- 2.10 As highlighted in the September 2023 and February 2024 Cabinet reports the gateways through which schemes must pass to assure their viability were listed but it is worth noting them here again for clarity of where the Council currently sits and what is still to be commissioned / undertaken.
 - Stage 2 Feasibility was assessed as viable and we progressed to developing
 the scheme design and costs to RIBA Stage 3 under a new Pre-Development
 Services Agreement which will included obtaining planning permission and
 establishing a cost envelope for each site.
 - Stage 3 (The subject of this Cabinet Report) Upon receipt and approval of the fully costed RIBA Stage 4 designs and costs along with the receipt of planning permission, the Council would then determine whether to enter into a further contract for the construction and marketing works on each site.
 - Stage 4 Once a fixed price has been received and agreed, we will seek further approval from Full Council to progress to the delivery stage of the project.
- 2.11 Subject to this Cabinet report being approved the Council would progress to stage 3 and incur the expenses for full construction drawings, a fully tendered construction contract, programme of works and a planning approval. As highlighted above the costs for this element of the work is £854,117.



2.12 The final decision on whether or not to commit to borrow and develop is then taken before the final Stage 4 and would be subject to a subsequent Council approval, after the submission of Stage 4 (RIBA 4) designs and costs.

3. Proposal

That Cabinet:

- Notes the progress made to date by Capital&Centric on the Midway Car Park project in Newcastle Town Centre;
- Approve expenditure of up to £854,117 to develop the scheme to the end of RIBA Stage 4, for construction drawings, tender of a contractor, programme and agreement of a final project costs for the build out of the scheme to completion (subject to a separate Council approval at a future date);
- Authorise the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth, and Portfolio Holder for One Council, People and Partnerships to progress legal agreements to enable the appointment of Capital&Centric under a Pre-Development Services Agreement (PDSA) for the development of the scheme through a direct award under the Pagabo Development Management Framework;
- Note that the future submission of a separate Council Report for the final authorisation to award a construction contract for the build out of the scheme.

4. Reasons for the Proposed Solution

- 4.1 The decision will enable the project to progress as per the programme agreed with Government and the Future High Street Fund awards and commitments and get York Place underway.
- 4.2 To use this Government funding opportunity to support delivery of Council Plan objectives.
- 4.3 To uplift the status of Newcastle Town Centre as the heart of economic, social and community life in the Borough.
- 4.4 Bring a national developer to Newcastle to assist in the transformational programme of regeneration that is being undertaken.

5. Options Considered

5.1 The report above highlights the options that have been considered in some detail.

6. <u>Legal and Statutory Implications</u>

- 6.1 Section 2(1) of the Local Government Act 2000 permits local authorities to do anything they consider likely to promote or improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area. That would include actions to deliver the Future High Street Fund and Town Deal Fund programme for Newcastle Town Centre.
- 6.2 Pre-construction services agreements (PCSA) are used to appoint a design and build contractor to carry out services before entering into a formal building contract. A PCSA is sometimes referred to as a pre-construction agreement (PCA) and is used in two stage tendering to obtain further design input, buildability/technical advice and detailed



costs information from a prospective contractor. This is a formal agreement to provide the specified services/works and is not a letter of intent.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 The nature of the project is intended to seek benefits for all people who use the town centre and to support the economic and social health of Newcastle Town Centre as a destination.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

Cost Summary

Site	Pre- Application Gateway 1 (£)	Planning Submission Gateway 2 (£)	Pre Contract Submission Gateway 3 (£)	Total Costs (£)
Midway Car Park	85,000	624,883	854,117	1,564,000
Total Cost	85,000	624,883	854,117	1,564,000

- 8.1 Approval was given at the Cabinet meeting on 19 September 2023 to spend up to £256,500 with Capital&Centric to develop plans and business cases for the Ryecroft site, York Place and Midway Car Park. The budget in relation to the Midway Car Park is shown in the above table (Pre-application / Gateway 1 £85,000). The actual spend for the Gateway 1 stage amounted to £83,121.
- 8.2 The Gateway 2 stage was to commission works to take the regeneration projects to the next stage (Planning Submission / Gateway 2). The works covered the development plans up to and including the submission of the planning application for the redevelopment of the Midway Car Park. The principle around the re-development would be to retain the concrete frames and floors and re-engineer the structure for residential purposes, delivering around 106 modern apartments. The budget for completing this stage was £624,883 with actual spend amounting to £648,726. The overspend of £23,842 was due to an increase in the number of structural surveys that were required over and above that originally envisaged. This overspend still falls within the overall budget allocation for the Gateway 2 stage which was approved at Full Council on 14 February 2024 and is summarised in the table below.
- 8.3 The RIBA Stage 4 costs of £854,117 will cover the final design and construction cost confirmation. The works will be funded through the Newcastle Town Deal Fund as part of the Transforming Key Gateway Sites project as detailed in the table below.

Funding of RIBA 4 (Gateway 3)Stage

8.4 The table below summaries the Newcastle Town Deal Fund allocations and expenditure up to 22 October 2024:-

Project	Newcastle Town Deal Funding (£)	Spend as at 22/10/24 (£)	Balance remaining (£)
SMART Newcastle (Digital Infrastructure)	2,285,000	28,800	2,256,200
Sustainable Public Transport Solutions			
·	3,421,000	92,928	3,328,072
Electric Vehicle Charging Points	400,000	0	400,000
Town Centre Pedestrian Cycle			
Permeability	950,000	0	950,000

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Transform Key Gateway Sites	3,810,000	642,130	3,167,870
Astley Centre for Circus	1,810,000	641,789	1,168,211
Digital Society	3,510,000	810,941	2,699,059
Putting Heart into Knutton Village	3,534,000	844,370	2,689,630
Cross Street, Chesterton	2,955,000	0	2,955,000
Project Management	925,000	596,000	329,000
Total	23,600,000	3,656,958	19,943,042

9 Major Risks & Mitigation

- 9.1 The proposed re-development of the Midway Car Park is in a densely occupied town centre location and therefore will require careful management throughout the contract.
- 9.2 The potential for multiple re-development and / or construction projects being undertaken in a short period of time in the town centre could impact negatively on the enjoyment of the town amenities by users and will need careful messaging and monitoring. Each stakeholder will be able to assist with this.
- 9.3 The scheme for Midway is based on retaining the existing structure which saves on demolition costs and the construction of a new frame in addition to saving the embodied carbon. Whilst initial assessments have been undertaken on the scheme, intrusive structural surveys are required to ensure the building can be reused. If the structure is unusable then these benefits won't be achieved, however, this is currently not believed to be the case.
- 9.4 The inflationary pressures and the cost of borrowing is a risk to the delivery of all of the schemes and each needs to be planned carefully to minimise the effects of each prior to the start or award of any contract. Construction inflationary pressures are now easing but are still a consideration.
- 9.5 Each scheme / project will have a dedicated risk register for the potential risks of each scheme from the feasibility stage to the construction phases.

10 UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

10.1 Newcastle Town Centre is a highly accessible location, encouraging greater use of its land and assets enhances its role as a centre for services, leisure, retail and living and its connection to local residents. Furthermore this project is intended to enable the redevelopment of an underused retail complex that is in a poor state of repair and currently blocks good connectivity between the Ryecroft site and Ironmarket / High Street, bringing with it sustainability improvements, regeneration and economic benefits as well as in that respect, the project supports the realisation of the following UNSDG objectives:-















11. One Council



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

One Digital Council

One Green Council

12. Key Decision Information

12.1 This is a Key Decision.

13. <u>Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions</u>

- 13.1 October 2019, Cabinet concerning development of the second stage FHSF bid and procurement of consultancy support.
- 13.2 December 2019, Economy Environment & Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Town Centre Funding Update (information item).
- 13.3 July 2020, Cabinet concerning approval for submission of bid into MHCLG (now DLUHC).
- 13.4 April 2021 Cabinet accepting FHSF Grant monies and grant conditions.
- 13.5 March 2022 Cabinet award of contract for design and build contractor
- 13.6 June 2023 Cabinet award of contract for Castle Multi Storey Car Park
- 13.7 September 2023 Cabinet approval for Town Centre Regeneration Feasibility Studies
- 13.8 6 February 2024 Cabinet approval for Town Centre Regeneration Update
- 13.9 14 February 2024 Council approval for Town Centre Regeneration Update

14. List of Appendices

14.1 None.

15. <u>Background Papers</u>

15.1 None.



NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO CABINET

5th November 2024

Report Title: Traffic Regulation Order Amendments

Submitted by: Deputy Chief Executive

Portfolios: Finance, Town Centres and Growth

Ward(s) affected: Town

Purpose of the Report

Key Decision Yes □ No ☒

To outline the amendments to a Traffic Regulation Order to enable the opening of the new Castle Car Park and the closure of the Midway Car Park and Ryecroft surface car parking provision.

Recommendation

That Cabinet:

 Adopts the Traffic Regulation Order Amendments, as set out in Appendix 1, to open the new Castle Car Park and close the Midway Car Park and Ryecroft surface car park provision along with introducing a 20 minutes parking stay provision at the bottom of High Street, near the existing taxi rank.

Reasons

A key part of the Council's town centre regeneration plans and Car Parking Strategy is the delivery of the new Castle car park which will meet the need for a modern multistorey car park. It is appropriate the Cabinet consider the proposed Traffic Regulation Order Amendments to ensure that the proposed Order fulfil these plans.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council utilises a Traffic Regulation Order to set out the operation of our town centre car parks, this includes the named car parks and parking rules by which enforcement officers work to.
- The delivery of the new Castle Car Park is key to the delivery of the town centre regeneration plans and having a modern safe multistorey car park which meets the needs of town centre users is key to the delivery of the Car Parking Strategy. To make the new Castle Car Park operational it needs to be included in the Traffic Regulation Order to replace the to be closed Midway and Ryecroft surface car park provision.



1.3 One of the other key regeneration schemes is the redesign of the lower High Street and the proposal to introduce a 20 minutes maximum parking provision, known as Nipper Parking, as it aims to support town centre users to nip to local retailers or businesses to complete a quick transaction.

2. <u>Issues</u>

- 2.1 The Ryecroft site is the key redevelopment site underway in the town centre. Part of the Ryecroft car parking area has been redeveloped for the new Castle Car Park and the remaining site is planned for redevelopment and subject to planning permissions. It is therefore necessary to cease the operation of the Ryecroft car park provision as the rest of the site is redeveloped.
- 2.2 The delivery of the new Castle Car Park within the town centre ring-road will serve the needs of the town centre and therefore replaces the Midway Car Park which no longer meets the modern expectations of users.
- 2.3 The provision of off-street limited waiting 20 minutes maximum parking provision will provide additional options for drivers to go to a local business, this supports the local business economy. It is proposed to have four limited waiting time bays at the lower end of the High Street. There is no charge for this parking but there are restrictions on the maximum stay of 20 minutes and no return within 3 hours. Blue badge holders are still subject to the maximum period of waiting. Limited waiting is applicable from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Sunday. Appendix 2 shows a plan for the site and outlines the plans for the provision of four parking bays. These proposals are set out in the proposed Order.
- 2.4 The Council advertised the Proposed Order on 6th September in the Sentinel seeking objections by 4th October. There have been no objections.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Cabinet:

 Adopts the Traffic Regulation Order Amendments, as set out in Appendix 1, to open the new Castle Car Park and close the Midway Car Park and Ryecroft surface car park provision along with introducing a 20 minutes parking stay provision at the bottom of High Street, near the existing taxi rank.

4. Reasons

4.1 The recommendation is to amend the 2017 Traffic Regulation Order so that the new car parks; Castle and High Street are subject to the same operational requirements as the other car parks such as parking within the lines. Should the Council wish to update the regulations further in the future then then can be made through another further amendment.



5. Options Considered

5.1 The Council has a choice where to include the new Castle Car Park and High Street Car Park in a new Traffic Regulation Order or to amend the existing 2017 Order.

6. <u>Legal and Statutory Implications</u>

6.1 The Council operates the town centre off-street car parks in line with the Traffic Management Act 2004 and is required to be covered by a Traffic Regulation Order to state the operational conditions as per the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 The new Castle car park has been designed to specifically included disabled bays and accessible EV charging points.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

- 8.1 The charges for the new car parks; Castle and High Street are set out in the Proposed Order Appendix as they form part of the operational policy in the TRO schedule.
- **8.2** The charges for the Castle Car Park will be used towards meeting the costs of the development and form part of the business case.

9. Major Risks & Mitigation

- **9.1** Without any TRO the Council would be unable to enforce on the car parks, this would mean that drivers could park anywhere regardless of lining and potentially lead to dangerous situations.
- 9.2 There is a risk that drivers won't pay for parking in terms of Castle car park or may over stay in terms of the High Street and to mitigate against this there is a parking enforcement team that can issue penalty charge notices.

10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG

10.1 The provision of good quality parking in the right locations can contribute to the following UNSDG's:









11. One Council

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



One Commercial Council

The development of the new Castle car park was undertaken in line with an approved business plan, income from cars parking will be used to meet costs incurred from the development.

One Digital Council ⊠

The Council Is seeking to utilise digital technology within the permitted car parking Acts, this includes the use of parking permits for those regularly parking in the town centre.

One Green Council

The Castle car park include Electric Vehicle charging to support town centre users with electric cars. Without the provision of suitable charging residents are less likely to consider purchasing more environmentally friendly vehicles.

12. Key Decision Information

12.1 Not applicable.

13. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

13.1 Cabinet has received a number of reports regarding the regeneration plans for the town centre and specifically the development of the Castle Car Park. The key Cabinet report on the Castle Car Park was the contract award in June 2023.

14. List of Appendices

- **14.1** Appendix 1: TRO Order
- 14.2 Appendix 2: TRO High Street Nipper Parking Plan
- **14.3** Appendix 3: TRO Castle Car Park Plan
- **14.4** Appendix 4: TRO Statement of Reasons

15. Background Papers

15.1 None.

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT No. 4) ORDER 2017

THE ORDER

The Borough Council of Newcastle under Lyme ("the Council"), in exercise of its powers under Sections 32, 33, 35 and Parts III and IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 ("the 1984 Act") and the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and the Traffic Management Act 2004 ("the 2004 Act") and of all other enabling powers, hereby makes the following Order.

1. The Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme 'Off-Street Parking Places Order 2017 ('the Original Order') is hereby amended by the removal of the reference to Parking Place 1 - Midway and Parking Place No 17 - Ryecroft car parks from the list of Parking Places set out in the First Schedule. The proposed Order would also amend the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme 'Off-Street Parking Places Order 2017' ('the Original Order') by adding parking place - Castle and parking place - High Street to the list of Parking Places set out in the First schedule as car parks.

First Schedule Addition:

Parking Place	Classes if Vehicles	a) Days of operation b) Hours of operation	Charging days and hours	Maximum period of waiting	Scale of Charges (£)
Castle Car Park	Passenger vehicles Goods vehicles Motor vehicles	a) All days b) All hours	Monday to Sunday 24 hours	24 hours	Up to 1 hour £1.20 Up to 2 hours £2.30 Up to 3 hours £3.50 Up to 4 hours £4.70 Up to 24 hours 6.60 Season ticket, per quarter - £172 Monthly ticket £65 Overnight quarterly permit (valid 8pm to 8am) £66 Bank holiday and event parking £1.20 Evening charge (8pm to 8am the following morning) £1.50
High Street	Passenger vehicles Goods vehicles Motor vehicles	a) Monday – Sunday b) 8am to 6pm	None	minutes no return within 3 hours Blue Badge holders are also restricted to these maximum	None

		waiting	
		periods	

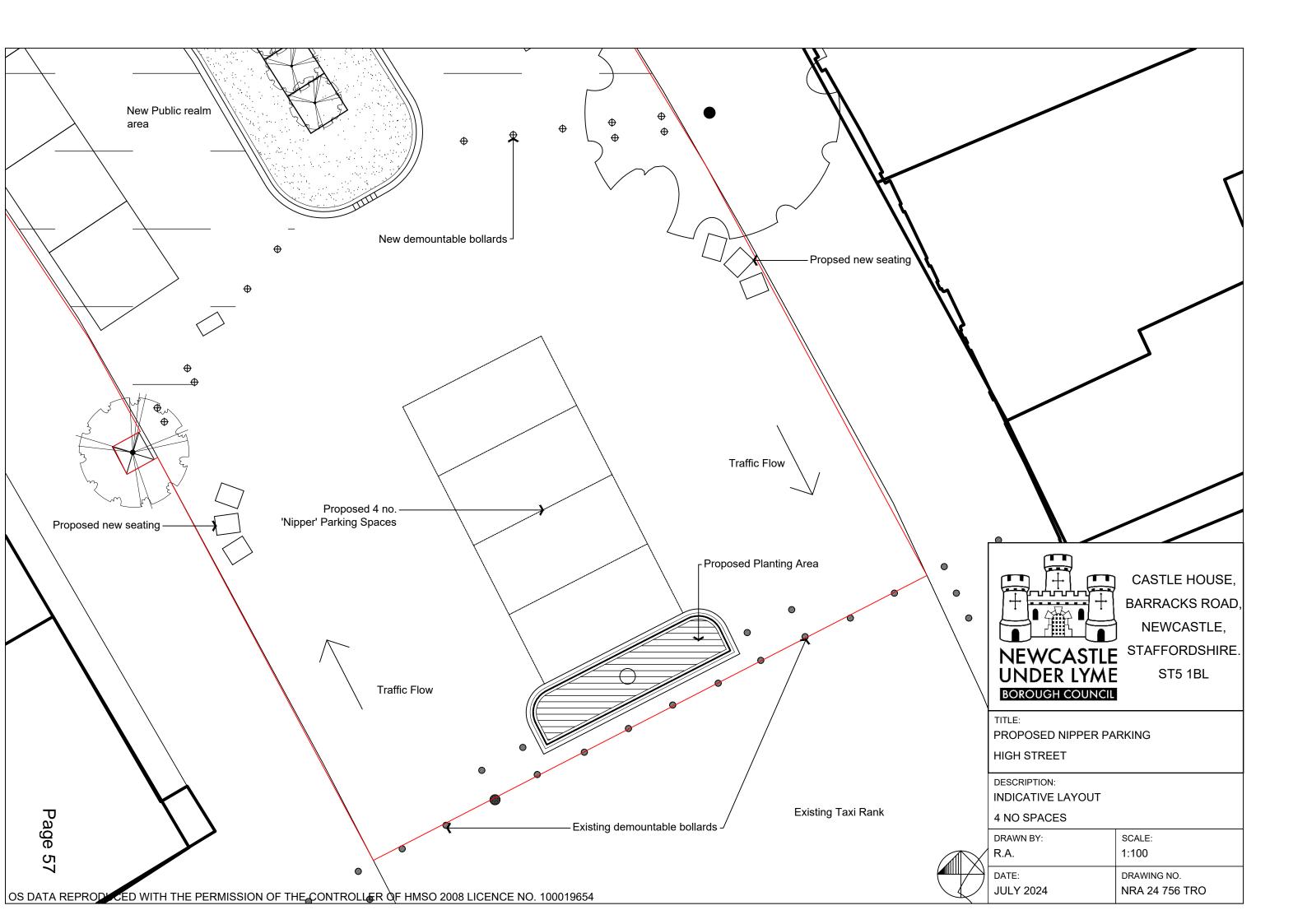
2. Insofar as any provision of this Order conflicts with a provision which is contained in an Order made or having effect as if made under the 1984 Act and existing at the time when this order comes into operation, that provision of the order shall prevail.

THE COMMON SEAL of THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME was hereunto affixed in the presence of:-

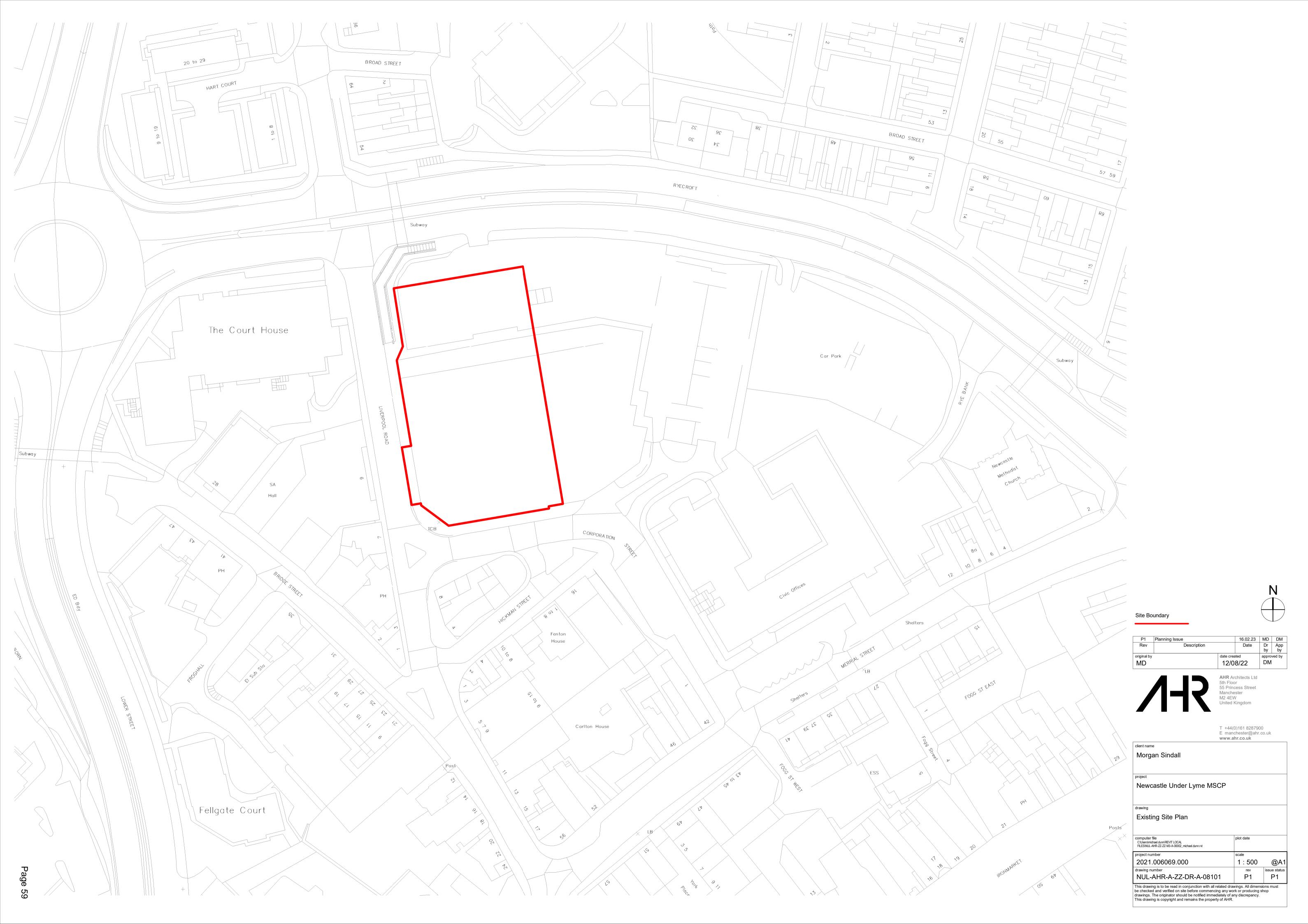
Mayor/Councillor

Authorised Signatory

Dated XX



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THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT No. 4) ORDER 2017

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR PROPOSALS

The Borough Council intends to amend the off-street parking places order for the following reasons:

- Castle Car Park is a new multi-storey car park that has been built to replace the old Midway car park and the surface level car park at Ryecroft. It is therefore necessary to add the Castle car park to the off-street parking order and to remove Midway Car Park and the Ryecroft car park from the off-street parking places order so that these sites can be re-developed.
- 2. The provision of off street limited waiting 20 minutes maximum parking will provide additional options for drivers to go to a local business, this supports the local business economy. It is proposed to have 4 no. limited waiting time bays at the lower end of the High Street, Newcastle. There is no charge for this parking but there are restrictions on the maximum stay of 20 minutes and no return within 3 hours. Blue badge holders are still subject to the car parks maximum period of waiting. Limited waiting is applicable 8am to 6pm, Monday to Sunday. It is therefore necessary to add High Street car park to the off-street parking order.
- 3. The current car parking counts show that there are approximately 174 cars parking on the Midway and 88 cars parking on Ryecroft. The new Castle Car park will accommodate 468 spaces and the High Street will accommodate 4 spaces.



NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO

05 November 2024

Report Title: Financial and Performance Review Report - Second Quarter

2024/25

Submitted by: Corporate Leadership Team

Portfolios: One Council, People & Partnerships

Finance, Town Centres & Growth

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

Key Decision Yes □ No ☒

To provide Cabinet with the Financial and Performance Review Report for 2024-25 (Quarter Two).

Recommendation

That (Cabinet): note the contents of the attached report and appendices and continue to monitor and challenge the Council's service and financial performance for this period.

Reasons

The Financial and Performance Management monitoring reports provide information on a quarterly basis regarding the performance of individual council services and progress with delivery against our priorities, alongside related financial information on the organisation.

1. Background

- 1.1 This quarterly report provides Members with a detailed update on how the Council has performed during the quarter by presenting performance data and progress summaries set within a financial context. The report provides broad financial information (Appendix A) and also details service performance (Appendix B) for the period to the end of quarter two in 2024/25.
- **1.2** The Council approved a General Fund Revenue Budget of £17,046,150 on 14 February 2024. Further financial information is provided in Appendix A.

2. Performance

- 2.1 The Q2 report (April 2024 to September 2024) has been produced using business intelligence tools in order automate and improve the monitoring, analysis and reporting of Council performance. The indicators included are those agreed as part of the new Council Plan and reflect the priorities for the Borough. In addition to reporting on key performance indicators, the report also includes progress summaries for each priority action, detailing the progress with the delivery of planned activities.
- **2.2** Contextual performance information is provided (indicators without a target), not only to ensure the monitoring of the corporate activities of the Council, but also to inform



Members, businesses and residents of performance in their local area that the Council cannot directly control.

- 2.3 Any indicators failing to meet the set targets include a comment explaining why the indicator has not performed well, and what steps are being taken to ensure improvement in the future.
- 2.4 For this report a total of 49 indicators were monitored, 20 of these indicators were contextual and had no set target. Of these contextual measures that had historic trend data available, 38% showed an improvement or maintenance when compared to the previous year's performance. Of the remaining 29 indicators, the proportion which have met their target during this period stands at 83%, with the remaining 17% falling short of target. 20% of off target measures this quarter show a positive trend when comparing to the same time period of the previous financial year. It must also be noted that a small number of these 'off target' measures have more stretching targets this year, in line with benchmarking findings and council ambition. In terms of trend data overall, with measures where there is comparable data, the proportion of indicators showing an improvement or maintenance of the previous year's performance stands at 44%.
- **2.5** Three project/actions have been classified as completed by their respective owners this quarter.

3. Issues

- 3.1 There are five indicators 'off target' this quarter and officers do not feel that these give rise to serious cause for concern at present (see commentaries in Appendix B). The management of each of the service areas concerned continue to monitor and take steps to address performance improvement where feasible and appropriate.
- **3.2** Progress on delivery of planned activities is summarised for each priority with two activities/actions being amber rated in Quarter Two; both are associated with priority two.
- 3.3 The first action flagged as amber is the Walleys Quarry odour problem. Comments by the action owner is listed below;

3.3.1 Legal Action

On 29 July 2024 the Secretary of State Environment, Food and Rural Affairs responded to the Leader's request for permission to prosecute Walleys Quarry Ltd under statutory nuisance legislation. The Secretary of State granted consent for a prosecution to proceed. On 30 September the Chief Executive provided an update stating; ""there are very few precedents for taking legal action against an operator regulated by a Government agency, so there is a great deal of legal advice and preparation involved, however I believe we will be ready to take the next step by the end of October"". Odour complaints reported in Q2 (July-September) are higher than reported over the same Quarter in 2023.

3.3.2 Committee of Inquiry

A member-led committee of inquiry was set up to look at the impact on local communities from the Walleys Quarry Landfill operation. The lines of inquiry were:

- What is the impact of the ongoing odour issue?
- What needs to be done next, and by whom, to bring about resolution?
- What, if any opportunities have been missed to resolve the issue sooner?

The inquiry heard more than 11 hours of submissions over 2 days from the EA, UKWCASTLE Health Security Agency, community groups and others, and considered additional Well Written statements. On 25 September the final report was presented to full Council recommending that the EA serve a closure notice to commence the process of the site being closed with an additional 10 other recommendations detailed in the report Walleys Quarry Committee of Inquiry July/August 2024'."

3.4 The second action flagged as amber and not progressing as expected is the Delivery the £16m Kidsgrove Town Deal. Where some issues have continued in regard to the delivery of the Railway station project whilst technical issues are resolved on the ground conditions around the railway station. Work continues with the Town Deal Board and project partners to resolve these.

4. Recommendation

4.1 That Cabinet note the contents of the attached report and Appendices A and B and continue to monitor and challenge the Council's performance alongside its financial performance for the same period.

5. Reasons

5.1 To enable financial and performance information to be presented for continued scrutiny and encourage improvement within council delivery.

6. Options Considered

6.1 At this time, it is felt there is no other option necessary for consideration, however the presentation of information is continually reviewed.

7. <u>Legal and Statutory Implications</u>

7.1 The Council has a Best Value duty to provide value for money services.

8. **Equality Impact Assessment**

8.1 There are no differential equality issues arising directly from this report

9. Financial and Resource Implications

9.1 Any positive variance for the full year on the General Fund Revenue Account will enable that amount to be transferred to the Budget Support Fund and will be available in future years for use, as the Council considers appropriate. Conversely, if there is an adverse variance, the amount required to cover this will have to be met from the Budget Support Fund.

10. <u>Major Risks & Mitigation</u>

- 10.1 The ongoing changing market conditions represents the greatest risk to the revenue budget, particularly with regard to the impact it may have upon income receivable in relation to services where customers may choose whether or not to use Council facilities or in the case of the waste/recycling service where the volume of recycled materials is liable to fluctuate.
- 10.2 The capital programme will require regular monitoring to identify any projects which are falling behind their planned completion dates. This will be carried out by the



11. <u>UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG</u>



12. One Council

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

One Green Council

13. Key Decision Information

13.1 This is not a key decision.

14. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

14.1 Not relevant

15. <u>List of Appendices</u>

15.1 Financial information (Appendix A) and Performance Outturn (Appendix B)

16. Background Papers

16.1 Working papers held by officers responsible for calculating indicators.

APPENDIX A



2024/25

Quarter Two Financial Performance

1. Background and Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules and recommended good practice, a quarterly financial report is presented to Members. This is the second report for 2024/25.
- 1.2 The report summarises overall financial performance for 2024/25 with particular emphasis on the key sources of financial risk to the Council. Specific considerations are as follows:
 - General Fund Revenue Account (Section 2) considers budgetary performance on the General Fund Account by looking at variations in income and expenditure and the funding received by the Council.
 - Efficiency and Savings Plan (Section 3) considers progress in achieving the efficiency and savings forecast for 2024/25.
 - Capital Programme (Section 4) provides an update to Members on progress against the Council's Capital Programme and major project funded through the Town Deal Funds and Future High Street Fund.
 - Treasury Management (Section 5) sets out the key statistics in terms of investments and borrowings;
 - **Collection Fund (Section 6)** considers progress to date in collecting the Council Tax, Business Rates and Sundry Debts.

2. General Fund Revenue Budget

2.1 This section of the report considers the financial performance of the General Fund Revenue Account against budget by setting out variations in income and expenditure and funding received by the Council.

	2024/25 Ge	eneral Fund
Area	Estimate £	Band D Council Tax £
Central Services	2,397,680	61.89
Cultural Services	3,555,470	91.78
Environmental Services	8,150,380	210.40
Planning	1,730,040	44.66
Transport	(270,890)	(6.99)
Housing	2,168,480	55.98
Net Cost of Services	17,731,160	457.72
Pensions Liabilities Account	400,000	10.33
Investment Properties	(84,510)	(2.18)
Interest and Investment Income	498,000	12.86
Net Operating Expenditure	18,554,650	478.73
Contribution to/(from) Revenue Reserves	273,000	7.05
Contribution to/(from) Capital Reserves	(1,771,500)	(45.73)
Amount to be met from Government Grant and Local Taxpayers	17,046,150	440.05

2.2 The Council approved a General Fund Revenue Budget of £17.046m on 14 February 2024 for 2024/25. 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.

- 2.3 The table above shows how this budget has been allocated.
- 2.4 At the close of quarter two a positive variance of £0.011m has been achieved. The projected outturn on the General Fund Revenue Account for the year is £17.023m. This represents a positive outturn of £0.023m for the year.
- 2.5 The adverse variances that have occurred at the close of the second quarter of 2024/25 include:
 - a. Income shortfalls from sales, fees and charges which amount to £0.096m (forecast to be £0.275m for the financial year).
 - b. Holding costs for York Place (e.g. utilities and business rates) are expected to amount to £0.110m for the financial year, £0.090m had been incurred during the first two quarters.
 - c. A pay award of £1,290 per employee has been offered that is in excess of the amount provided for in the budget (3.5%), this would amount to a pressure of £0.120m (£0.060m at quarter two).
- 2.6 These adverse variances have been offset in full by the following favourable variances:
 - a. Interest receivable on cash that the Council holds in terms of Town Deal and Future High Street funding totals £0.507m at the close of quarter two (it is forecast that this will grow to £0.650m of income by the close of the financial year).
 - b. Interest payable on borrowing has yet to be incurred due to the cash that the Council holds in terms of Town Deal and Future High Street funding. It is forecast that borrowing may be required in the final quarter of the financial year dependent upon cash flow and that interest payable will be £0.395m lower than budgeted for (£0.263m at the close of quarter two).

A contribution to reserves has been assumed as a result of the favourable variance shown above in respect of interest receivable regarding cash that the Council holds in terms of Town Deal and Future High Street funding. Part of this reserve will fund the inspection stage of the Local Plan. At the close of the financial year the remainder will be contributed to the Budget Support Fund to increase the Council's financial resilience should the projected outturn remain unchanged.

3. Efficiency and Savings Plan

- 3.1 This section of the report considers the financial performance of the Council's Efficiency and Savings Plan in 2024/25.
- 3.2 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (approved in February 2024) included the five year (2024/25 2028/29) Efficiency and Savings Plan targeting savings of £6.885m.
- 3.3 The Efficiency and Savings Plan is set on the need to both reduce expenditure and increase income. The need to grow income is now more of a priority as the Council moves more towards being self-financing. The plan has been developed with the underlying principles of protecting frontline service delivery. It is also intended that the plan is a tool to enable the Council to ensure that its service spending is determined by the established priorities set out in the Corporate Plan.

3.4 The 2024/25 budget was set in February 2024 with the assumption of £2.692m of savings in the year. These savings are detailed in the table below:

Category	Amount £'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 introduction 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	Increased 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 Reimbursement	506	Grant in respect of New Homes Bonus and Minimum Funding Guarantee
Total	2,692	

3.5 At the end of quarter two, all savings have been achieved.

4. Capital Programme and Major Projects

- 4.1 This section of the report provides an update to Members on the Council's Capital Programme and major projects funded by the Town Deal Funds and Future High Street Fund.
- 4.2 The table below shows a high level (service) summary of the General Fund Capital Programme position at 30 September 2024.

Priority	Budget at Period 6 £'000	Actual at Period 6 £'000	Variance at Period 6 £'000
One Council Delivering for	517	506	(11)
Local People			
A Successful and Sustainable	8,045	8,037	(8)
Growing Borough			
Healthy, Active and Safe	1,647	1,660	13
Communities			
Town Centres for All	3,183	3,190	7
Total	13,392	13,393	1

4.3 A Capital Programme totalling £16.680m was approved for 2024/25, excluding a £1.000m contingency. Of this total £10.135m relates to the total cost of new schemes for 2024/25 together with £6.545m for schemes funded by external sources (Town Deals Fund, Future High Streets Fund and Disabled Facilities Grants). In addition £42.174m was brought forward from the 2023/24 Capital Programme, including projects planned under the Town Deals and Future High Streets funds that will be progressed during 2024/25 (£25.641m), the Council's contribution towards the construction of a new multi storey car park (£8.100m) and fleet replacement (£4.751m), resulting

in a total Capital Programme of £59.855m for 2024/25 (including a £1.000m contingency).

4.4 The expected total capital receipts due to be received this year following the sale of assets amount to £3.786m. A summary of the expected income is shown in the table below.

Funding	Amount
Proceeds from Right to Buy sales	£0.500m
Asset sales	£3.286m
Total	£3.786m

Major Projects Funding

4.5 The Council was awarded Future High Streets Fund funding in June 2021 of £11.0m to progress projects to help future economic growth. The full £11.0m has now been received of which £10.268m has been spent at 30 September 2024, as shown below:

Project	Award (£000's)	Spend/Ordered (£000's)	Remaining (£000's)
Ryecroft / Site Preparation	3,756	3,348	408
Multi Story Car Park	3,500	3,494	6
York Place	3,015	2,858	157
Stones Public Realm	321	108	213
Market Stalls	76	81	(5)
Project Management	380	379	1
Total	11,048	10,268	780

4.6 £23.6m was awarded to the Council via the Town Deals Fund for Newcastle to enable a vision to improve communications, infrastructure, and connectivity in Newcastle-under-Lyme to become a reality. £14.2m has been received to date of which £3.3m has been spent as shown below:

Project	Award (£000's)	Spend/Ordered (£000's)	Remaining (£000's)
Digital Infrastructure	2,285	29	2,256
Sustainable Public Transport	3,421	65	3,356
Electric Vehicle Charging	400	-	400
Pedestrian Cycle Permeability	950	-	950
Transform Key Gateway Sites	3,810	439	3,371
Astley Centre for Circus	1,810	640	1,170
Digital Society	3,510	662	2,848
Heart into Knutton Village	3,534	881	2,653
Cross Street, Chesterton	2,955	-	2,955
Project Management	925	628	297
Total	23,600	3,344	15,951

4.8 £16.9m has also been awarded via the Town Deals fund for Kidsgrove to enable real and lasting economic benefits to be realised in Kidsgrove and the surrounding area. To date £13.4m has been received of which £6.9m has been spent as shown below:

Project	Award (£000's)	Spend/Ordered (£000's)	Remaining (£000's)
Kidsgrove Sports Centre	2,328	2,328	-
Chatterley Valley West	3,496	3,496	-
Kidsgrove Station	3,658	212	3,446
Shared Services Hub	6,183	164	6,019

Canal Enhancement	400	-	400
Project Management	835	702	133
Total	16,900	6,902	9,998

4.9 The Council has been awarded £4.8m (all of which has now been received), over a 3 year period, of UK Shared Prosperity Funding as part of the governments mission to level up opportunity and prosperity and to overcome geographical inequalities. It also aims to level up people's pride in the places they love and seeing that reflected in empowered local leaders and communities, a stronger social fabric and better life chances. 33 projects have been identified for which spend has commenced. Total spend at 30 September 2024 amounted to £3.1m as shown below:

Project	Award (£000's)	Spend/Ordered (£000's)	Remaining (£000's)
CML Community Hubs	6	6	(2000 3)
Newcastle 850 Anniversary	16	16	_
Nature and Wellbeing	21	20	1
Canal Connectivity	102	5	97
Clough Hall Park	234	19	215
Mental Health Worker	86	65	21
Nature Recovery	265	130	135
Epicentre for Circus	100	73	27
Homelessness Hub	1,115	637	478
Beat The Street	20	20	-
New Vic Theatre - 850 Event	10	10	-
Kidsgrove Workshop	156	108	48
Community Connector	67	34	33
Promotional Videos/Photos	15	14	1
Honeybox	55	55	-
Volunteering for all	71	51	20
Discharge Officer	86	65	21
BES Enterprise Coaching	89	82	7
Kidsgrove Town Hall	255	255	-
Security Marshalls	33	33	-
Flourishing Keele (KU)	466	352	114
Moving Ahead (KU)	277	277	-
Advanced Digital Technologies	409	204	205
Chamber Growth Hub	59	28	31
Brampton Wedding Venue	44	44	-
Markets For All	21	-	21
Community Connects	55	55	-
Feasted	44	44	-
Business Connects	6	3	3
Business Development	10	-	10
Technical Innovation Upskilling	159	86	73
Disadvantaged Upskill Project	28	8	20
Green Projects	164	123	41
Contingency	99	-	99
Project Management	193	153	40
Total	4,836	3,075	1,761

- 4.10 Several projects within the Town Deals and Future High Streets Fund (e.g., Multi Storey Car Park, Ryecroft Development, York Place and Chatterley Valley) will require further funding from the Council in addition to the government grants, this will include the Council borrowing to fund these projects.
- 4.11 The Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) borrowing rate is subject to change daily and could have a Page significant impact on the financial viability if increases in interest rates are forthcoming or may result

- in considerably less costs in the instances of lower rates being obtained when borrowing is required. Additionally, the level of inflationary demands is also considered on a project-by-project basis.
- 4.12 Rigorous financial challenge and monitoring of each project's expenditure will be required in both the interim and during subsequent construction phases. Financial monitoring will continue to be reported as part of the scrutiny process and will also form part of the quarterly financial report to Cabinet.

5. Treasury Management

5.1 This section of the report sets out the key treasury management statistics in relation to the Council's investments and borrowings. This report comprises a high level treasury management summary. The Audit and Standards Committee receives detailed operational updates on treasury management.

Investments

- 5.2 Cash Investments held on the 30 September 2024 amounted to £11.900m. Interest earned on these investments at the close of quarter two amounted to £0.507m. The average level of funds available for investment between 1 April 2024 and 30 September 2024 was £14.975m.
- 5.3 The Council has not budgeted to receive investment income in 2024/25. This was due to the expectation that borrowing would have taken place earlier in the financial year, however due to projects being delayed for a number of reasons, funding has remained in the Council's bank account and in turn generated interest. A surplus of £0.650m is anticipated for the financial year due to the cash that the Council holds in terms of Town Deal and Future High Street funding.

Borrowing

- 5.4 Borrowing is likely to be required during the final quarter of 2024/25 to fund the capital programme.
- 5.5 Although not utilised in recent years, the Council has previously considered the option of long-term borrowing from the PWLB. After the utilisation of capital receipts and internal borrowing, the Council will look to borrow short term from other local authorities in the first instance and will then review any other sources of funding if required.
- 5.6 Advice from the Council's Treasury Management Advisors, Arlingclose, is to continue to utilise internal funding whilst it is available as opposed to borrowing whilst the interest rates are high. This approach also reduces the need to place funding in long term deposits, whilst minimising any potential investment risks.

6. Collection Fund

- 6.1. This section of the report details progress to date in collecting the Council Tax, Business Rates and Sundry Debt.
- 6.2 Local tax income is collected by billing authorities and paid into local 'collection funds' (the Council is a billing authority). Where there is a shortfall in tax receipts (compared to expected levels), this leads to a deficit on the collection fund. Billing and major precepting authorities are usually required to meet their share of any deficit during the following financial year.
- 6.3 The quarter two collection rate was as follows:

- Council Tax 52.0% of Council Tax was collected by 30 September 2024, compared to a target at the close of quarter two of 48.75%.
- Business Rates 54.4% of Business Rates was collected by 30 September 2024, compared to a target at the close of quarter two of 48.7%.
- 6.4 The current forecast of tax receipts and Section 31 grant are shown below:

Tax	Forecast (Surplus)/Deficit at 30.9.24	Council's Share
Council Tax	(£0.035m)	(£0.004m) (11%)
Business Rates	(£0.053m)	(£0.021m) (40%)
Business Rates Section 31 Grant	(£0.029m)	(£0.012m) (40%)
Total	(£0.117m)	(£0.037m)



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Priority 4: Town ...

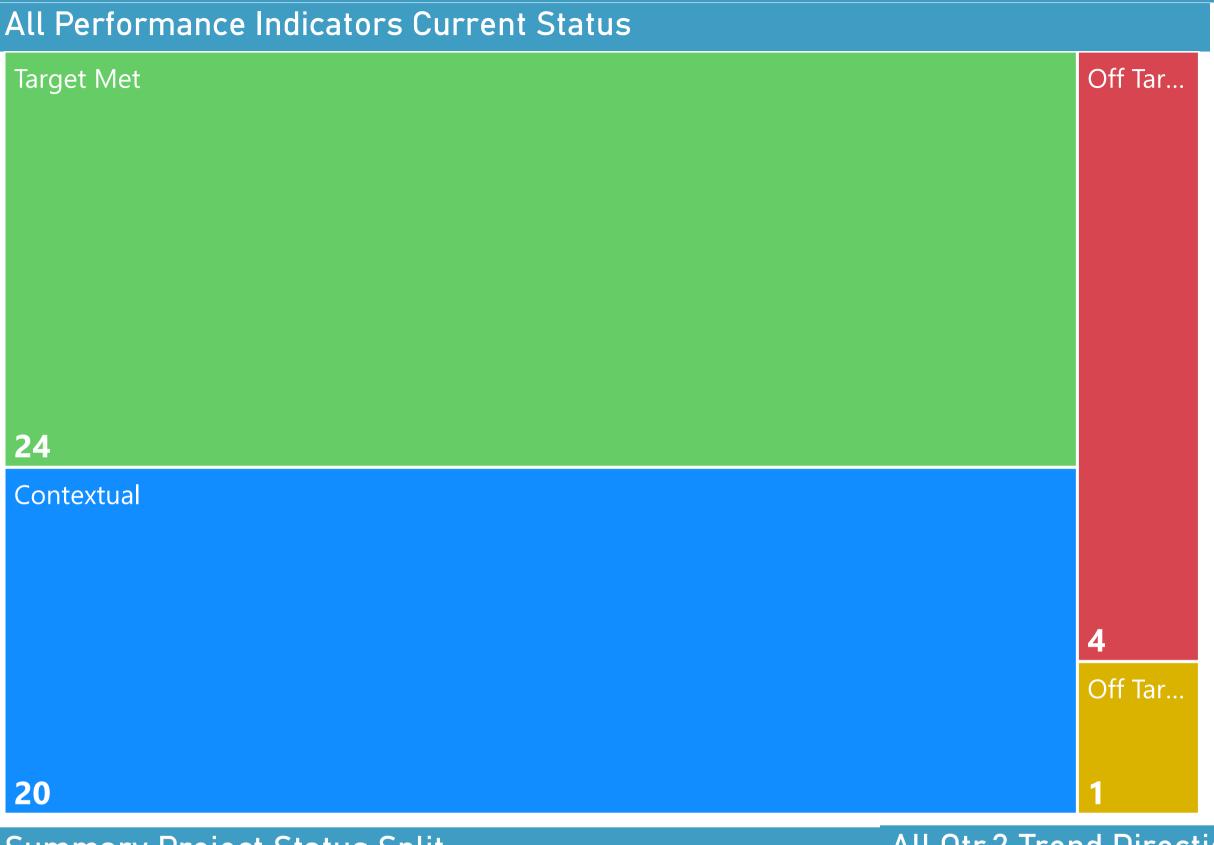






Quarter 2 - April 2024 to September 2024

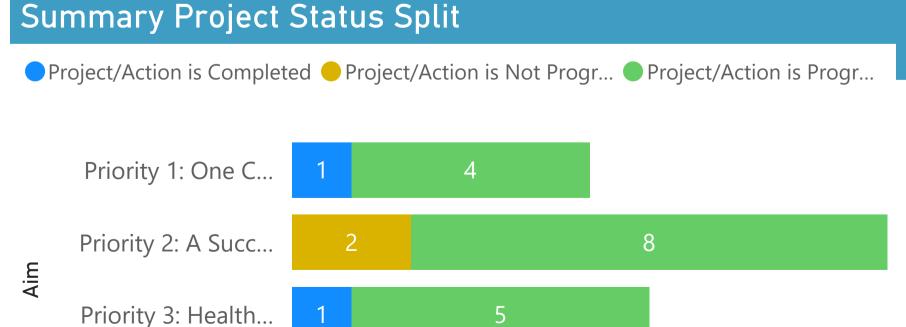




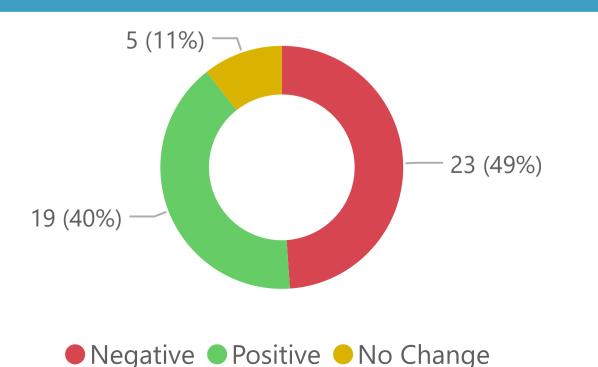
Corporate Aim (Priority)	Count
Priority 1: One Council delivering for Local People	16
Priority 2: A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough	6
Priority 3: Healthy, Active and Safe Communities	24
Priority 4: Town Centres for All	3
	49

Smart Narrative

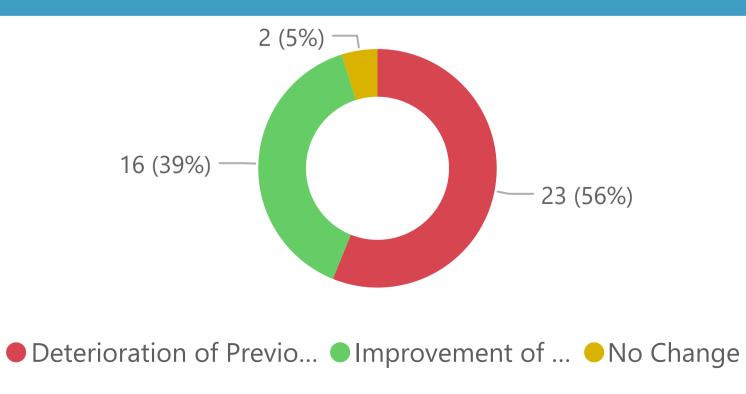
- There are 29 Indicators which have set targets this quarter.
- 83% met their targets within Quarter Two. 10 Indicators which met their target also showed improvement when compared to the same time period last year. 11 Indicators which met their target showed a negative trend when being compared to last year. 2 Indicators showed no change.
- 17% of Indicators were off target this quarter. 1 of these indicators showed an improvement when compared to last year and 4 indicators showed a negative trend.
- There are 20 Indicators which are contextual this quarter and do not have a target to meet. When compared
 to last year 5 measures showed an improved trend with 8 of the contextual measures showing a negative
 trend. 7 measures did not have any historic data to compare against.
- There are 3 Projects/Actions that have been classified as completed being split equally between Priority 1, 3 and 4. Priority 2 has 2 Project/Action's that have been identified as not progressing as expected detail of these is provided in this report.







All Qtr.2 Trend Status of PI's Compared On Same Qtr in the Previous Financial Year

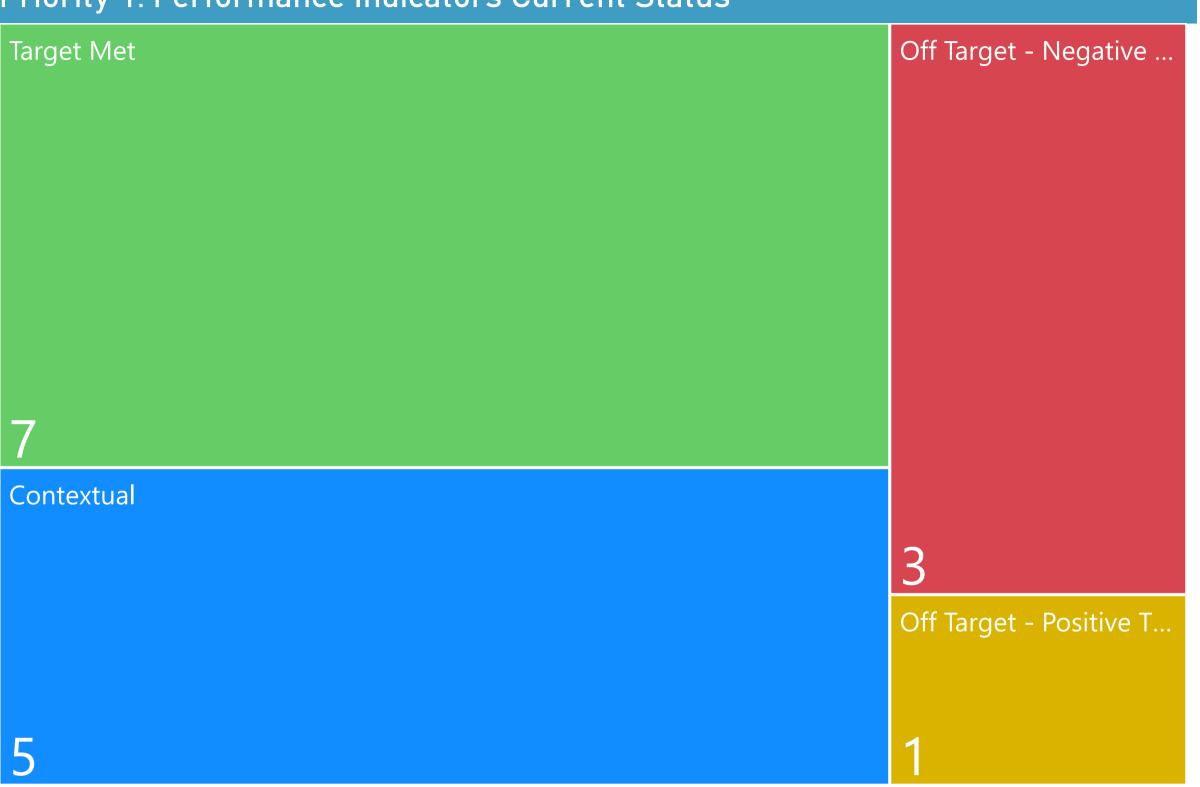




Priority 1: One Council delivering for Local People



Priority 1: Performance Indicators Current Status



Corporate Objective	Count
Deliver services to a high standard every day	3
Develop professional talent across the Council and provide opportunities for staff to grow their careers	4
Ensure our services are efficient and accessible	7
Ensure strong financial discipline across the Council	2
Total	16

Smart Narrative

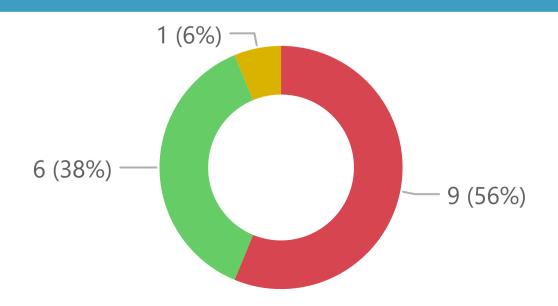
- There are 11 Indicators which have set targets this quarter within Priority 1.
- 64% met their targets within Quarter Two. 2 Indicators which met their target also showed improvement when compared to the same time period last year. 5 Indicators which met their target showed a negative trend when being compared to last year.
- 36% of Indicators were classed as off target this quarter. Only 1 of these indicators showed a positive trend when compared to last year and 3 showed an negative performance on the year previous.
- There are 5 Indicators which are contextual this quarter and do not have a target to meet. When compared to last year, 3 of these measures showed a negative trend, 1 measure demonstrated an improvement and 1 measure did not have any historic data to compare against.
- There has been one Project/Action that has been classed as completed in Priority 1, this being the Delivery of the One Council Programme. All other Projects/Actions within Priority 1 are classed to be progressing as expected.

Priority 1: Summary Project Status Split

Project/Action is Completed
 Project/Action is Progressing as Expected

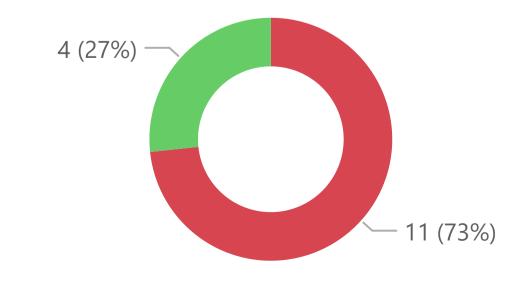
Priority 1: One C...

Priority 1: Qtr.2 Trend Direction of PI's Compared to Previous Quarter

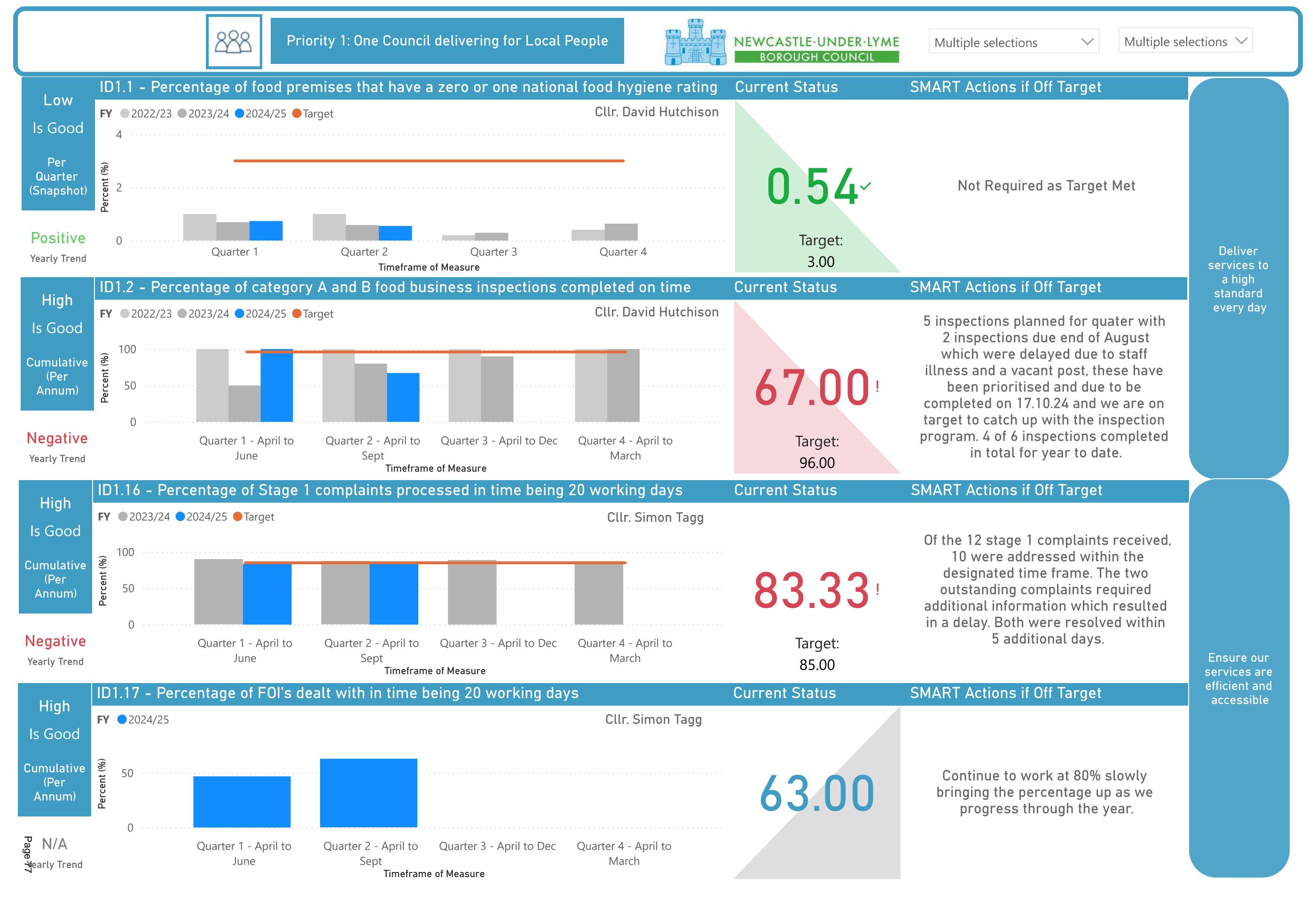


NegativePositiveNo Change

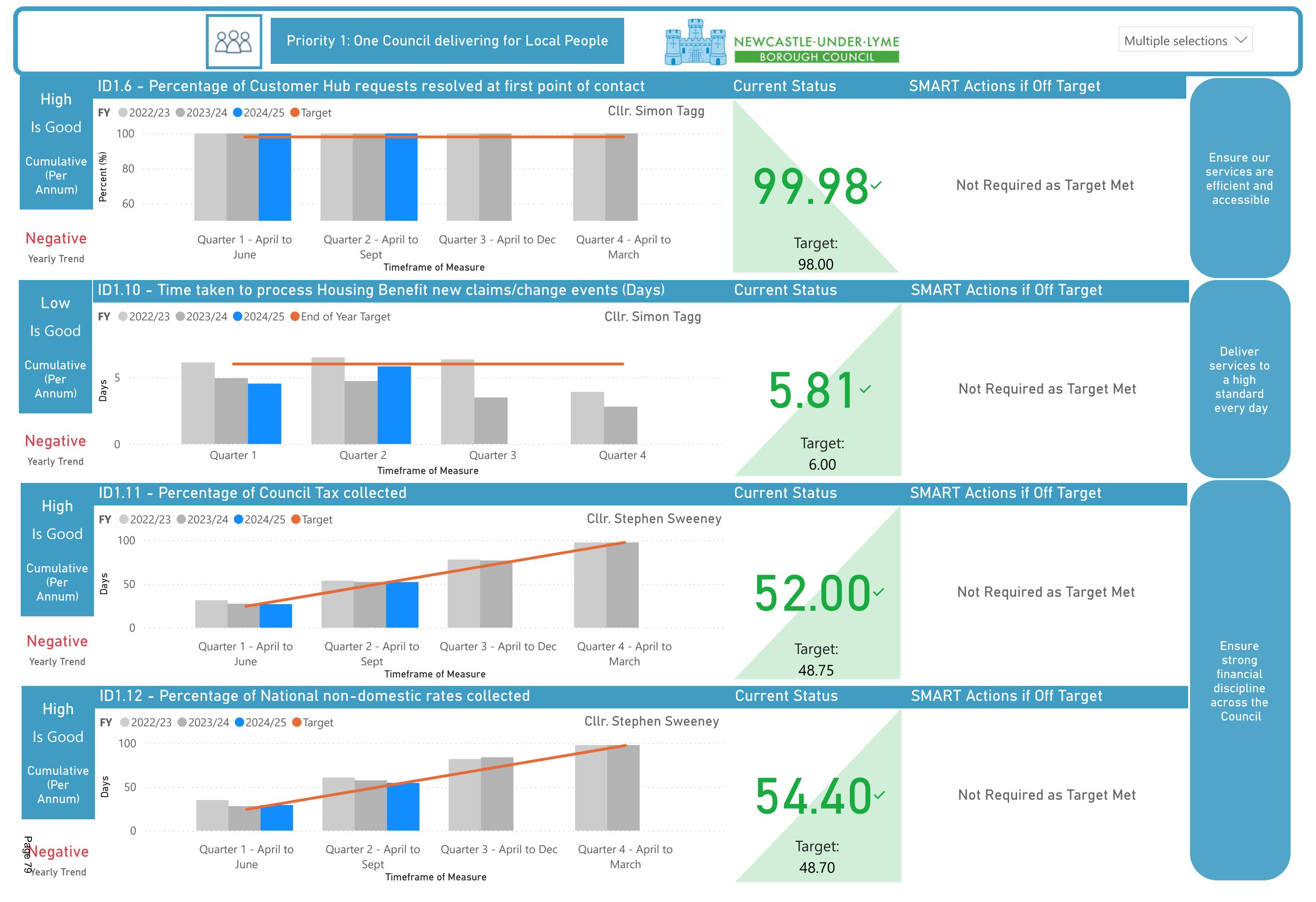
Priority 1: Qtr.2 Trend Status of PI's Compared On Same Qtr in the Previous Financial Year

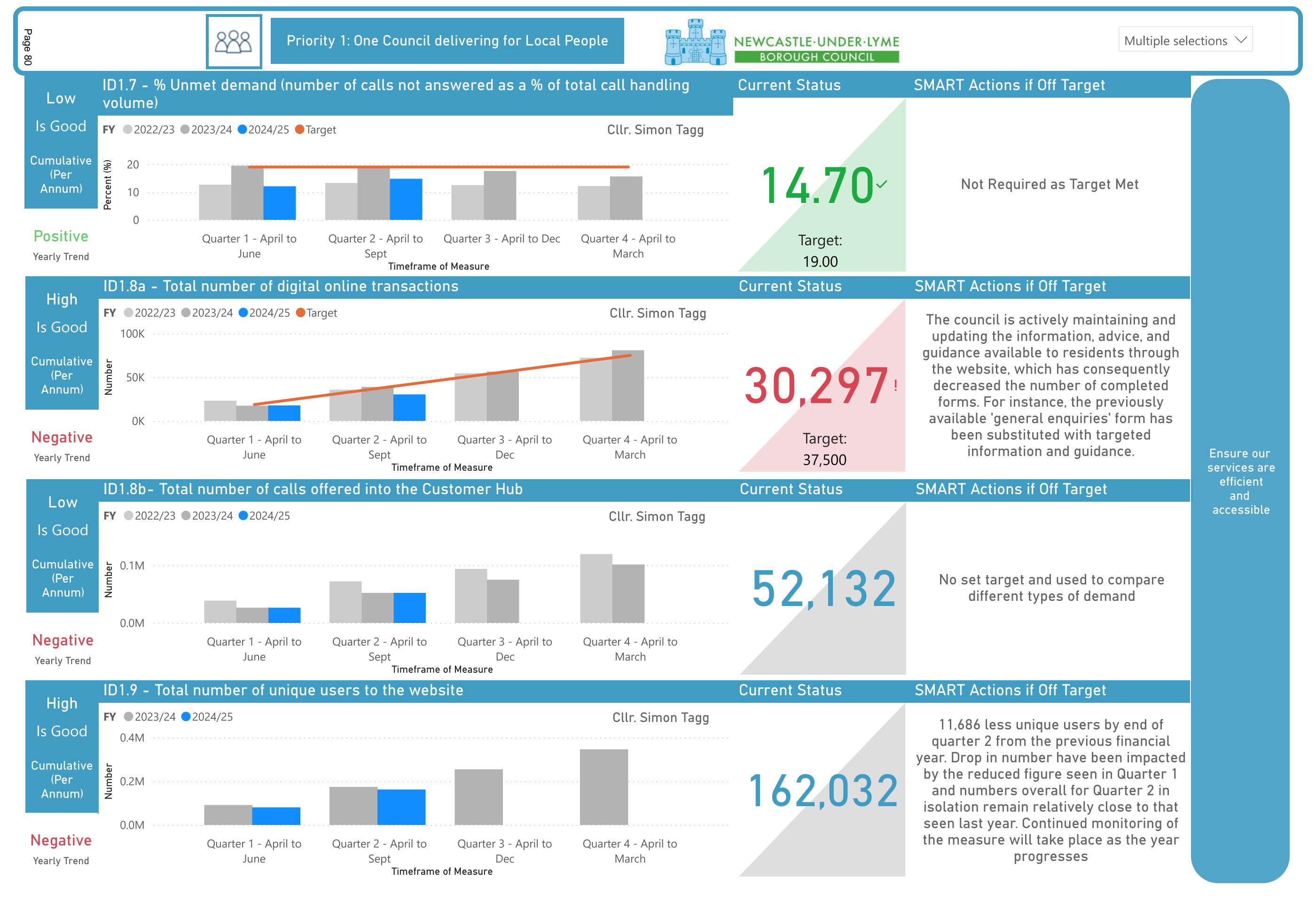


Deterioration of Previous Year
Improvement of Previous ...











Priority 1: One Council delivering for Local People



Project Status Split for Priority 1.

Project/Action is Progressing as Expected

Project/Action is Completed

4

•					
Portfolio Holder	Service Area	Action	Corporate Objective	Status report	Commentary on progress
Cllr. Simon Tagg	 Strategy, People and Performance 2. All services 	Deliver a Workforce Strategy	Develop professional talent across the Council and provide opportunities for staff to grow their careers	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	strategy realisation continues
Cllr. Simon Tagg	 Strategy, People and Performance 2. IT and Digital 3. Neighbourhoods All (digital enablement) 	Deliver the One Council Programme	Ensure our services are efficient and accessible	Project/Action is Completed	Project/Action has been completed.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	1. CommercialDelivery 2. Finance3. Legal &Governance	Identify and deliver opportunities to generate income from commercial development	Ensure strong financial discipline across the Council	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Officers are beginning a new programme to investigate commercialisation opportunities across the Council, this will enable each service to review where they can operate more commercially.
Cllr. Simon Tagg	3 , 1	Work with our communities to ensure services reflect local need	Work with our communities to ensure services reflect local need	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Ongoing partnership work continues. Work continues in developing our Priority Delivery Plans in line with our understanding of our communities and the overall Council Priorities and Plan. We continue to work with partners and also with data to understand the context in which we operate, invite feedback and consultation e.g. budget consultation, local plan consultation.
Cllr. Simon Tagg	1. Strategy, People and Performance 2. neighbourhoods 3. Regulatory	Work with partners to deliver the best for our communities	Work with partners to deliver the best for our communities	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Ongoing partnership work continues. Partnership working continues to be a strength for the organisation with positive outcomes in regard to Community Safety, Town Centre experience and ease of access to council services. Significant progress is being achieved in relation to Better Health outcomes as the Active Referral scheme is embedded





Priority 2: Performance Indicators Current Status

Off Target - ... Target Met

Corporate Objective	Count
A strong and sustainable economy where everyone benefits	1
Protecting our communities by improving how we use our enforcement powers.	1
Support the sustainable development of our towns and villages	4
Total	6

Smart Narrative

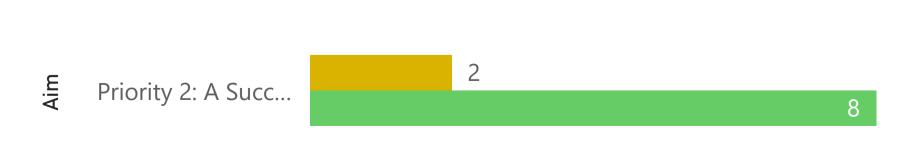
- There are 6 Indicators which have set targets this quarter within Priority 2.
- 83% met their targets within Quarter Two. 2 Indicators which met their target showed improvement when compared to the same time period last year. 3 Indicators which met their target showed a negative trend when being compared to last year.
- Within Priority 2, there are 2 Projects/Actions that have been raised to not be progressing as expected and relate to the following; "Secure a Successful Resolution to Walleys Quarry" and "Delivering the £16m Kidsgrove Town Deal" Further detail in regards to this project/action is supplied within the body of the report.

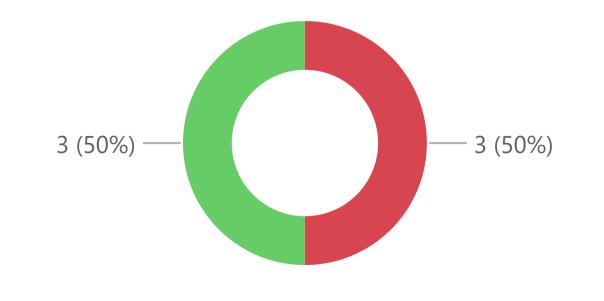
Priority 2: Summary Project Status Split

Project/Action is Not Progressing as Expected Project/Action is Progressing as Expe...

Priority 2: Qtr.2 Trend Direction of PI's Compared to Previous Quarter

Priority 2: Qtr.2 Trend Status of PI's Compared On Same Qtr in the Previous Financial Year







Negative Positive

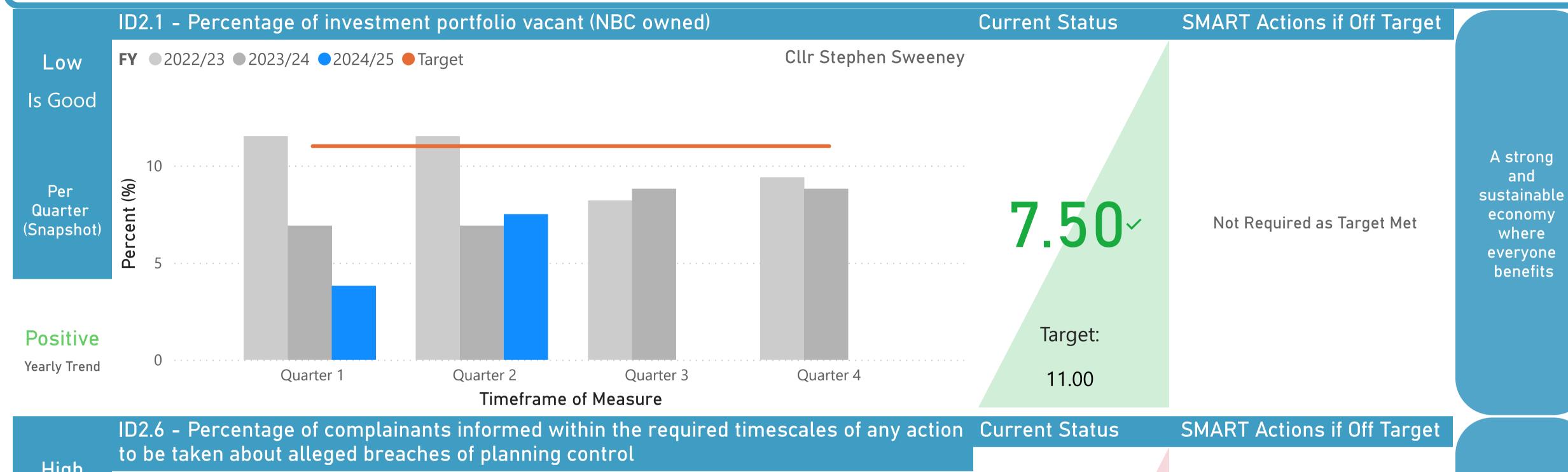
Deterioration of Previous Year
Improvement of Previous ...





Multiple ... ✓

Multiple selections ✓





40!

Target:

75.00

Performance in this quarter is slightly higher than the Q1 but remains below the Target. As previously, the service was impacted by a number of difficult and/or time consuming cases taking up a lot of resources.

Performance was also impacted by a combination of annual leave, sickness absence and prioritisation being given to the processing of planning applications. Better case management and senior management overview is now being implemented

Protecting
our
communities
by
improving
how we use
our
enforcement
powers.







Project Status Split for Priority 2.

Project/Action is Progressing as Expected

Project/Action is Not Progressing as E...

Phase 6 of the Borough Tree Planting Strategy is in the consultation phase, and

carbon capture areas in the Local Plan, hence protecting green spaces for future

achieving green (achieved/progressing according to plan) status. The Council is

Strategy and delivery plan, and is leading on a number of initiatives such as the

one of the few to have progressed a detailed and costed Sustainable Environment

is Progressing tree planting will take place in Jan/Feb/Mar 2025. Sites will be designated as

Project/Action The Council continues to play an active and leading role in the SSB. Our progress

is Progressing in achievement of the ten base pledges is progressing well, with all but one

8					2
Portfolio Holder	Service Area	Action	Corporate Objective	Status report	Commentary on progress
Cllr. Gill Heesom	1. Regulatory 2. Legal & Governance	Ensure that there are good homes for everyone and that every citizen has a safe and secure place to live	Ensure that there are good homes for everyone and that every citizen has a safe and secure place to live	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	
Cllr. David Hutchison	1. Regulatory 2. Neighbourhoods	Secure a successful resolution to the Walley's Quarry odour problem.	Protecting our communities by improving how we use our enforcement powers.	Project/Action is Not Progressing as Expected	LEGAL ACTION On 29 July 2024 the Secretary of State Environment, Food and Rural Affairs responded to the Leader's request for permission to prosecute Walleys Quarry Ltd under statutory nuisance legislation. The Secretary of State granted consent for a prosecution to proceed. On 30 September the Chief Executive provided an update stating; "there are very few precedents for taking legal action against an operator regulated by a Government agency, so there is a great deal of legal advice and preparation involved, however I believe we will be ready to take the next step by the end of October". Odour complaints reported in Q2 (July-September) are higher than reported over the same Quarter in 2023. COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY A member-led committee of inquiry was set up to look at the impact on local communities from the Walleys Quarry Landfill operation. The lines of inquiry were: What is the impact of the ongoing odour issue? What needs to be done next, and by whom, to bring about resolution? What, if any opportunities have been missed to resolve the issue sooner? The inquiry heard more than 11 hours of submissions over 2 days from the EA, UK Health Security Agency, community groups and others, and considered additional written statements. On 25 September the final report was presented to full Council recommending that the EA serve a closure notice to commence the process of the site being closed with an additional 10 other recommendations detailed in the report 'Walleys Quarry Committee of Inquiry July/August 2024'.

Project/Action

as Expected

as Expected

generations

grassland management strategy.

Ensuring that the Council's

operations are carbon

Secure a carbon neutral

neutral by 2030

Borough by 2050

Protect our parks and green spaces

for future generations

Play an active role in the

Environment 2. All Staffordshire Sustainability Board

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Cllr. David

Hutchison

Cllr. David

Hutchison

Neighbourhoods

1. Sustainable





Portfolio Holder	Service Area	Action	Corporate Objective	Status report	Commentary on progress
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	1. Commercial Delivery 2. Strategy, People and Performance 3. Finance	Continue to bid for government funding to support the borough's ambitions, including the further development of Keele Science and Innovation Park and the University Growth Corridor.	A strong and sustainable economy where everyone benefits	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	The Council continues to deliver the two Town Deals, Future High Street Fund and Shared Prosperity Fun
Cllr. David Hutchison	1. Sustainable Environment 2. All	Deliver the Sustainable Environment Strategy	Ensuring that the Council's operations are carbon neutral by 2030	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Working groups now set up with each service area within the Council, and individual service area action plans are being formulated to take projects further. there are a number of positive project proposals which will reduce our carbon emissions, and with some creating cost savings too. Our enhanced, accredited, Carbon Literacy Training has commenced fully in this quarter, with a programme moving forward to provide training to all employees and members. from a governance point it has been agreed to follow the principles set with the 'One Council' programme with the formation of a 'Green One Council Board which will meet once a quarter to monitor progress of the SES and delivery plan. The board is made up of - Councillor Simon Tagg, Councillor Stephen Sweeny, Councillor David Hutchison, and Officers, Simon McEneny, Andrew Bird, Georgina Evans-Stadward, and Sarah Wilkes.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	Commercial Delivery	Delivering the £16m Kidsgrove Town Deal, including: Facilitating the Chatterley Valley Enterprise Zone development to deliver 1700 quality jobs for local people; Enhancing Kidsgrove Railway Station and access to the local canal network; Developing a Shared Service Hub with key partners.	A strong and sustainable economy where everyone benefits	Project/Action is Not Progressing as Expected	Some issues continue with delivery of the Railway station project whilst technical issues are resolved on the ground conditions around the railway station. Work continues with the Town Deal Board and project partners to resolve these.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	Commercial Delivery	Delivering the £23m Newcastle Town Deal, including: Development of key gateway sites including the 'Zanzibar' and Midway; Connecting residents and businesses to skills training for the digital world; Improving bus, cycling and walking infrastructure; Delivering a circus-themed performing arts Centre; Building more than 400 homes in Knutton and Chesterton.	A strong and sustainable economy where everyone benefits	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Progress continues on all projects in line with the projected delivery plan.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	1. Commercial Delivery 2. Neighbourhoods	Delivering the £4.8m Uk Shared Prosperity Fund programme, including: Improving the town centre; Supporting culture and heritage; Skills development for local people; Supporting the most vulnerable people.	A strong and sustainable economy where everyone benefits	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	During the last quarter the UKSPF grant funding has seen the projects encompass a wide variety aspects, including job creation, increased productivity, enhanced public services, and improved quality of life for residents. For example the recent Supporting Businesses themes facilitated the legal support for 96 business requests, over 36 students have been engaged with businesses to share skills and knowledge from their educational studies. Over 5 businesses have submitted research and development grant funding applications with another 3 adopting new products to market. In the people and skills theme we had 238 economically inactive people referred through our Community connector project and of these 12 have gained employment (over 4 weeks) and 4 have entered volunteering. In the community theme we have enabled work with the homeless and seen 10 preventions occur. The UKSPF projects have now covered areas such as park spaces, business development and educational settings support
Cllr. Andrew Fear	1. Planning 2. Legal & Governance	Delivering the Newcastle Local Plan	Support the sustainable development of our towns and villages	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	The Final Draft Local Plan is currently being consulted upon until the 7th October 2024. Following consultation and subject to representations received, the next stage will be submission of the Local Plan for examination which is expected to take place by the end of the calendar year.



Priority 3: Healthy, Active and Safe Communities



Priority 3: Performance Indicators Current Status



Corporate Objective	Count
Delivering an economic and cultural legacy from the celebration of the borough's 850th anniversary in 2023.	1
Ensure that our most vulnerable residents are supported through the impact of the rising cost of living.	1
Ensure that there are good homes for everyone and that every citizen has a safe and secure place to live	10
Further increasing recycling rates across the borough with a particular focus on food waste	4
Reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in our communities	5
Secure a step change in street cleanliness and the quality of the public domain	6
Support the development of community solutions to local problems	2
Total	29

Smart Narrative

- There are 10 Indicators which have set targets this quarter within Priority 3.
- 100% met their targets within Quarter Two. 5 Indicators which met their target also showed improvement and 2 measures showed no change when comparing to the same time period last year. Only 2 measures showed a negative trend.
- 1 measure which relates to Food % participation has changed collected method and therefore has no historic data to compare against.
- There are 18 Indicators which are contextual this quarter and do not have a target to meet. When compared to last year, 5 measures had showed a negative trend, 7 measures demonstrated an improvement when comparing to 23/24, 1 measure show no change and 5 contextual measure did not have any historic data to compare against.
- Within Priority 3, there was 1 Projects/Actions which was been classed as completed, this being "Expansion of the street warden scheme and the creation of neighbourhood delivery teams.". All other Projects remain are shown to be progressing as expected.

Priority 3: Summary Project Status Split

Priority 3: Health...

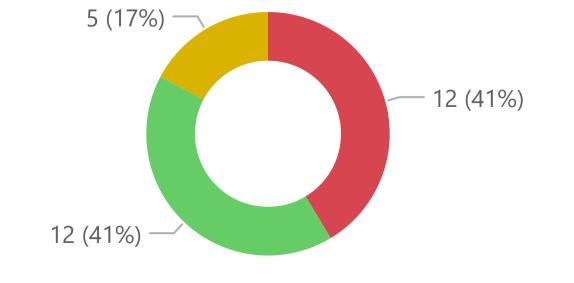
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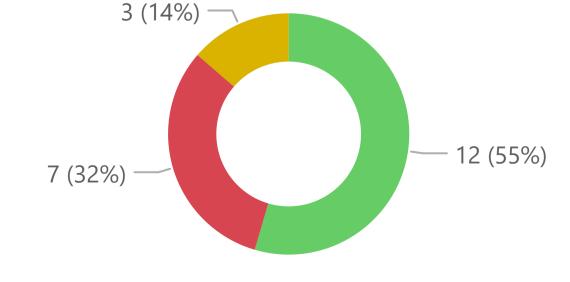
Project/Action is Completed Project/Action is Progressing as Expected

Priority 3: Qtr.2 Trend Direction of PI's Compared to Previous Quarter

Priority 3: Qtr.2 Trend Status of PI's Compared On Same Qtr in the Previous Financial Year

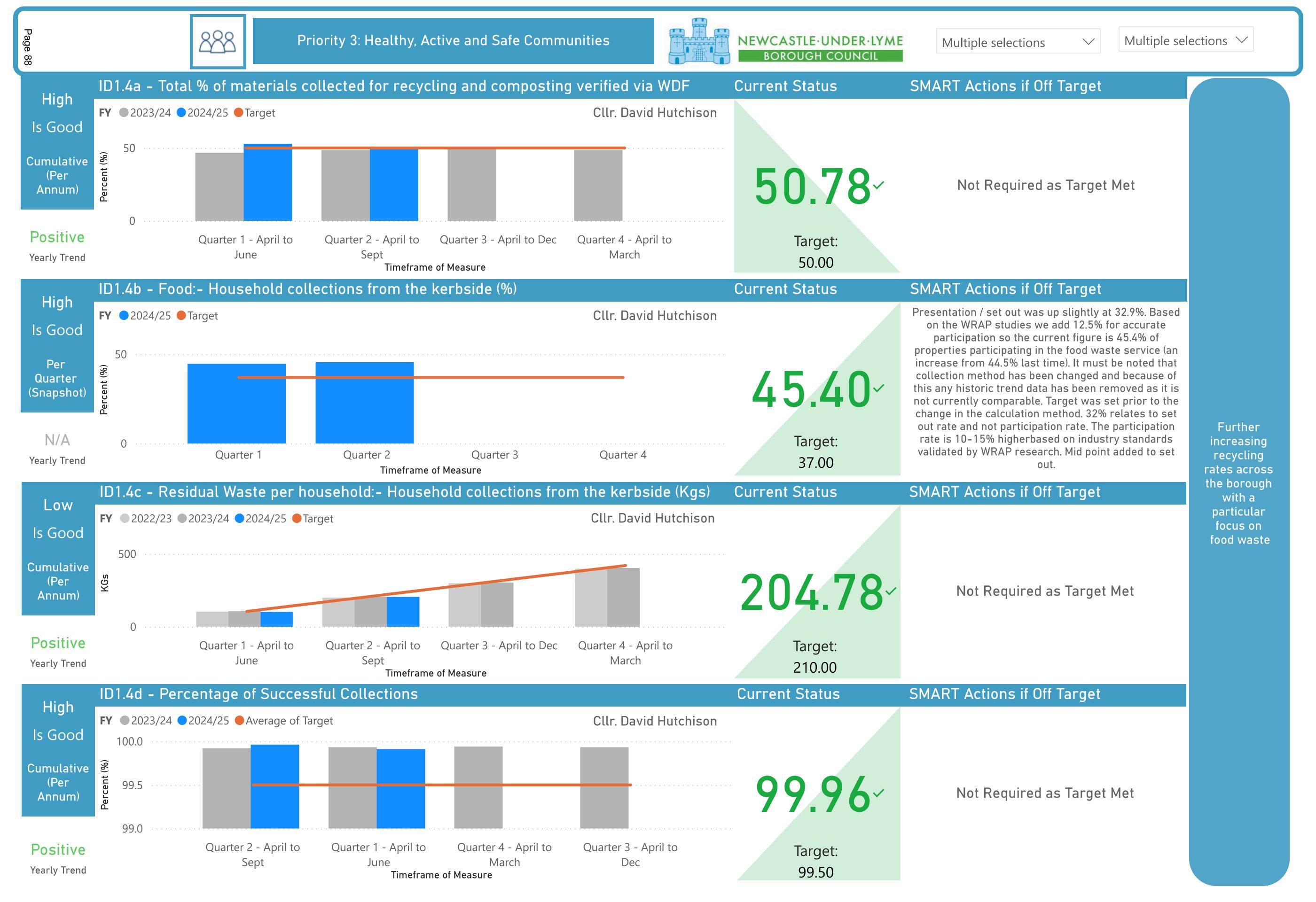




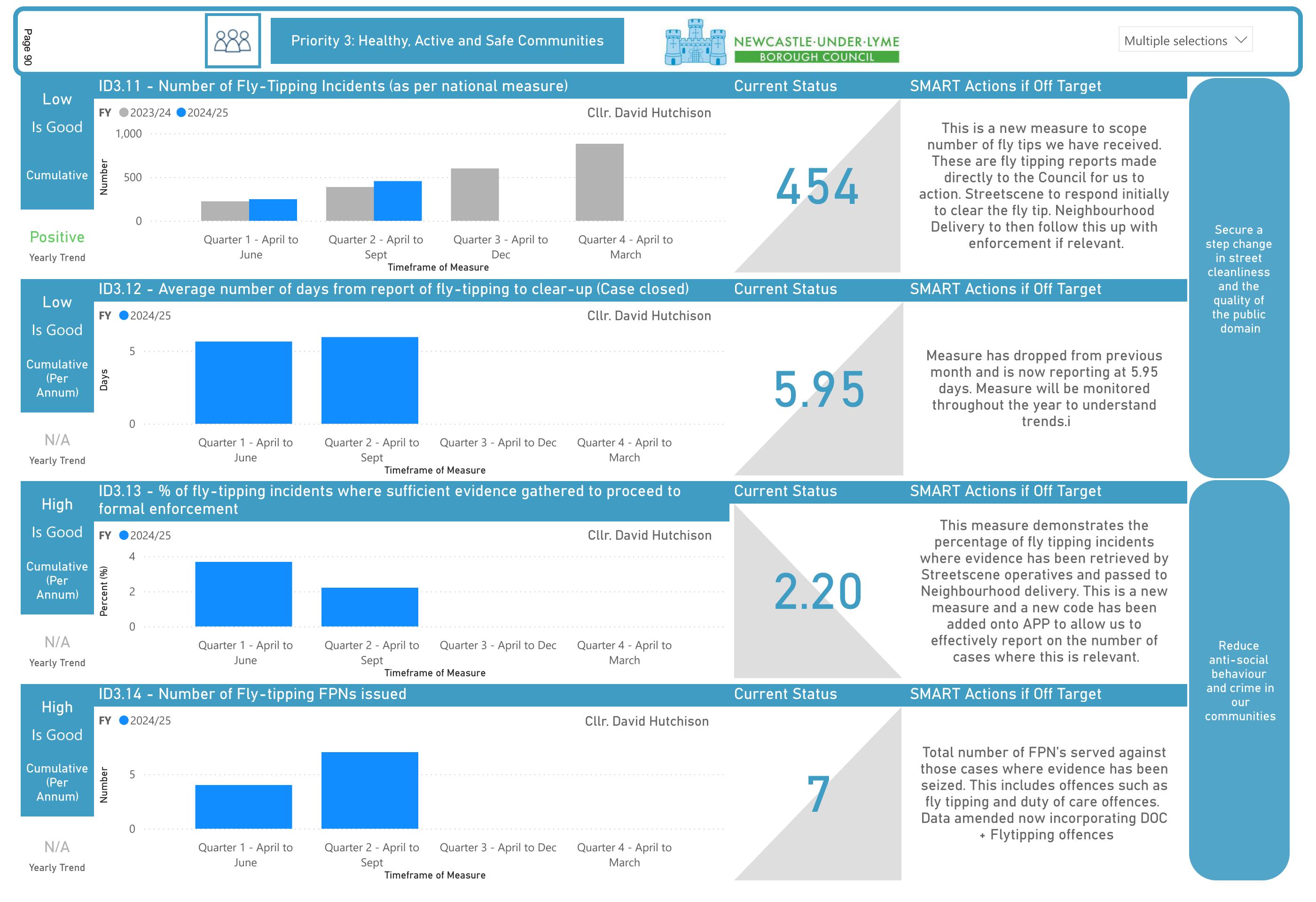


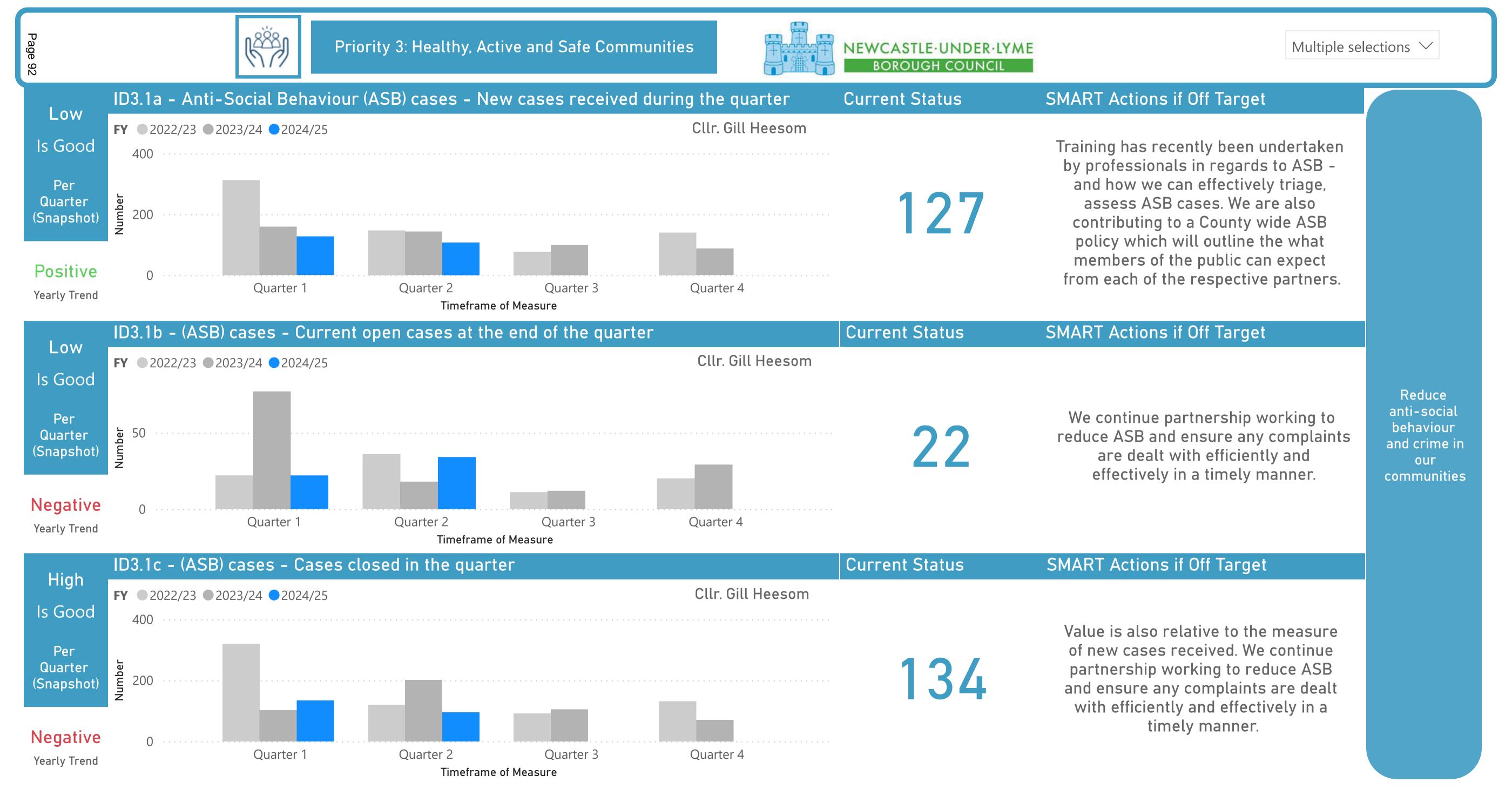
NegativePositiveNo Change

■ Improvement of Previo...
■ Deterioration of ...
■ No Change











Priority 3: Healthy, Active and Safe Communities



Project Status Split for Priority 3.

Project/Action is Progressing as Expected

Project/Action is Completed

5

5					
Portfolio Holder	Service Area	Action	Corporate Objective	Status report	Commentary on progress
Cllr. Gill Heesom	Neighbourhoods	Build on our work with Staffordshire Police	Reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in our communities	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Partnership work is continuing successfully with Staffordshire Police and data shows a reduction in crime, ASB, violence, theft, burglary and sexual offences.
Cllr. Craig Skelding	 Commercial Delivery Neighbourhoods 	Delivering an economic and cultural legacy from the celebration of the borough's 850th anniversary in 2023.	Delivering an economic and cultural legacy from the celebration of the borough's 850th anniversary in 2023.	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	The final element of this, the new Queen Elizabeth statue was unveiled on 11th October and visitors to Queens Gardens are now enjoying visiting the statue.
Cllr. David Hutchison	 Neighbourhoods 2. Sustainable Environment 	Expansion of the street warden scheme and the creation of neighbourhood delivery teams.	Secure a step change in street cleanliness and the quality of the public domain	★ Project/Action is Completed	Project/Action has been completed.
Cllr. David Hutchison	Sustainable Environment	Further increasing recycling rates across the borough with a particular focus on food waste	Further increasing recycling rates across the borough with a particular focus on food waste	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Recycling rates from flats is improving, and additional containers to further reduce contamination are currently being procured. A waste prevention scheme in partnership with the County Council is being promoted with stickers being applied to residual waste bins being applied advising residents to dispose of their food waste using the separate food waste service.
Cllr. Simon Tagg	 Strategy, People and Performance 2. Neighbourhoods 	Work collaboratively with the Newcastle Partnership	Ensure that our most vulnerable residents are supported through the impact of the rising cost of living.	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Ongoing partnership work continues. Through the partnership board, we are progressing working groups around vulnerability, employability, cost of living and mental health. We also are the designated chair for Better Health Staffordshire in Newcastle and are in receipt of grant funding to impact on health inequalities.
Cllr. Craig Skelding	Neighbourhoods	Work with partners to develop effective community bodies	Support the development of community solutions to local problems	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Work is in progress with a community group in Bradwell to develop a project to improve local play and recreational facilities. Work has also commenced to develop an Empowering Communities Strategy for the Borough, based on the recently adopted Staffordshire County Council Communities Strategy



Priority 4: Town Centres for All



Priority 4: Performance Indicators Current Status Target Met Contextual

Corporate Objective	Count
Increasing the number of people living, working and using Newcastle town Centre	3
Total	3

Smart Narrative

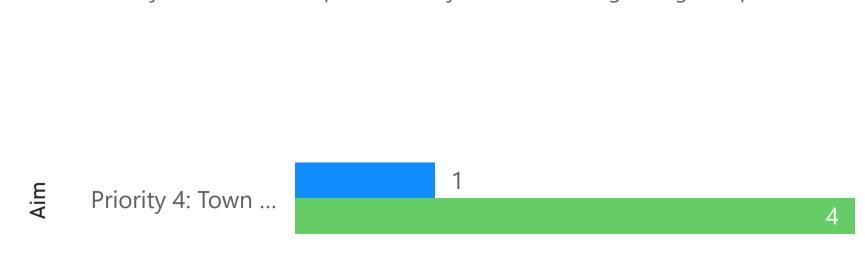
- There are 2 Indicators which have set targets this quarter within Priority 4.
- Both the indicators that have had data shared have met their respective targets. One of these also showed an improvement when compared to Quarter Two of the previous year, the other showed a negative trend when comparing the same time period from the previous year.
- There is 1 Indicators which is contextual this quarter and does not have a target to meet. The data provided only shows Quarter 2 with no data provided for Quarter 1. This has meant the measure did not have any historic data to compare against so no trend data has been provided.
- Within Priority 4, One project/action has been classed as completed; this being "Developing a Town Centre Strategy for Kidsgrove". All other Projects/Actions were identified to be progressing as expected.

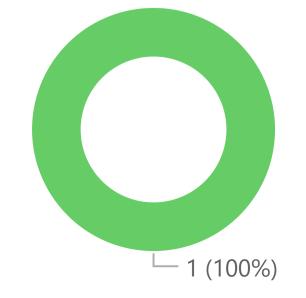
Priority 4: Summary Project Status Split

Project/Action is CompletedProject/Action is Progressing as Expected

Priority 4: Qtr.2 Trend Direction of PI's Compared to Previous Quarter

Priority 4: Qtr.2 Trend Status of PI's Compared On Same Qtr in the Previous Financial Year

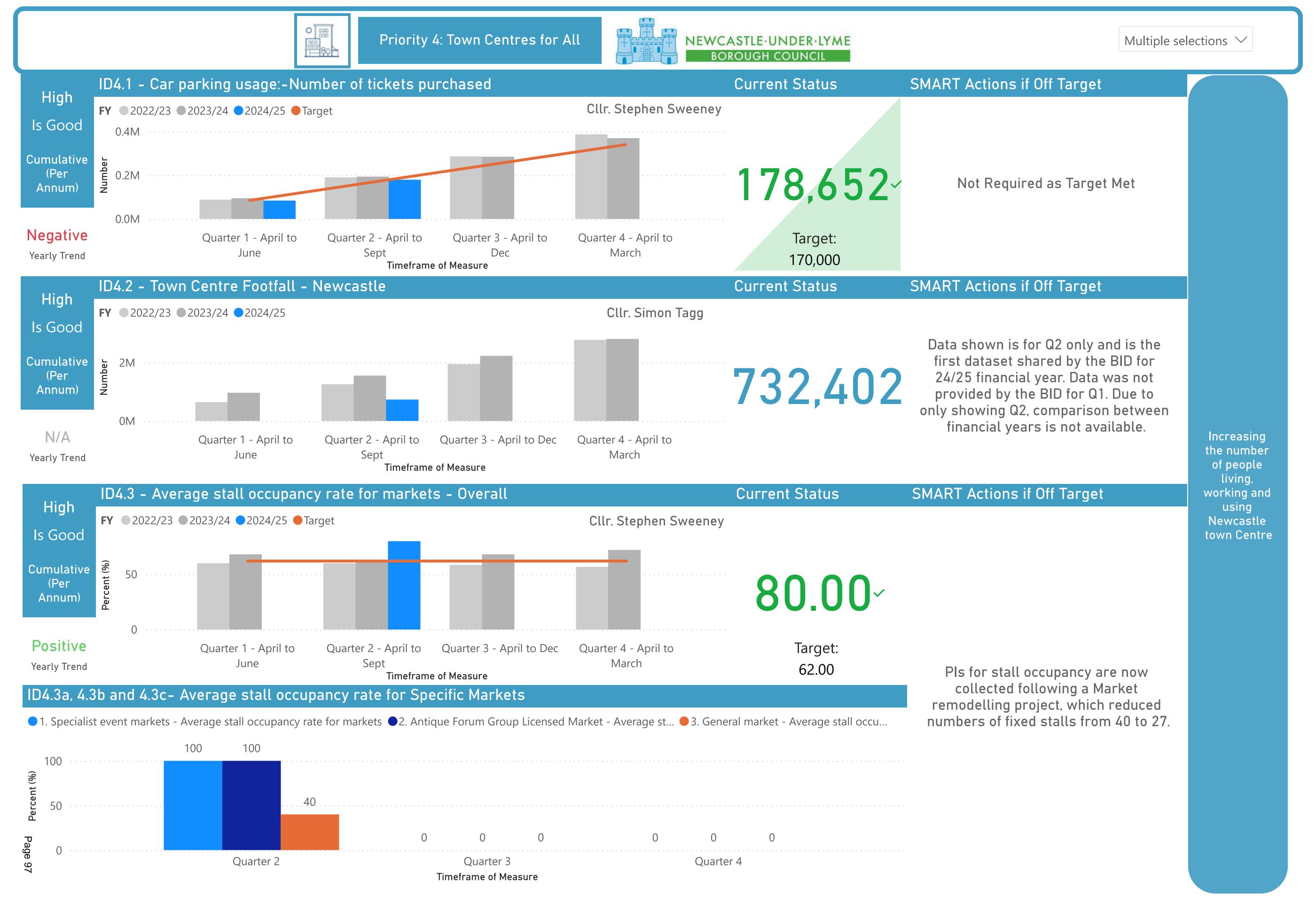




Positive



Deterioration of Previous Year
Improvement of Previous Y...





Priority 4: Town Centres for All



Project Status Split for Priority 4.

Project/Action is Progressing as Expected

Project/Action is Completed

1

4					
Portfolio Holder	Service Area	Action	Corporate Objective	Status report	Commentary on progress
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	 Commercial Delivery 2. Planning 	Redeveloping Midway car park to provide aspirational town centre residential accommodation	Increasing the number of people living, working and using Newcastle town centre	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	A planning application has been submitted by developer Capital and Centric for conversion of Midway car park in 114 apartments. Should the application be successful work is due to start in March 2025.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	1.Neighbourhoods2. CommercialDelivery	Developing a Town Centre Strategy for Kidsgrove	Encourage visitors and support local businesses in Kidsgrove	roject/Action is Completed	Project/Action has been completed.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	Commercial Delivery	Redevelopment of Ryecroft Site	Continuing to work with key partners to deliver the redevelopment of opportunities across the borough	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Development of Castle Car Park is continuing with practical completion expected by the end of November. Planning applications are expected to be submitted by both Capital and Centric and McCarthy Stone in October for residential development on the site with an application for the hotel to follow in November.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	Commercial Delivery	Redevelopment of York Place	Continuing to work with key partners to deliver the redevelopment of opportunities across the borough	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Demolition works which will see York Place stripped back to its original concrete frame have begun by developer Capital and Centric in advance of a planning application seeking conversion to residential units with commercial units on the ground floor to be submitted in November.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	Neighbourhoods	Further enhance the historic market and public realm and boost our signature specialist market programme	Further enhance the historic market and public realm and boost our signature specialist market programme	Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	The first phase of the market and public realm improvement project is complete and a planning application has been lodged for the final phase. The Makers Market is operating each month and a new market event is planned for October to support Castle Classics.



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 November 2024 and 28 February 2025

This plan gives notice of decisions that <u>Cabinet</u> 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.
- 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
Quarter 2 - Finance and Performance Report 2024/25	To consider the Quarter Two - Finance and Performance Report 2024/25	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 5 November 2024	Finance, Assets and Performance, Audit and Standards	All Wards	N\A	No
Traffic Regulation Order Amendments	To consider a report on Traffic Regulation Order Amendments	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 5 November 2024	Economy and Place	All Wards	N\A	No
York Place - Regeneration	To consider a report on the York Place -	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One	Cabinet 5 November	Economy and Place	Town	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)	
Plans Update	Regeneration Plans Update	Council, People and Partnerships, Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	2024				
Midway - Regeneration Plans Update	To consider a report on the Midway - Regeneration Plans Update	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships, Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 5 November 2024	Economy and Place	Town	N\A	Yes
Ryecroft - Regeneration Plans Update	To consider a report on the Ryecroft - Regeneration Plans Update	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships, Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 5 November 2024	Economy and Place	Town	N\A	Yes
Walleys Quarry Odour Update	To consider a report on odour issues at Walleys Quarry	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 5 November 2024	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	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)	
Draft Savings Proposals 2025/26	To consider a report on the Draft Savings Proposals 2025/26	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 3 December 2024	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N\A	No
Procurement of Corporate CRM and Case Management System	To consider a report on the Procurement of Corporate CRM and Case Management System	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 3 December 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
Car Parking Strategy Update	To consider a report on the Car Parking Strategy Update	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 3 December 2024	Economy and Place	All Wards	N\A	No
Walleys Quarry Odour Update	To consider a report on the Walleys Quarry Odour Update	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 3 December 2024	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N\A	Yes
Draft Revenue and Capital Budget and Strategies 2025/26	To consider a report on the Draft Revenue and Capital Budget and Strategies 2025/26	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 7 January 2025	Finance, Assets and Performance	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)	
Schedule of Fees and Charges 2025/26	To consider a report on the Schedule of Fees and Charges 2025/26	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 7 January 2025	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
International House Contractor Award	To consider a report on the International House Contractor Award	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 7 January 2025	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
Update on Decarbonisatio n of the Council's Operational Buildings and Fleet	To consider a report on Update on the Decarbonisation of the Council's Operational Buildings and Fleet	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Sustainable Environment	Cabinet 7 January 2025	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N\A	No
Kidsgrove Town Board Award of contract for the	To consider a report on the Kidsgrove Town Board Award of contract for the Shared	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 7 January 2025	Economy and Place	Kidsgrove & Ravenscliffe	3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of	Yes

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	
Shared Service Hub Development	Service Hub Development					any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	
Walleys Quarry Odour Update	To consider a report on the Walleys Quarry Odour issues	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 7 January 2025	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N\A	Yes
Revenue and Capital Budget Strategies 2025/26	To consider a report on the Revenue and Capital Budget Strategies 2025/26	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 4 February 2025	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N∖A	No
Quarter 3 Finance and Performance Report 2024/25	To consider a report on the Quarter 3 Finance and Performance Report 2024/25	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	Cabinet 4 February 2025	Finance, Assets and Performance, Audit and Standards	All Wards	N∖A	No
Walleys Quarry Odour Update	To consider a report on odour issues at Walleys Quarry	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 4 February 2025	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N\A	No