

Date of meeting **Tuesday, 4th August, 2026**

Time **2.00 pm**

Venue **Queen Elizabeth II & Astley Rooms - Castle House,
Barracks Road, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 1BL**

Contact **Geoff Durham 742222**



**NEWCASTLE
UNDER LYME**

BOROUGH COUNCIL

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 - 18)**
To consider the Minutes of the previous meeting.
- 4 WALLEYS QUARRY ODOUR UPDATE** **(Pages 19 - 28)**
- 5 HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2026-30** **(Pages 29 - 60)**
- 6 TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER AMENDMENT CONSULTATION** **(Pages 61 - 70)**
- 7 LYME VALLEY PUMP TRACK** **(Pages 71 - 78)**
- 8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION WITHDRAWAL** **(Pages 79 - 84)**
- 9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION UPDATE** **(Pages 85 - 184)**
- 10 FORWARD PLAN** **(Pages 185 - 192)**
- 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.

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 Gullis (Chair), Shaw (Vice-Chair), Fisher, Renshaw, Rogerson and Simpson

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

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

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

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

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CABINET

Tuesday, 23rd June, 2026
Time of Commencement: 2.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

Present: Councillor Jonathan Gullis (Chair)

Councillors:	Gullis	Fisher	Rogerson
	Shaw	Renshaw	Simpson

Officers:	Gordon Mole	Chief Executive
	Nesta Barker	Service Director - Regulatory Services
	Georgina Evans-Stadward	Service Director - Strategy, People and Performance
	Roger Tait	Service Director - Neighbourhood Delivery
	Geoff Durham	Civic & Member Support Officer
	Paul Dutton	Senior Media Officer
	Craig Turner	Service Director - Finance / S151 Officer
	Joanne Halliday	Service Director - Commercial Delivery
	Olwen Brown	Interim Service Director- Legal and Governance/Monitoring Officer
	Allan Clarke	Interim Head of Service - Planning Policy

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Leader declared an interest in agenda item 5 – Adoption of the Borough Local Plan (2020-2040), the landowners of proposed AB2 site were client of a company that the Leader worked with in a private capacity as a senior advisor.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 17 March, 2026 be agreed as a correct record.

3. **WALLEYS QUARRY UPDATE**

The Service Director for Neighbourhood Delivery presented a report updating Cabinet on the latest position regarding Walleys Quarry.

The data focussed on the period March-May, 2026. To date, in 2026 there had been seven complaints of odour received. Monitoring undertaken by officers had revealed two occasions of a distinct odour being observed on Cemetery Road and Barnacle

Place in April. Hydrogen sulphide monitoring also recorded a zero level and there was only one week in March where the WHO odour annoyance level was exceeded.

There was now only the one MMF which was sited at Galingale.

The site would continue to be monitored and there were proposals to establish a cross-party working group.

The Leader asked what the current position was, at the present time, regarding legal proceedings.

The Service Director advised that at present, the Council was not involved in taking any legal proceedings. The Environment Agency had identified that they were looking at legal proceedings.

The Leader asked for clarification in respect of the monitoring stations.

The Service Director advised that there was currently one monitoring station which was measuring a wide range of pollutants on the Galingale estate.

The Leader thanked the officers for their hard work over the years and congratulated the previous administration for their hard work. It was now important that justice be sought for residents. The Leader asked if there was any indication that the government would engage in a public inquiry.

Requests had been made for a public inquiry but there was no support for that at this moment in time.

The Leader stated that once the EA had completed its legal proceedings, the Council would reaffirm its commitment to push for a public inquiry.

Resolved: That the contents of the update report be noted

[Watch the debate here](#)

4. ADOPTION OF BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN (2020-2040)

The Interim Head of Service – Planning Policy presented a report considering the adoption of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan (2020-2040). The local plan had been submitted for examination in December, 2024.

The development of the plan had involved a number of consultation stages and had been informed by a significant evidence base. Local plan examination hearing sessions were held throughout May and June, 2025, following which, changes were made and those were consulted upon in November/December, 2025.

The Inspector issued a final report on the plan in May, 2026 which marked the end of the local plan examination. The Inspector concluded that the plan could provide an appropriate basis for planning in the Borough and could be found sound and legally compliant, subject to a list of main modifications – summarised at paragraph 2.2 of the agenda report. No further changes could now be made to the plan.

Options available to the Council presented a binary choice; to adopt the plan with the modifications or to not adopt.

The Leader stated that the Council had written to the Planning Inspector following the final report in May, seeking to make amendments in terms of certain policies and also to open up the possibility of certain sites being removed and replaced if viable and asked the Interim Head of Service what the response had been.

The response had confirmed that the examination had ended and there was no way of changing any aspects of the plan.

Referring to recommendation 2, the Leader asked the Chief Executive if a change could be made, as he felt that there was still time to discuss the issue further with his group and to seek reassurances from other group leaders, particularly the Conservative group leader who instigated and delivered the draft local plan in the hope that he would second any motion coming before full council. The Leader then proposed an amended recommendation (ii).

The Chief Executive stated that he would look at the amended recommendation wording, and what it would entail before the publication of the full council papers next week.

The Service Director – Legal and Governance/Monitoring Officer urged the Council to be careful if it did not accept the plan as it stood because it could leave the Council open to potential litigation.

The Leader asked, with the number of sites that were currently proposed within the local plan, how many currently had applications sitting or waiting and what would the likely outcome be if the local plan was not adopted and planning applications were put in for those sites. Could the Council reject them or would appeals and costs be faced and, if so, what costs would be associated with such appeals.

The Interim Head of Service advised that applications had already been made to locations included in the plan and the Council was aware of other proposed developments in the pipeline.

The Leader asked what would be the risk to all green spaces and green belt sites if the local plan was not adopted.

Not having an up to date policy context within the local plan may expose the Borough to speculative development in order to meet identified development needs. The Council could not currently identify a five year supply of homes and also the possibility of direct intervention from the Secretary of State who had powers to approve the plan.

The Leader referred to a number of local authorities who had had their powers in relation to planning taken. Would this council be at risk of that happening should the local plan not be adopted.

There had been recent examples in relation to powers in determining major applications and another authority had a direct intervention from the Secretary of State asking them to take certain actions in respect of their local plan.

The Leader was happy to take the first recommendation for the report but again asked the Chief Executive if the Administration could confirm on 3 July of its intention.

The Chief Executive suggested wording that the Administration wished to see productive and engaging conversation with all groups, ahead of a decision and there

was a wish from the Administration to have that in place ahead of the next full council meeting.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the outcomes of the Inspectors report into the examination of the Borough Local Plan 2020-2040 (appendices 1 and 2 to this report), be noted.
 - (ii) Notes that the Administration seeks positive engagement and, where possible, agreement with opposition groups on the respective positions towards the adoption of the Borough Council Local Plan (2020-2040) in advance of the meeting of Full Council.

[Watch the debate here](#)

5. NEW LOCAL PLAN: COMMENCEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Leader introduced a report which was to confirm the formal commencement of a new Borough Local Plan for Newcastle-under-Lyme. The Leader stated that there was now a situation where the government had introduced an additional 2000+ housing target requirement for the Borough. Therefore, as the current draft local plan did not meet the revised housing target, the Council would be expected to put a new plan forward

The Interim Head of Service – Planning Policy advised that arrangements in the 2024 National Planning Policy Framework introduced a new method for calculating housing need which increased the Borough's requirement for housing to around 559 dwellings per year compared to the 400 per year in the emerging plan. As the Council's local plan provided for less than 80% of the required figure, the Authority was required to start preparing a new local plan.

Published regulations stated that the Council must start preparing a new local plan by issuing a notification of commencement by 30 June, 2026 alongside a timetable to complete the plan. The timetable anticipated that the local plan would be submitted for examination in October, 2028.

The Council had been successful in acquiring additional funding from the government to support the early stages of plan making but further additional funding would be required.

The Leader stated that this council being asked, at a time of uncertainty- with local government reorganisation, to utilise thousands of hours of officer time and approximately £1m of taxpayers money into a local plan that potentially would not see the light of day - if the reorganisation went ahead, would be foolish.

The Leader therefore felt that Cabinet could not approve the preparation for a new local plan. A letter had been written to the Secretary of State advising that, whilst a decision on local government reorganisation was awaited, it would be sensible to, at the very least, pause the process. No response had yet been received. The Leader

would write a further letter making it clear that this council refused to take part in any local plan process going forward. The Leader asked what the risks would be of refusing to take part in the process.

The Interim Head of Service advised that preparation of a local plan was a statutory requirement and regulations published at the end of March noted that councils through transitional arrangements such as this council were required to start the local plan making process by the end of this month. There was also a risk financially that the money provided by the government to start the process would have to be returned and intervention from the Secretary of State on any decision not to move forward at this stage.

Regarding the money provided by the government, the Leader asked the Service Director – Finance/ Section 151 Officer if that money was still unused and could be sent back to the government if required.

The Service Director confirmed that was correct.

Resolved: That work on the new Local Plan not be taken forward until the outcomes and implications of Local Government Reorganisation is known.

[Watch the debate here](#)

6. NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES UPDATE

The Service Director – Neighbourhood Delivery presented a report which provided an update on the performance of the Community Safety Partnership for 2025/26 and the Night Time Economy Strategy.

Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 2.2 of the report which outlined the findings of the Community Safety Strategic Assessment.

The Community Safety Partnership worked to deploy resources into areas where there were localised issues – particularly in Newcastle town centre.

The report set out a detailed review of data along with a comprehensive list of the Partnership's activities and operations in progress to identify priorities. Those identifies for 2026/27 were listed at paragraph 2.3 of the report.

Issues local to Newcastle that were being addressed were business crime, shoplifting, domestic abuse and drugs and County Lines.

The Local Police and Crime Plan was appended to the report which set out the response to the issues.

The Deputy Leader asked if there were any rotas for visible policing in Newcastle town centre.

The Service Director stated that, for obvious reasons, the focus was on the night time economy. There was a rota for safer policing at weekends. The police did have a presence in the town centre during the day time but it was dependent upon what came in during the course of the day.

The Deputy Leader stated that a zero tolerance policy was needed in respect of anti-social behaviour (ASB), especially in the town centre. He had not seen many police visible and suggested that crime rates may be dropping because they were not always being recorded.

The Service Director stated that he could ask the police for information on rotas for day time policing, which was then agreed.

The Leader stated that traders and the Business Improvement District (BID) had raised this, particularly regarding early mornings with rough sleepers or street drinkers and something needed to be done. The Leader referred to Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) and asked how successful they had been. Reference was made to Stafford, which had included face coverings in their PSPO and it would be good to include that in Newcastle's Order.

The Service Director advised that the PSPO for Newcastle town centre had been successful in terms of hotspot activity times in the night time economy, which was when the bulk of the breaches occurred. The current PSPO would need to be checked in respect of face coverings to see if there was any interpretation and if that was not the case, to see if it could be included in the next scheduled review in three years. Regarding the early morning issues, a lot of the people had complex needs and a lot of work went into engaging with people and trying to support them. However, for individuals who refused to engage, the Council did have powers to start looking at moving them on.

The Leader had concerns about those who were persistent and refused any assistance which endangered the wider public and a good strategy on communication was needed to get reporting levels up.

The Cabinet Member for Legal, Governance and Organisational Performance stated that, if there were not any rotas, would it be possible to look at whether there was a presence in the town centre. He had found it quite intimidating walking in the town at lunchtime and there had been a visible odour of drug smoke in the air. A police presence would pick up on that and check and search. People could be asked to be more responsive in reporting the matters.

The Leader suggested that it would be profitable to meet with the Local Policing Commander, looking at the strategy and seeing where the Council could work in corroboration with them. There needed to be a clear partnership update in terms of demands on the officers and what was expected in terms of the Council working with them to provide things such as CCTV coverage, Rangers and reporting systems. It was hoped that the Night Time Economy Pilot Town status bid would be awarded for up to three areas.

The Service Director stated that, in terms of the bid, the Council should hear very soon if it had been successful. It would include a 'twilight zone' in the town between schools and colleges finishing until the pubs became busy – which was when ASB was experienced. Having legitimate activities occurring during that time would help with natural surveillance.

Resolved: (i) That the report be received and the outcomes for 2025-2026 and the work of the Community Safety Partnership in continuing to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as the work in progress to continue to tackle identified priority issues, be noted.

- (ii) That the Service Director - Neighbourhood Delivery be authorised to formally accept project funding for the Night Time Economy Pilot Town status, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Residents Services and Neighbourhoods, if the bid is successful, and to implement the project.

[Watch the debate here](#)

7. NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME COMMUNITY FUND

The Service Director – Finance (Section 151 Officer) presented a report seeking to establish the Newcastle-under-Lyme Community Fund enabling Councillors to respond directly to priorities within their wards.

The Fund would provide each Councillor with up to £2,500 per year and aimed to strengthen community wellbeing, encourage local collaboration and support projects which delivered tangible benefits for residents. Details of how the budgets could be used, and how they should not be used were shown in the protocol at Appendix 1 of the report.

The Deputy Leader thanked the Service Director for his help in initiating the Fund and asked for clarification as to where the money for the project had come from.

The Service Director stated that the £110,000 Fund (£2,500 each for 44 Members) had come from the previous 'Civic Pride Investment Fund' which was £22,000. The remaining £88,000 would be vired from a previous contribution to the Civic Growth Fund for Sustainable Environment and Town and Place.

The Leader stated that this was exciting and for wards with more than one Member it would mean more money to spend on local projects and, with County Councillor contributions a Borough Councillor could, for example purchase a grit bin and it would then be the County Council's responsibility to keep it full and maintain it.

Resolved: That the establishment of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Community Fund which allocates Councillor's a maximum of £2,500 per annum to address local priorities within their wards, as identified by their local communities, be approved.

[Watch the debate here](#)

8. BRAMPTON MUSEUM APPLICATION TO THE NATIONAL LOTTERY FOR MUSEUM IMPROVEMENTS

The Service Director – Commercial Delivery presented a report updating Cabinet on the museum's proposed 2027-29 National Lottery funding bid and to seek approval to apply for up to £150,000 funding.

The project would seek to make improvements which were outlined at paragraph 1.4 of the report.

The bid would require minor match funding which could be delivered through the Conservation and Exhibition budget.

The Leader stated that Brampton Museum was a very important community

asset.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That an application to the National Lottery of up to £150,000 to deliver a project between April 2027-March 2029, be approved.
 - (ii) That the museum be approved to use its previous public fundraising and forthcoming public fundraising to provide the 10% match funding.
 - (iii) That, to meet the additional grant match funding, the use of £500 from the museum's existing annual conservation budget and £1,000 from the annual exhibition budget to carry out preventative conservation and create a high-quality exhibition celebrating the history of Newcastle high street, be approved.
 - (iv) That the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader & Cabinet Member for Planning & Town Centres be authorised to accept and utilise any funding allocated in line with the bid, including any necessary contracts.

[Watch the debate here](#)

9. **PET CREMATION PROGRESS REPORT**

The Leader introduced a report regarding the updated Business Case for the Pet Crematorium and seeking approval to proceed with the necessary contracts including delivery of the cremation unit. He asked for clarification on the service being offered by Stoke on Trent City Council.

The Service Director – Commercial Delivery presented the report and stated that the new service would be totally separate to the existing one. The Pet Cremation service would be a personal service where all pets would be treated with dignity on an individual basis.

A planning application had been submitted and the tendering process for the cremator had been completed. The result of the tendering process would be discussed in closed session at the end of this meeting. The Business Case had been reviewed and updated and that too would be discussed under closed session.

The report showed the proposed fees and charges for the service and those were listed at paragraph 8.6 of the report.

The service would trade as 'Loved and Loyal Pet Crematorium' and web addresses had been purchased.

Stoke City Council had a scattering area for cremated remains of pets within Carmountside Crematorium grounds and should a resident of Newcastle or Stoke use the pet cremation service they could scatter the ashes at Carmountside if wished.

The proposal had received positive feedback from residents.

The Leader asked if the planning application was currently live online and therefore open for people to make comments. This was confirmed.

The Cabinet Member for Waste, Recycling and Green Spaces asked if residents would be expected to take their pets to the crematorium themselves.

The Service Director confirmed that that would be the intention, although if corporate contracts with veterinary practices existed, they could deliver the pet to Bradwell.

The Leader asked what type of pets would be accepted at the crematorium.

The Service Director stated that there would be two chambers in the cremator – one would accept up to a large dog and a smaller one for ‘hamster sized’ pets.

The Leader stated that this had a strong business case and would be an asset to the Borough.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That continued support be given to the development of a pet cremation service to provide residents with a local caring service when needed.
 - (ii) That the progress made in relation to the planning application and the procurement of the necessary products to deliver the service in line with the up to date business plan, be noted.
 - (iii) That the Service Director for Commercial Services in consultation with the Leader & Cabinet Member for Planning & Town Centres be delegated authority to complete all necessary contracts to ensure the effective delivery of the project in line with the legislative requirements.
 - (iv) That the fees and charges as set out in the report and marketing commences at the appropriate time, be adopted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

10. RENEWAL OF THE POOL WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS & MOVEABLE FLOOR/LIFT SERVICING & MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AT JUBILEE 2

The Service Director – Commercial Delivery presented a report seeking authority to enter into a new contract for the planned and reactive maintenance and servicing covering the pool filtration/chemical and moveable floor/lift components in support of the safe operation of both pools at J2.

The Current Contract would end on 30 September this year so it was recommended to go out to tender. It was essential that the contract and service were in place, as, without it the safe clean water could not be guaranteed or that the moving parts of the pool were safe and useable. The contract would be for two years with a one year extension subject to successful service delivery.

The Leader asked if the current contract could just be extended or was the Council just abiding by normal procurement process.

The Service Director advised that the usual extensions, as set out in the original contract had been used and therefore, to be compliant with the procurement regulations, the Council should go back out to re-tender which enables the current contractor to bid again.

The Cabinet Member for Residents Services and Neighbourhoods asked why the Council was looking at a two plus one year contract. Was this due to regulations or the framework that was used.

The Service Director advised that a longer service could be sought but a lot of the current contracts had been set up this way on the basis of waiting for a decision on local government reorganisation.

Resolved: That, subject to the successful procurement process of a new contract, it be approved that the Service Director Commercial Delivery in consultation with the Leader & Cabinet Member for Planning & Town Centres, to enter into a contract with the successful provider for a period of two years with an option to extend the term by a further year.

[Watch the debate here](#)

11. FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW REPORT - FOURTH QUARTER 2025/26

The Service Director – Finance/Section 151 Officer presented the financial aspect of the report which provided figures for the fourth quarter of 2025/26.

The Council ended 2025/26 in a stable financial position, achieving £115,000 revenue surplus against a £19.7m balanced budget. Strong planning income, investment interest and reduced borrowing costs had helped to offset income pressures in leisure, parking and bereavement services.

Capital investment had remained a major focus, with over £27m spent on regeneration, town deals and community projects. Whilst capital expenditure was below the planned £36m most of the variance reflected projects being reprofiled into 2026/27.

The Audit and Standards Committee would be presented with the Council's draft Statement of Accounts at its next meeting on 29 June for review and publication approval.

Overall, sound financial management was demonstrated and there had been compliance with all statutory deadlines and there was continued momentum on key regeneration priorities.

The Service Director - Strategy, People and Performance presented the performance figures for the fourth quarter. Forty nine indicators had been measured and 70% of those were on target. For the 30% that were not on target the report contained narrative as to the reasons for that.

There was consistently good performance across the services and the purpose of the report was to see where improvements could be made.

The Cabinet Member for Legal, Governance and Organisational Performance stated that he would rather see actual figures rather than percentages for the performance figures.

Referring back to the finance figures, the Leader asked for clarification that there were changes to pension contributions and also interest secured from Town Deal investment which had aided the Council's finances.

The Service Director – Finance/Section 151 Officer confirmed that pension contributions would have helped to bridge the gap in 2026/27 and the receipt of Town Deal monies in advance of spend had generated interest which had also helped to offset some income shortfalls throughout the year.

The Leader asked what the plan with the finances where Town Deal money was starting to be spent and would therefore no longer be in the accounts – how would potential shortfalls be dealt with, going forward.

The Service Director advised that the Council had not relied on any of the interest for the budgets, so for 2026/27 the budget for interest receivable would be nil. In terms of income areas where losses had been experienced going back to Covid, in each year of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), the Council had had a reduction in terms of income levels. By the end of the current financial year it was hoped that the Council would be in a much better position in terms of income.

The Leader referred back to fly tipping, the Council had averaged 4.77 days which was within target but enforcement was not.

The Service Director - Neighbourhood Delivery advised that enforcement had previously been measured in such a way that it looked like action was not being taken in relation to every single fly-tip. Going forward, every fly-tip incident would be investigated in such a way that the Streetscene team would go out and look through the rubbish for evidence of the offender. Evidence would then be passed to the Neighbourhood Delivery team to pursue any enforcement action that could be taken. The actual investigation was an enforcement action and therefore almost 100% of incidents had some kind of enforcement action associated with them.

Fixed Penalty Notices or prosecution can only be proceeded if evidence was found at the fly-tip and, at present that level of evidence was not being acquired. However, there was currently funding to employ some mobile re-deployable CCTV cameras to place at hotspots. These could act as a deterrent and also gain evidence.

The Leader referred to planning enforcement and stated that the year to date figures for informing complainants within the required timescale was 68.1% and below the 75% target – although the Quarter Four figure was 82.4%. The Leader asked why the annual target was missed.

The Chief Executive stated that the planning enforcement team had been working on actions to improve the figures. It was an evidence-led process and reporting-led process. There were limited resources in the enforcement area which the Council was keen to look at going forward to ensure that there was the right balance in place.

The Leader stated that he was keen to ensure that the Council was using its enforcement officers to be proactive and aggressive in enforcement in terms of issuing fines or seeking legal action against landlords or land owners who were not maintaining or looking after their property. He referred to some work that the Service Director – Regulatory Services was undertaking regarding vape shops and barber shops that the Council had concerns about.

The Leader asked what the Council Tax increase would be for the years going forward.

The Service Director -Finance/Section 151 Officer stated that, in the currently approved MTFS, there was an assumption that it would remain at 1.99%. The figure would be refined during the budget setting process in September.

Resolved: That the contents of the attached report and appendices be noted and the Council's service and financial performance for this period be continually monitored and challenged.

[Watch the debate here](#)

12. FORWARD PLAN

The Chief Executive advised that the Forward Plan would be published on the first working day of July which would cover up to four months' activity. Areas of work had been given by Cabinet and the Administration and those would be added prior to publication.

Resolved: That the update on the Forward Plan be noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

13. URGENT BUSINESS

The Leader asked the Chief Executive if he could add an item of Urgent Business.

An encampment had been set up near to Aldi and the Leader asked what action had been taken.

The Chief Executive advised that the site was on private land and the Mobile Multi-Functional Team had been working with the site owners and with other agencies. It was the responsibility of the private landowner to lead and it was understood that they were seeking enforcement by the court for removal of the encampment.

The Council had limited powers in private land situations but the Council was closely monitoring the situation. Advice would be offered by the Council to the landowner in respect of securing their property.

The Leader asked if the Council was confident that the landowner had started the process of taking action to bring the situation to an end.

The Service Director- Neighbourhood Delivery stated that the Council was awaiting a report back from the landowner today but indications were that they were pursuing it as best they could.

The Leader asked if there was any indication on timescale.

The Service Director advised that this would not be known until the landowner engaged with the court. A court date would need to be set to secure an eviction order or possession order for the land to enable an eviction.

The Leader asked what action the Council could take against the landowner if it was felt that they were making insufficient effort to clear the site.

The Service Director stated that there were two possible actions. Firstly, the Council could serve a Community Protection Warning because of any nuisance that was being caused and secondly, it was on the police radar so if there were any issues or criminality associated with the site it would open up another avenue for action.

14. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

Resolved:- That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of 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.

15. PET CREMATION PROGRESS REPORT

**Cllr Jonathan Gullis
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 3.05 pm

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Report to Cabinet

04 August 2026



Walleys Quarry Odour update

Lead Member:

Cllr Vanessa Renshaw – Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Protection

Lead Officer:

Nesta Barker – Service Director, Regulatory Services

Key Decision: No

Ward(s): All

Appendices: None

Report Assurance:

	Name	Date
Lead Officer	Nesta Barker	16/07/26
Monitoring Officer	Olwen Brown	20/07/26
Section 151	Craig Turner	17/07/26
Chief Executive	Gordon Mole	17/07/26
Cabinet Member	Cllr Vanessa Renshaw	21/07/26
Leader of the Council	Cllr Jonathan Gullis	21/07/26

Report Summary

This report provides an update on Walleys Quarry Landfill, including current monitoring data from Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and partner organisations. It concludes that reports of odour remain low, which is supported by the air quality monitoring data and officer assessments.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the contents of this update report

1. Background

- 1.1 Previous reports to Cabinet have detailed the significant history of odour complaints relating to Walleys Quarry Landfill.
- 1.2 The Environment Agency (EA) is the lead regulator for permitted landfill sites, testing and enforcing compliance with the environmental permit.
- 1.3 The operator Walleys Quarry Ltd entered voluntary liquidation in February 2025 and the liquidator disclaimed any interest in the land which included the environmental permits.
- 1.4 Key events are summarised below. Please note this is not an exhaustive list.

Date	Event
March 2021	Report of the Task and Finish Working Group Economy, Environment & Place Scrutiny Committee
18 March 2021	Extraordinary meeting of the Council with a motion to demand the immediate suspension of operations and acceptance of waste at Walleys Quarry Landfill
13 August 2021	Abatement Notice served on Walleys Quarry Ltd – odours amounted to a statutory nuisance
02 September 2021	Appeal lodged against the Abatement Notice
September 2022	Mediation between NULBC and Walleys Quarry Ltd
6 October 2022	District Judge approved settlement agreement and issued Court Order upholding the Abatement Notice
6 March 2023	Abatement Notice compliance period ended. Abatement Notice enforceable
Spring 2024	Evidence obtained to demonstrate a breach of Abatement Notice
1 March 2024	Environment Agency served a Suspension Notice on Walleys Quarry Ltd
12 March 2024	Environment Agency withdrew Suspension Notice
29 July 2024	Consent granted by the Secretary of State to prosecute for a breach of the Abatement Notice
23 July 2024 14 August 2024	Walleys Quarry Committee of Inquiry held over 2 hearing days

25 September 2024	Inquiry report submitted to full Council with a key and fundamental recommendation for the Environment Agency to serve a closure notice to commence the process of the site ceasing to operate as a landfill tip
28 November 2024	Environment Agency served a Closure Notice on Walleys Quarry Ltd
27 February 2025	Walleys Quarry Ltd entered voluntary liquidation
February 2025 to date	Environment Agency undertaking discretionary powers under Regulation 57 of the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2016 to arrange for steps to be taken to remove a risk of serious pollution.

2. Purpose

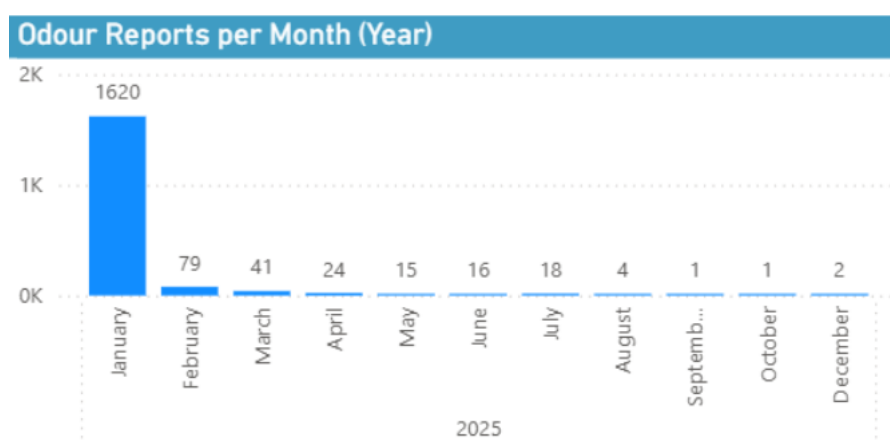
2.1 To provide an update report on:

- the level of impact on the community using data from odour complaints; odour assessments and air quality monitoring and to provide context of the current impact by comparing to historical data;
- the progress of works being undertaken on behalf of the Environment Agency to deal with the risk of serious pollution;
- the work undertaken by the Council and the multi-agency group.

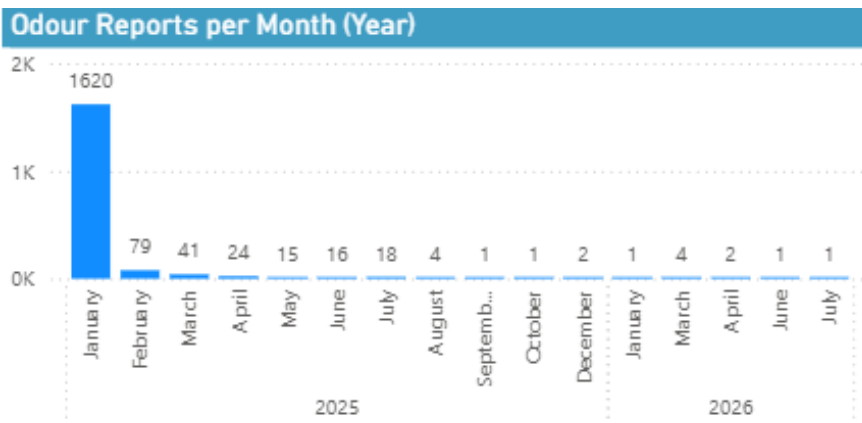
Odour complaints reported to the Council

2.2 This updated report shows the data in respect of complaints reported to the Council and officer monitoring through a number of figures shown below.

2.3 Fig 1. Monthly odour complaint data for 2025. In 2025 the total number of complaints received to the Council was 1821.



2.4 Fig 2. Monthly odour complaint data for 2025/2026. The total number of complaints received by the Council from January 2026 to July 2026 is 9.



- January 2026 - 1 odour complaint; 04 January 2026
- March 2026 - 4 odour complaints; 19 March, 20 March, 23 March and 28 March
- April 2026 - 2 odour complaints; 04 April and 12 April
- June 2026 - 1 odour complaint; 23 June
- July 2026 - 1 odour complaint; 29 July

Odour assessments

June 2026

- 2.5 11 odour assessments were undertaken on 10 and 24 June 2026. The assessments detected a rating of 0 [no odour].

July 2026

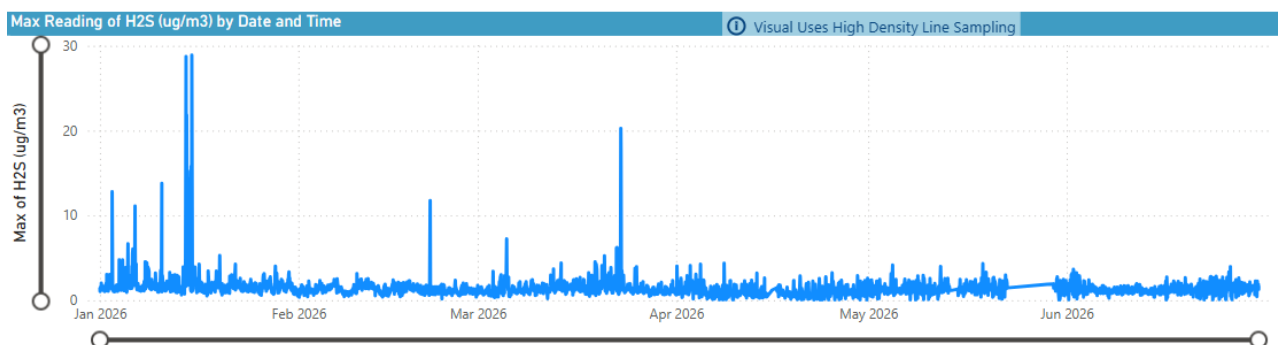
- 2.6 5 odour assessments were undertaken on 14 July 2026. The assessments detected a rating of 0 [no odour].
- 2.7 9 odour assessments were undertaken on 28 July 2026. 1 odour assessment detected a rating of 3 [distinct odour] on Silverdale Road adjacent to STWA Pumping Station. The remaining assessments detected a rating of 0 [no odour].

Hydrogen Sulphide Monitoring [HSM]

- 2.8 Hydrogen sulphide monitoring undertaken using the mobile monitor ['Jerome'] on 28 July. The monitor detected 0 ppb at 4 monitoring locations.

Environment Agency Air Quality Data

- 2.9 The Council, Staffordshire County Council, and the Environment Agency have jointly funded a campaign of air quality monitoring utilising static air monitoring stations. The Environment Agency manage and operate these air quality monitoring stations. Air quality data is routinely published by the Environment Agency.
- 2.10 The weekly exceedance above the World Health Organisation odour annoyance guideline level for May and June was 0%.
- 2.11 The maximum hydrogen sulphide recorded across the monitoring stations [MMFs] from January 2026 to June 2026 is as reported as follows:



Environment Agency Regulatory and Enforcement Action

2.12 The Environment Agency provide updates on its activity on the Walleys Quarry Landfill which can be accessed here:

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

NULBC Update

2.13 The Council is providing both the Environment Agency and liquidator any support we can within our powers to keep this landfill under control, as it is currently.

2.14 Officers will continue to monitor the data in relation to the landfill.

2.15 The undertaking of odour monitoring and assessments in the community continues to provide data, intelligence and community reassurance.

2.16 The Council continues to urge that should the community be adversely affected by odour that complaints are logged to the EA or ourselves via [Report a problem or concern about Walleys Quarry – Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council](#).

2.17 A cross-party working group is being established at the Council with the objective of ensuring regular political oversight, information-sharing, and scrutiny of progress. The initial meeting will be held in September 2026.

2.18 A full planning application has been submitted by Persimmon Homes Ltd for the erection of 114 dwellings with landscaping and sustainable drainage, public open space including play space, and vehicular access off Galingale View, Dill Close, and Gadwall Croft. For further details follow the link: [26/00429/FUL](#).

Multi-Agency Working

2.19 The Council is working with partners to review:

- the ongoing work by the Environment Agency to minimise emissions off site;
- the future of the site considering the availability of any funding and the potential routes to delivery

2.20 Further details of this work will be provided in a future report following the establishment of working groups.

2.21 Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny raised the following questions (in bold) at its meeting on 11 June 2026. Responses are shown below.

If the Council could provide an update from the multi-agency working group regarding progress on the capping and restoration of Walley's Quarry, in particular with regard to the depth of soil in the capped area;

The EA are currently undertaking discretionary works to prevent serious pollution; this has included the temporary capping of the landfill site.

If the Council could clarify whether the capping was progressing in accordance with agreed specifications;

There is no longer a permit that sets out conditions for this landfill site.

However, the works undertaken on behalf of the EA follow the principles/procedures contained in the relevant guidance.

What monitoring or independent verification was being undertaken to ensure the capping was adequate;

The EA has appointed contractors to undertake surface emission surveys following any significant work to the capping.

Whether the council was satisfied that sufficient material had been placed across the capped areas to ensure long-term effectiveness and environmental protection.

The site has both permanent and temporary capping. The monitoring data in this report demonstrates that the capping is being effective at controlling the odour.

UK Health Security Agency [UKHSA]

2.22 The UKHSA health update for Walleys Quarry landfill site is published monthly on the Environment Agency engagement webpage [Air Quality Monitoring | Engage Environment Agency](#)

2.23 The UKHSA Position Statement is:

Whilst the risk to long-term (lifetime) health cannot be excluded, currently this risk is likely to be small and will continue to be so while hydrogen sulphide concentrations remain around the current level. Reductions in hydrogen sulphide are anticipated to continue to improve.

2.24 The report will be updated should this change.

3. Strategic Approach

3.1 Walleys Quarry is a corporate priority project for the Council and is specifically detailed in the Council Plan 2022-26.

4. Finance & Resources

Staffing

4.1 Dedicated officer resource has been allocated to continue the Council's work regarding Walleys Quarry Landfill.

Technology

4.2 The Council part funds the provision of the mobile monitoring air quality stations.

Asset Impacts

- 4.3 The Council has hydrogen sulphide monitoring equipment which requires servicing and calibration each year. This is delivered from Walleys Quarry existing budgets.

Accounts Receivable

- 4.4 On 25 February 2025, the Council was listed as a creditor in the 'Notice of Statement of Affairs' signed by a Director of Walleys Quarry Ltd. The amount owed to the Council is £132,097.20. This outstanding debt is primarily made up of £102,000 in respect of the legal fees agreed through the mediated settlement in court back in October 2022 relating to the Abatement Notice. The remaining amount relates to outstanding Business Rates.
- 4.5 On 13 April 2026, the Liquidator published a notice of progress report in voluntary winding up for the period 27 February 2025 to 26 February 2026 on Companies House. The Council is not a preferential creditor and is referred to as an **unsecured creditor**. The executive summary states: '**it is highly unlikely that the unsecured creditors will receive a dividend**' and the report clarifies: 'as there are insufficient floating charge assets.'

5. Legal & Governance

- 5.1 Part III of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 is the principal piece of legislation covering the Council's duties and responsibilities in respect of issues relating to odour nuisance.
- 5.2 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 is a nuisance. The Council is responsible for undertaking inspections and responding to complaints to determine whether a statutory nuisance exists.
- 5.3 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).
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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 are guilty of an offence. If this is on industrial, trade or business premises the penalty upon conviction is a fine; the Act sets no limit on the fine which can be imposed. It is a defence that the best practicable means were used to prevent, or to counteract the effects of, the nuisance.
- 5.6 Walleys Quarry Ltd in February 2025 entered voluntary liquidation. 12 months on, the company status is 'Liquidation' on Companies House.
- 5.7 Upon the liquidation of Walleys Quarry Ltd, the abatement notice and the legal requirements in respect of odours, cease to be enforceable and so legal proceedings had to cease.

- 5.8 The Council also continues to engage with the Crown Estate and the Environment Agency regarding any future plans for the site.
- 5.9 Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny raised the following legal questions (in bold) at its meeting on 11 June 2026. Responses are shown below.

Why the cost order awarded against Walleys Quarry was not enforced;

The order was against the company Walleys Quarry Ltd. Following voluntary liquidation of the company, there is no longer a legal route to enforce the order against Walleys Quarry Ltd.

If consideration was given to pursuing recovery of those costs;

The Council's debt recovery policy has been followed in successfully recovering a significant portion of the costs awarded to the Council. £358k of the £460k costs have been recovered. Alvarez and Marsal Europe LLP were appointed as joint liquidators of the company in February 2025, and a creditor claim for outstanding costs (£102k) and unpaid Business Rates (£30k) has been submitted by the Council against the administration estate.

Whether legal advice was obtained regarding enforcement;

The Service Director – Legal & Governance has been actively involved throughout the Council's involvement with Walleys Quarry Odour.

Whether the Council intended to seek recovery of any outstanding costs in the future;

Alvarez and Marsal Europe LLP were appointed as joint liquidators of the company in February 2025, a creditor claim was submitted by the Council for outstanding costs (£102k) and unpaid Business Rates (£30k) against the administration estate. Based on current estimates of the liquidators, it is considered highly unlikely that any dividend will be available for distribution to unsecured creditors.

If the Council got any part of the costs awarded.

As above, £358k of the £460k has been successfully recovered from Walleys Quarry Ltd.

6. Supporting Information

- 6.1 This matter has been variously considered previously by Economy, Environment & Place and Health, Wellbeing & Environment Scrutiny Committee, Council and Cabinet:

[Health Wellbeing & Environment Scrutiny Committee](#)

2022	23 June 2022, 5 September 2022, 28 November 2022
2023	6 March 2023, 14 June 2023, 7 September 2023, 27 November 2023
2024	26 February 2024, 03 June 2024, 16 September 2024, 25 November 2024
2025	3 March 2025, 12 June 2025, 15 September 2024, 24 November 2025
2026	09 March 2026, 11 June 2026

Council

2021	18 March 2021, 21 July 2021, 17 November 2021
2022	23 February 2022, 06 July 2022
2023	05 April 2023
2024	14 February 2024, 10 April 2024, 25 September 2024, 20 November 2024

Cabinet

2021	21 April 2021, 09 June 2021, 07 July 2021, 21 July 2021, 08 September 2021, 13 October 2021, 03 November 2021, 01 December 2021
2022	12 January 2022, 02 February 2022, 23 March 2022, 20 April 2022, 07 June 2022, 19 July 2022, 06 September 2022, 18 October 2022, 08 November 2022, 06 December 2022
2023	10 January 2023, 07 February 2023, 14 March 2023, 18 April 2023, 06 June 2023, 18 July 2023, 19 September 2023, 17 October 2023, 07 November 2023, 05 December 2023
2024	16 January 2024, 06 February 2024, 19 March 2024, 23 April 2024, 04 June 2024, 16 July 2024, 10 September 2024, 15 October 2024, 05 November 2024, 03 December 2024
2025	09 January 2025, 04 February 2025, 18 March 2025, 06 May 2025, 03 June 2024, 08 July 2025, 02 September 2025, 14 October 2025, 04 November 2025, 02 December 2025
2026	13 January 2026, 03 February 2026, 17 March 2026, 23 June 2026

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Report to Cabinet

04 August 2026



Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2026-2030

Lead Member:

CLlr Vanessa Renshaw
Cabinet Member for Housing & Public Protection

Lead Officer:

Nesta Barker - Service Director - Regulatory Services

Key Decision: Yes

Ward(s): All

Appendices: None

Report Assurance:

	Name	Date
Lead Officer	Nesta Barker	01/07/26
Monitoring Officer	Olwen Brown	20/07/26
Section 151	Craig Turner	17/07/26
Chief Executive	Gordon Mole	17/07/26
Cabinet Member	CLlr Vanessa Renshaw	21/07/26

Report Summary

The process of reviewing and updating the Housing and Homelessness Strategy commenced in 2025. The Draft Strategy has subsequently been considered by a previous cabinet, subject to public consultation and reviewed by the current administration. Following these stages, and the incorporation of relevant amendments, the Strategy is now presented to Cabinet for approval and publication.

Recommendations

That the Cabinet:

1. Approves the Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2026-2030.

1 Background

- 1.1 Developing and maintaining a housing strategy enables the local authorities to assess current and emerging challenges, establish priorities and objectives, and plan effectively for the future.
- 1.2 Housing plays a vital role in people's health, wellbeing and quality of life. Regularly reviewing and updating the Strategy ensures that the Council continues to provide an appropriate framework for working with residents, partners and stakeholders to address local housing needs.
- 1.4 The current Housing Strategy was adopted in 2021 with an associated four-year action plan. The current Homelessness Strategy was adopted in 2020 with a five-year action plan. As a period of 4 years had passed, it is considered appropriate to review and refresh the strategy.
- 1.5 The process of updating the Housing and Homelessness Strategy began in 2025. On 2 December 2025, Cabinet considered a report on the Draft Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2026-2030. Cabinet approved the draft strategy for public consultation and authorised the Service Director - Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing, to agree the final version for publication following the consultation stage.
- 1.6 The draft strategy was published for public consultation on the Council's website on 20 January 2026. In addition, members of the Homelessness Forum were notified by email and invited to submit their views and comments on the draft strategy.
- 1.7 Three responses were received during the consultation period. Overall, the feedback was positive, with respondents expressing support for the strategic priorities and objectives set out within the Strategy.
- 1.8 Following consultation, a small number of amendments were made. These included specific reference to Aspire Housing to recognise its important role in delivering housing-related projects and services across the borough. References to the Renters' Rights Bill were also updated to reflect its enactment as an Act of Parliament.
- 1.9 The amendments made following consultation were minor in nature. The consultation responses did not identify any significant issues or recommend substantial changes to the strategic priorities, objectives or proposed actions

contained within the Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2026-2030 which is at Appendix 1 of this report.

2 Purpose

- 2.1 In May 2026, Borough Council elections resulted in a change in political leadership. The draft Housing and Homelessness Strategy has subsequently been reviewed by the new administration. Whilst supportive of the overall direction, aims and objectives of the Strategy, the administration has identified four areas that it wishes to give greater prominence within the document:
- Advocacy for Article 4 Directions to enable greater local control over Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs).
 - Prioritising improvements in energy efficiency, reducing fuel poverty and lowering household energy costs, rather than focusing solely on decarbonisation objectives.
 - Supporting the provision of housing that meets the needs of local communities.
 - Strengthening the focus on supported housing provision within the borough.
- 2.2 As a result, amendments have been made to the wording of the Strategy to reflect these priorities. These changes do not alter the overall strategic direction of the document but seek to place greater emphasis on matters of importance to the current administration.
- 2.3 Although Cabinet previously authorised the Service Director - Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing, to agree the final version of the Strategy following public consultation, it is considered appropriate that the revised document be referred back to Cabinet for consideration and formal approval.
- 2.4 Given that the Strategy was subject to an eight-week public consultation in early 2026, and that the amendments subsequently made are limited in scope and do not materially alter the Strategy's strategic objectives, it is not considered necessary to undertake a further round of public consultation before adoption.

3 Strategic Approach

- 3.1 The Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2026-2030 is structured around three cross-cutting priorities that recognise the links between housing, health, economic prosperity and homelessness:
- Housing and Health
 - Housing and Prosperity
 - Homelessness and Rough Sleeping
- 3.2 These priorities have associated objectives.

Priority 1: Housing and Health aims to foster strategic joined-up thinking and policy setting on health and housing, and to continuously improve housing standards and the energy efficiency of the housing stock.

Priority 2: Housing and Prosperity seeks to develop a housing market that is vibrant and economically prosperous and meets the needs of our residents; to facilitate the development of a range of affordable housing that meets identified housing needs; and to contribute to the economic regeneration of town centres through the incorporation of mixed-use developments.

Priority 3: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping endeavours to continue providing early intervention and partnership working in order to prevent homelessness; to support those who are faced with homelessness issues, particularly those who are rough sleeping; and to operate a housing allocation system, including both registration and allocation processes, that enables those in housing need to access appropriate social housing.

4 Finance & Resources

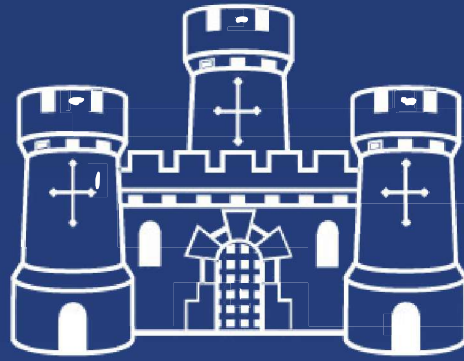
- 4.1 Delivery of the actions set out within the Housing and Homelessness Strategy will have implications for a number of Council services. It is intended that these actions will be embedded within existing and future service plans and delivered through available resources where possible. Any financial implications arising from the implementation of the Strategy will be considered and managed through the Council's annual budget-setting process and service planning arrangements.

5 Legal & Governance

- 5.1 Whilst there is no statutory requirement for the Council to adopt a Housing and Homelessness Strategy, it provides an important framework for setting priorities and coordinating activity across a range of policy areas, including planning, housing standards, homelessness prevention, disabled facilities grants and partnership working with key stakeholders.

6 Supporting Information

- 6.1 Draft Housing Strategy 2026-2030
- 6.2 02/12/2025 – Cabinet - [Draft Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2026-2030](#)



NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL



HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

2026 - 2030

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Foreword

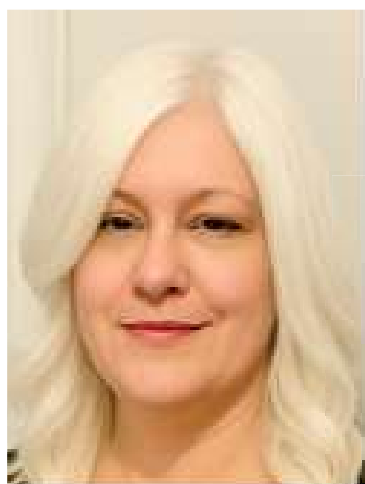
A safe, secure and suitable home is fundamental to a good quality of life. It provides stability for families, supports better health and educational outcomes, enables people to live independently and helps create strong, settled communities.

This Housing and Homelessness Strategy puts the needs of Newcastle-under-Lyme residents first. It sets out a practical approach to improving housing standards, increasing the availability of affordable and accessible homes, preventing homelessness at the earliest possible stage and ensuring that support is available for those who genuinely need it.

We want housing development to meet the needs of local people and strengthen, rather than undermine, the communities in which it takes place. That means protecting the supply of family homes and giving the Council greater local control over the future growth of Houses in Multiple Occupation.

We will also take a firm approach to supported housing. Vulnerable residents, including people facing homelessness, survivors of domestic abuse and those with complex needs, deserve safe accommodation and genuine, effective support. Providers receiving public money must deliver proper standards, positive outcomes for residents and demonstrable value for taxpayers. Poor-quality provision that fails residents or exploits the benefits system must not be tolerated.

Our approach is both compassionate and responsible. We will support those in genuine need, intervene early to prevent homelessness, enforce proper housing standards and ensure that taxpayers' money is spent wisely. By working with residents, registered housing providers, landlords, developers, health and care services and the voluntary sector, we will deliver a housing system that protects vulnerable people, supports aspiration and strengthens communities across our Borough.



Councillor Vanessa Renshaw
Cabinet Member for Housing &
Public Protection

Housing is fundamental to the wellbeing of people, their families and their wider communities. Improving housing standards, options, conditions and neighborhoods within the Borough is essential for enhancing economic growth, tackling vulnerabilities, improving outcomes for our children including their educational attainment, health and wellbeing, and community cohesion.

The Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2026-2030 supports the Council's aims and objectives for the Borough and sets out our strategic housing priorities. The policy details a range of actions we intend to take in partnership with relevant partners and stakeholders to support residents to access good quality, suitable and affordable housing while preventing homelessness and rough sleeping.

We recognise that the most dominant issues currently facing residents within the Borough and the United Kingdom is the continuity of economic instability and the cost-of-living crisis post Covid-19 resulting in a reduction of available public funding.

Despite the tough economic conditions, the Council has been working with a wide range of local partners including Registered Housing Providers, developers, private landlords and other organisations, to identify residents' housing needs, maximize the number of affordable homes built across the Borough, and improve the quality and choice of homes for all residents. This partnership approach is key to the future delivery and development of affordable and market housing and will help improve the Borough's housing offer.

Our 3 key priorities are thematic, cross cutting and we acknowledge the correlation between different policy areas and how one will interplay with another. These are:

- Housing and Health
- Housing and Prosperity
- Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

For each priority, we have set out their associated objectives, helping us to visualise what we intend to achieve.

Linkages with Strategy

The Housing and Homelessness Strategy exists alongside a range of interconnected plans, policies, and strategies. We aim to strengthen this relationship through this strategy and associated activities.



Profile of the Borough

Demographics and Population



- 58,500 households provide for a population of approximately 127,700 (2025 Experian)
- Between the last two censuses 2011 and 2021, the average (median) age of Newcastle-under-Lyme increased by two years, from 41 to 43 years of age.
- The number of people aged 65 to 74 years rose by just under 2,100 (an increase of 17.4%), while the number of residents between 35 and 49 years fell by around 4,100 (16.1% decrease).

Housing



The 2021 Census showed that 38 per cent of households were owned outright – a higher proportion than any other housing tenure. 30 per cent of households owned property with a mortgage, 17 per cent were social renters and 15 per cent were private renters or occupied rent free.

The Government standard method for determining the minimum number of homes needed in an area suggests that at least 347 dwellings per annum are needed in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

The most common housing type in the Borough is that of a semi-detached house. 45 per cent of households live in such a property, with the next most-common types being a detached house with 26 per cent of properties and terraced with 19 per cent. 9 per cent of households live in a purpose-built block of flats or tenement.

The average house price in Newcastle-under-Lyme was £211,000 in August 2024 (provisional), up 8.0% from August 2023. This was higher than the rise in the West Midlands (2.6%) over the same period.

Private rents rose to an average of £724 in September 2024, an annual increase of 7.4% from £674 in September 2023. This was lower than the rise in the West Midlands (8.8%) over the year. The average price paid by first-time buyers was £185,000 in August 2024 (provisional). This was 8.6% higher than the average of £171,000 in August 2023 (revised).

For homes bought with a mortgage, the average house price was £218,000 in August 2024 (provisional). This was 8.2% higher than the average of £201,000 in August 2023 (revised).

Socio-Economic Context

There are 80 Lower-layer Super Output Areas in the Borough, each containing an average (mean) of 1,540 residents. Ten of these LSOAs are in the 20 per cent most deprived in England and Wales, according to the 2025 Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Two LSOAs, one predominantly in Cross Heath ward and one predominantly in Knutton are in the 10 per cent most deprived.

In the 2021 Census, 80.1 per cent of residents described their health as being either very good or good. 13.9 per cent said it was fair, with the remaining 5.9 per cent saying it was either bad or very bad. In the recent census, 20.1 per cent of people said that they were disabled according to the Equalities Act.

As of December 2024, an estimated 2.9 per cent of eligible adults aged 16-64 were claiming unemployment benefits. This rate is very slightly higher than for Staffordshire but lower than for Great Britain as a whole. In mid-2022, 81.1 per cent of residents aged 16-64 were economically active, a higher rate than for the West Midlands region and the country. According to the 2021 census the Borough's residents who were employed at the time of the 2021 census, 61 per cent worked for an average of between 31 and 48 hours per week. The 2024 Office for National Statistics (ONS) Business Register and Employment Survey found that, in 2024, 68.1 per cent of Borough residents' jobs were full-time, with 31.9 per cent part-time. The proportion of full-time jobs is higher in the West Midlands (69 per cent) and Great Britain (69.2 per cent).

Social Housing Register

In September 2025, there were 1,724 households on the Council's housing register.

- 51% were in need of a one bedroom property
- 26% were in need two bed property
- 18% were in need of a three bed property
- 5% were in need of a four bed property

ONS median house price to median gross annual workplace-based earnings ratio was 5.45
ONS lower quartile house price to lower quartile gross annual workplace-based earnings ratio was 6.15

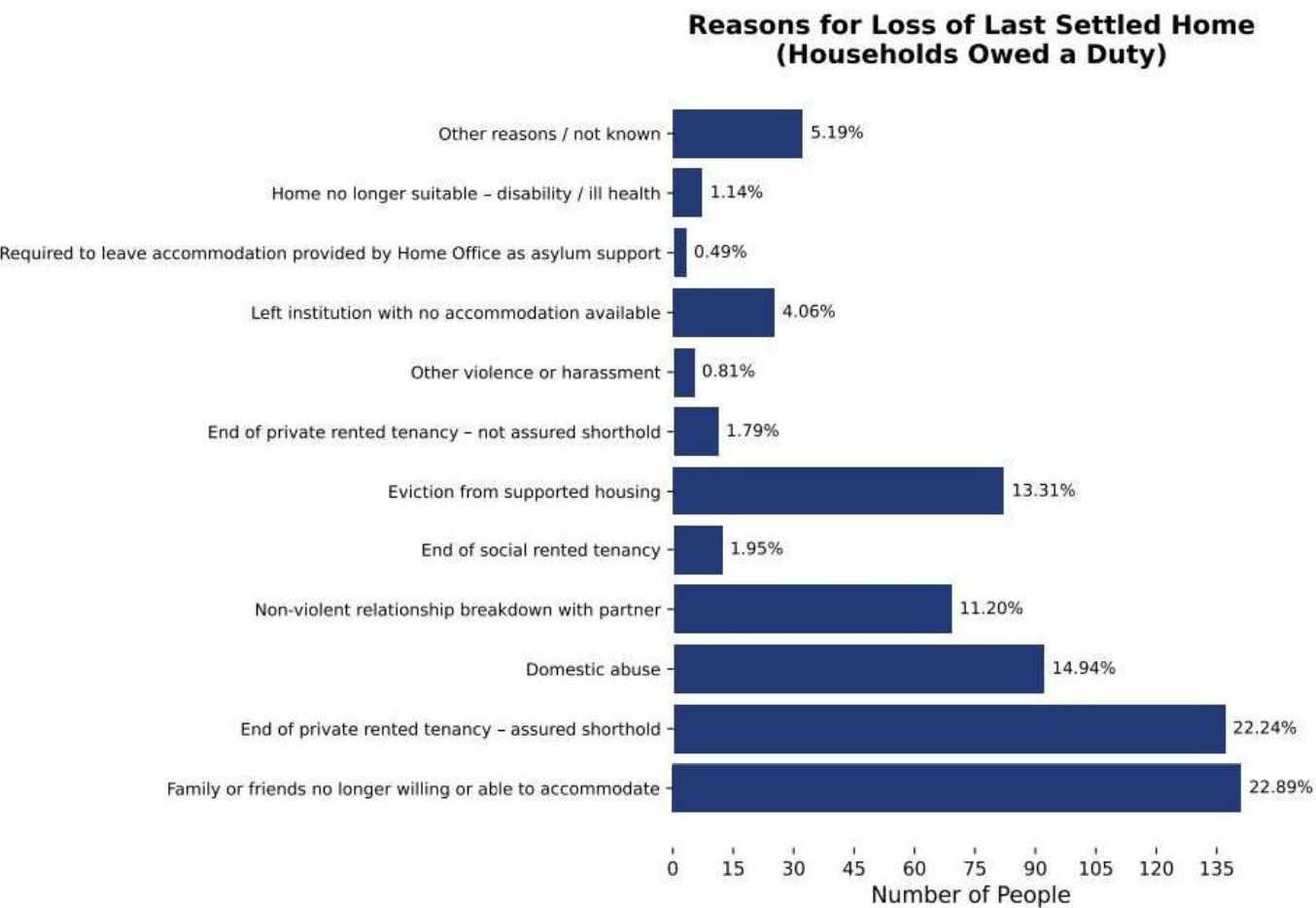
Statutory Homelessness

There are legal duties on local authorities in England to take ‘reasonable steps’ to help eligible applicants:

- avoid homelessness if they are threatened with homelessness. This is commonly referred to as the ‘prevention’ duty.
- secure suitable accommodation if they are homeless. This is commonly referred to as the ‘relief’ duty.

In 2022/2023, 491 households were assessed under statutory homelessness, of which 487 were deemed as owed a duty. In 2023/2024, 632 households were assessed and 616 owed a duty. This represents a 27.2 % increase.

Of the 616 households assessed as owed a duty; 196 were owed a prevention duty (31.8 %) and 420 households (68.2%) were owed a relief duty.



Priority: Housing and Health

Key objectives:

- To foster strategic joined up thinking and policy setting on health and housing
- To continuously improve housing standards and energy efficiency in the housing stock

Housing is a key determinant of health. The quality and suitability of the living environment is crucial in preventing the onset of ill-health, supporting recovery, and slowing the deterioration of certain conditions.

Despite this, nearly eight million people live in a home that does not pass the government's definition of basic decency: 15% of homes (Centre for Ageing Better, 2023; DLUHC, 2023).

Unsafe homes and their associated health conditions translate into an avoidable burden on public services, with an estimated cost to the NHS of £1.1 billion per year (BRE, 2023), £1.1 billion in formal/paid social care costs, and a further £3.5 billion in unpaid care costs (Brimblecombe et al, 2024)

In recognition of the importance of this, the Council commits to several strategic objectives.

Strategic Partnership and Collaborative Working

There is recognition that a range of complex and inter-linked challenges that impact on the quality of life of people cannot be effectively tackled by any one partner alone and more can be achieved by working together.

We work in partnership with a range of organisations such as:

- Social care, health (including mental health and drug and alcohol services)
- Advice agencies
- Money advice
- Voluntary and community sector groups
- Police and other emergency services
- Domestic abuse services
- Registered Providers

As the local authority operates in a two-tier local authority structure, responsibilities are shared with the County Council. There has been longstanding acknowledgment and recognition that a collaborative approach between the County and the local authority is essential to progress the housing and health agenda. The County Council has adopted Staffordshire Housing with Care Strategy 2024-2029, with an action plan centered on collaboration, specifically with Disabled Facilities Grants and Supported Housing. We will seek to engage and contribute to this partnership approach with Staffordshire County Council.

Supported Exempt Accommodation

Supported Exempt Accommodation (SEA) is housing where vulnerable adults are supported to live independently. It normally provides accommodation for: people who are homeless, people recently released from prison, survivors of domestic abuse, people with substance dependencies, people with mental health issues and refugees. This form of housing was considered to be somewhat unregulated and The Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act was enacted in 2023 to introduce national supported housing standards. These will provide minimum standards for both the property and the care or support provided in supported accommodation.

Consultation on the implementation of the Act has proposed a licensing scheme for the Supported Housing and reformation to the Housing Benefits System. Under the Act, the Council will need to outline local need and supply of accommodation, carry out a review of the supported exempt accommodation in the district, and in the light of that review, publish a supported housing strategy, for the provision of supported exempt accommodation within the Borough. The Council acknowledges that rising Housing Benefit expenditure now reflects growing pressure on the housing system. These costs principally arise from Supported Housing and Temporary Accommodation provision. The Council intends to focus and reform these areas so that achieves appropriate provision and value for money, working alongside partners such as Aspire Housing.

The Council has established an internal working group, led by senior leadership, to focus on supported housing. Its purpose is to develop a sector that provides genuine support, delivers positive outcomes for residents, meets identified local needs, and offers value for public money.

Housing Conditions

According to English Housing Survey: local authority housing stock condition modelling, 2020, there are approx. 7,000 properties that are non-decent and approx. 5,000 dwellings with a Category 1 hazard in our Borough. We assess housing conditions under the Housing and Health Rating System. The key principle of the system is to consider the health and safety of the people living in these properties in relation to 29 hazards. These include damp and mould, excess cold, fire, falls, and electrical hazards. In the last 12 months we have inspected 84 properties. We have identified 98 Category 1 hazards and Category 2 hazards, which were subsequently rectified.

The Government has committed to reforming the Private Rented Sector, making it fair, secure and fit for purpose. The Council will have a new legislative framework, of raising awareness and enforcing, to ensure that the private rented sector works well within the Borough and provides a stable form of accommodation.

Under the Housing Act 2004 , local authorities must keep the housing conditions in their area under review. Our Council will use various data sets, both of a primary and a secondary nature to keep housing conditions under review.

During 2023 there was a Housing Task Finish Group looking at housing conditions throughout the Borough including social housing. The concluding report of the group recommended a stock condition survey be included into the next Housing Strategy Action Plan.



Houses in Multiple Occupation

In the private rented sector, a property may have three or more people from two or more households and share a facility such as a kitchen or bathroom. These are known as Houses in Multiple Occupation and are often an affordable form of housing and student accommodation but do have an inherent higher risk related to fire safety, poor standards and inadequate amenity provision. Properties that are Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) consisting of five or more persons living in two or more separate households are subject to greater legal requirements and mandatory licensing; set out in the Housing Act 2004 and The Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation (England) Regulations 2006.

The Council has 200+ mandatory licensed HMOs, most of which serve as student accommodation for Keele University. These are subject to conditions to ensure that HMOs are of the appropriate standard and fit for purpose given the number of households or persons in occupation, address anti-social behaviour, prevent overcrowding and are free from housing defects.

The Council recognises that Houses in Multiple Occupation can meet some housing needs, including accommodation for students, younger residents and single-person households. The Council also recognises the separate importance of specialist and supported accommodation, including women's refuges, where these meet an identified local need and are properly managed.

However, the Council is clear that uncontrolled growth or excessive concentrations of HMOs can have a damaging impact on local areas. This can include the loss of family housing, changes to tenure balance, pressure on parking, waste and local services, reduced residential amenity, and wider impacts on neighbourhood sustainability and community cohesion.

Under current planning legislation, certain changes of use from a dwellinghouse to a small HMO, accommodating between three and six unrelated occupants, can take place under permitted development rights without the need for a planning application. This means such changes can occur without the Council being able to properly assess their cumulative impact on the surrounding area.

The Council therefore intends to introduce a Borough-wide Article 4 Direction to remove these permitted development rights for future changes of use from dwellinghouses to small HMOs. This will ensure that proposals for new HMOs are brought within the planning process, giving the Council greater local control and enabling it to consider relevant factors including housing need, local housing supply, community balance, residential amenity, parking, waste management and the wider impact on neighbourhoods.

This approach is not intended to impose a blanket ban on HMOs. Rather, it is intended to ensure that future HMO development is properly managed, evidence-led and consistent with maintaining balanced and sustainable communities. Any Article 4 Direction would apply prospectively and would not affect existing lawful HMOs. Its purpose is to guide future development and ensure decisions are made with proper regard to both housing need and the long-term interests of local communities.

Housing Strategy Disabled Facilities Grants

A suitable home can help disabled people of all ages build and sustain their independence and maintain connections in their community. Many homes are however poorly designed for older age or changes in care and support needs. Adaptations can therefore be vital in supporting older and disabled individuals, along with their caregivers, to live independently, confidently and safely in their own homes. They can minimise the impact of a disabling environment, promote independence and personal resilience, improve overall well-being and reduce the amount of formal care and support a person may need.



Disabled Facilities Grant funding is paid to local authorities through the Better Care Fund in recognition of the importance of ensuring adaptations are part of an integrated approach to housing, health and social care locally. The Disabled Facilities Grant service returned to being an in-house service in April 2023. Since then we have been working to enhance the service, reduce enquiry to completion times and develop relationships with local contractors. In that time we have facilitated over 300 adaptations an investment of nearly £3 million. Delivering stairlifts, ramps, through floor lifts, ground floor living and level access showers to enable independence, dignity and safety at home.

Registered Providers such as Aspire Housing are key partners working with tenants with disabilities and we seek to work collaboratively to find suitable accommodation where it is an alternative option to adapting homes. There are 172 households on the housing register who are waiting for an adapted property, of which 18 are waiting for a wheelchair accessible home. Registered providers also make a contribution to funding adaptations, delivering minor adaptations to their tenants and contributing to major adaptations. Through the life of this strategy we will also be looking at ways to work with Registered Providers to adapt properties prior to re-letting to reduce the disruption of major works and to consider options for a decant property to support major works.

Priority: Housing and Prosperity

Key objectives:

- *To develop a housing market that is vibrant and economically prosperous, which will meet the needs of our residents*
- *To facilitate the development of a range of affordable housing, that meets identified housing*

An increase in the housing supply i.e. building more homes, will increase prosperity through growth.

Housing makes up significant proportions of households' spending and investment, as it typically absorbs 20-25% of household incomes. It is the largest asset held by households and the largest component of household debt.

Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are strongly encouraged by the Government to prepare a 'Local Plan'. This sets out planning policies for their area, including an assessment of how much new housing will be needed to accommodate growth.

Our Council has an Emerging Local Plan for the period 2020-2040 which has been submitted to the Secretary of State. An examination hearing took place between 19 May and 26 June 2025. The council is now awaiting a report from the Inspector.

This emerging Local Plan sets out the vision and objectives for the Borough up to 2040. It proposes the amount of housing and employment growth needed in the Borough alongside allocations to meet the development requirements.



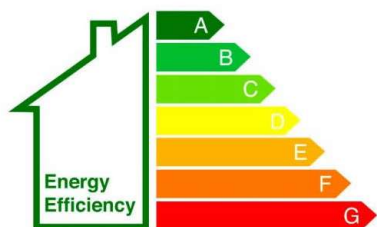
A key objective of the Plan related to Housing is to *“provide a mix of housing types which are attractive to people who want to live and work in the Borough and to provide aspirational housing, which is well designed, safe, secure, and adaptable.”*

It also includes a number of planning policies to help with decision taking, including on matters including affordable housing and housing standards.

The emerging policy aims to deliver affordable housing as a proportion of residential development from market housing developments to address local needs. It sets a framework for seeking and negotiating affordable housing.

"Energy Efficiency, Affordable Warmth and Housing Quality"

In 2022, the residential sector accounted for 17 per cent of all UK carbon emissions. National Energy Action has also estimated that in July 2024, 5.6 million UK households were in fuel poverty. The government has a target that all fuel-poor homes should be at least band C by 2028 and an aspiration for as many as possible homes across the country to be at least band C by 2035.



There are a wide range of different schemes to help improve the energy efficiency of homes. Most of these are targeted at lower income households living in less energy efficient properties. Some schemes are taxpayer funded, others are delivered by energy suppliers and funded through a levy on energy bills; e.g. The Energy Company Obligation (ECO), ECO+/Great British Insulation Scheme and Green Homes Grant: Local Authority Delivery.

The Council has actively participated within these schemes, in collaboration with neighbouring local authorities and the County Council, under the Staffordshire Warmer Homes.

The Warm Homes: Local Grant is a new grant which will start in 2025 and will provide energy performance upgrades and low carbon heating to low-income households via local authorities. It has been allocated £500 million over three years as part of the Autumn Budget 2024 settlement. The Council also works in partnership with a local charity Beat the Cold. This is a telephone advice services providing energy efficiency and mitigation of fuel poverty aimed at the most vulnerable residents within the Borough.

With energy prices expected to remain significantly above pre-pandemic levels until at least 2029, fuel poverty will continue to be a key concern for the Council. The Council will therefore maintain an active role in delivering and supporting energy efficiency and cost-reduction initiatives aimed at lowering household energy bills.

The Council's position is that decarbonisation will not be pursued as the sole or primary objective of energy efficiency interventions. Instead, schemes involving low-carbon technologies will be assessed primarily based on the benefits they deliver to residents, including affordability, practicality, and value for public money. Where these criteria are met, and where there is a clear benefit to residents, the Council will actively consider participation in and engagement with such schemes. Decarbonisation may be an additional outcome of these interventions, but it is not, in itself, the principal determining factor in decision-making.

Through participation in relevant schemes and partnerships, the Council will seek to improve the energy performance and overall quality of housing stock, while providing targeted support to residents most affected by rising costs. This approach will help mitigate the impacts of ongoing cost of living pressures and contribute to improved health, wellbeing, and housing sustainability across the Borough.

The emerging policies will also aim to ensure that new housing development is delivered at appropriate densities, makes efficient use of land, and provides for a mix of homes (according to size, type and tenure) that meets local needs over the plan period, meeting the needs of older people and those who require specialist housing.

This emerging policy seeks to prescribe housing standards in new developments to ensure that the internal space of housing is delivered to the Nationally Described Space Standard.

The Optional Building Regulations 2016 (Part M4) set out accessibility standards for dwellings. These are: the Part M4(2) Standard (accessible and adaptable homes) requirement which is met when a new dwelling provides reasonable provision for most people to access the dwelling and includes features that make it suitable for a range of potential occupants, including older people, individuals with reduced mobility and some wheelchair users; and the Part M4(3) Standard (wheelchair user dwelling) requirement which is achieved when a new dwelling provides reasonable provisions for a wheelchair user to live in the dwelling and have the ability to use any outdoor space, parking and communal facilities.



Newcastle Town Deal has received £23.6m to deliver transformational projects in the Newcastle Town Deal area.

The objective of the Fund is to drive the economic regeneration of towns to deliver long term economic and productivity growth through urban regeneration, planning and land use: ensuring towns are thriving places for people to live and work, including by: increasing density in town centres; strengthening local economic assets including local cultural assets; site acquisition, remediation, preparation, regeneration; and making full use of planning tools to bring strategic direction and change.

The Town Deal investment area contains a significant amount of housing stock which is no longer fit-for-purpose, including at key town centre sites, while several areas, such as Cross Heath and Knutton, are subject to significant market failure as signified through their inclusion in the Housing Market Renewal Initiative.



The Town Investment Plan has delivered:

Investment in key gateway sites – The re-occupation of key derelict gateway sites to provide housing will help to transform the Town Deal Investment area. Town Deal Investment will unlock development at the former Zanzibar nightclub site, which will be repurposed toward young professionals accommodation with small industrial units for start-up businesses and 'move-up' accommodation for incubator/innovation focused businesses also delivered on site. It will also demolish the Midway multi story carpark to make way for 126 homes for key workers and young professionals, as well as an element of extra care accommodation.

Putting the heart back into Knutton village – a program of investment to enable the development of key strategic housing sites within the Knutton masterplan, bringing forward 282 new houses, 25% of which would be socially rented; improved business accommodation through the replacement and repurposing of 2 wings (8,000sqft) of Knutton Business Centre and investing in modern community facilities to create a stronger village core through a new Village Hall, Village Green and play area.

Cross St Chesterton – Investment to progress the delivery of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)-supported Cross St Chesterton Masterplan, led by Aspire Housing enabling the demolition of 74 houses that are no longer fit for purpose to enable delivery of 125 high quality, mixed tenure housing options for the local community.

In the medium to longer term priorities, the Council will focus on opportunities and channel investment more widely to regenerate communities that have lacked investment, in particular other former mining communities that were subject to the Housing Market Renewal Initiative.

Priorities to include:

- Aspire’s Estate Regeneration Plan for Chesterton (further phases);
- Knutton Masterplan (further phases);
- Aspire Housing’s wider housing provision strategy; and
- Masterplan development and delivery in other areas of relative disadvantage e.g. Silverdale and Cross Heath



We will facilitate the development of a **range of affordable housing**, that meets identified housing.

There are households within the Borough whose housing need cannot be met by the market, i.e. they are unable to afford to either buy or rent from the private market.

The Housing Needs Assessment (HNA, 2024) identifies an annual need for 278 affordable homes throughout the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme over the plan period to 2040.

The Government has indicated that it wants the delivery of social rented homes to rise and intends to inject more funds into the Social and Affordable Homes Programme (SAHP) as well as promised greater stability in rent policy. These would be elements of 'a long-term housing strategy' which aims to 'deliver the biggest increase in affordable housing in a generation'.



We will implement our Planning Policy requirements of ensuring that major and large developments have an appropriate level of affordable housing

We will work with Homes England to support bids for grant funding by providers to deliver new affordable homes. We will also work with providers to deliver affordable housing that has been secured via Section 106, planning obligations.

We seek early engagement with providers to support their development programmes and help ensure that their proposals will most effectively meet local needs.

Priority: Homelessness & Rough Sleeping

Key objectives:

- *To provide early intervention and partnership working to prevent homelessness*
- *To support those who are faced with homelessness issues, specifically, those rough sleeping*
- *To operate a housing allocation system; both registration and allocation which will allow those in housing need to be able to access appropriate social housing*

Early intervention and partnership working to prevent homelessness

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA 2017), placed statutory duties, on local authorities to “prevent” and “relieve” homelessness. The UK homelessness charity Crisis has estimated that the upfront costs of preventing homelessness are 14 times lower than the cost of providing support over 12 months once a household experiences homelessness. The Council has adopted an ethos of homelessness prevention into its working practices.

The Council has worked with a range of partners, to foster a shared duty across all public services, from education and health care to social care and employment support for the prevention of homelessness. However, despite our best efforts, homelessness, in all aspects, has increased and there has been a greater use of temporary accommodation as interim housing. The effect of which is that Local Authority spending on homelessness services has increased significantly in real terms.

This increase is not unique to the Borough but is consistent with a national trend. Structural factors such as an increase in the level of private rents, rising evictions and a lack of affordable social housing has been behind this significant increase. The Council will continue to prevent homelessness, developing personalised housing plans for those that are likely to experience homelessness. We have embedded an early homelessness prevention ethos, with resources dedicated to devising creative ways and schemes in preventing homelessness ranging from negotiations and engagement with private landlords, to managing rent arrears. We have developed a pre-eviction process with several housing providers to ensure that if homeless is to take place than it does not present as a crisis but as a managed process.

Temporary Accommodation Policy.

We have created a temporary accommodation policy setting out our approach to the use of temporary accommodation, to ensure that it is suitable, cost-effective and meets local needs. We continue to explore and develop the procurement of temporary accommodation options to provide support for homeless singles and families and individuals presenting with more complex needs, including rough sleepers. The Government has committed to reforming the Private Rented Sector, making it fair, secure and fit for purpose.



Renters' Rights Act

The Renters' Rights Act has been enacted and will significantly transform the private rented sector. By creating a more stable and secure environment for tenants, it is expected to reduce homelessness presentations. The Council will operate within this new legislative framework to enhance awareness, ensure effective enforcement, and support a well-functioning private rented sector across the Borough. This approach will help to provide a more reliable and sustainable form of accommodation for residents.

Supporting those facing homelessness and rough sleeping

Rough sleeping is the most visible and damaging form of homelessness and can have significant physical and mental health impacts. In recent decades, successive governments have tried to reduce or end rough sleeping altogether.

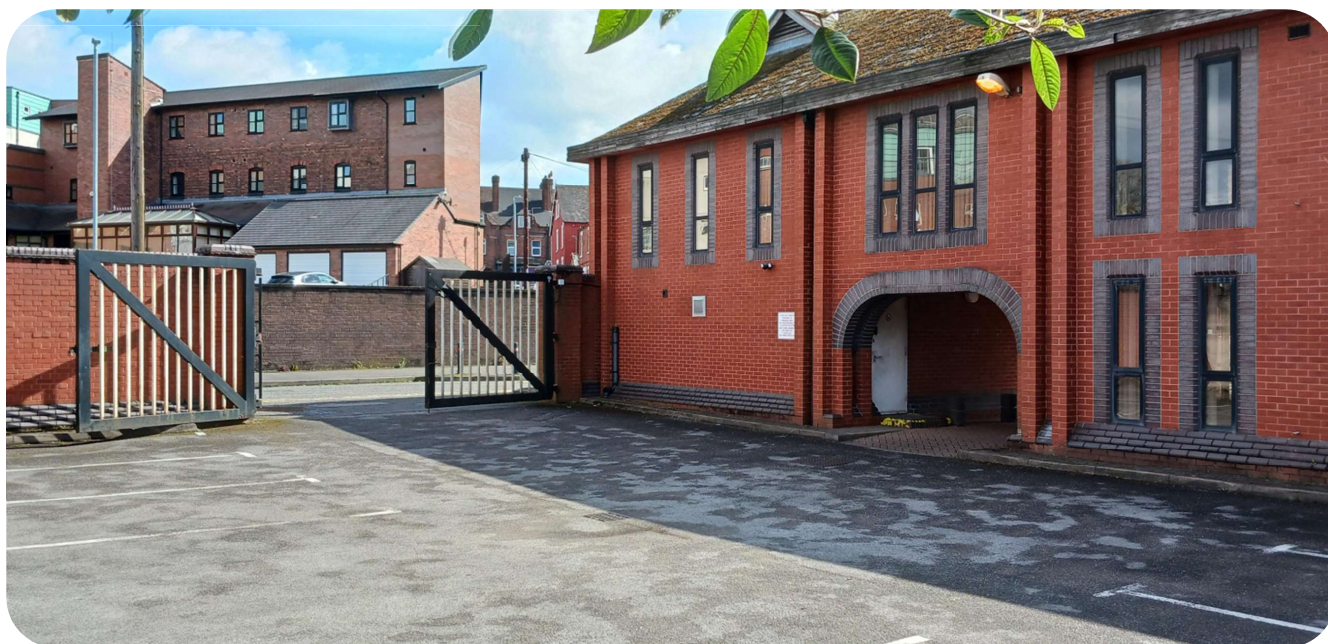
Local Authorities have statutory homelessness duties set out in part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 ('the 1996 act') Those who do and those who are at risk of rough sleeping often have multiple, complex needs, involve co-occurring mental health challenges and alcohol and/or drug misuse. In recognition of this, the Council has embedded a collaborative, partnership approach towards addressing rough sleeping; the establishment of a multi-agency hub to bring together services and to strengthen the prevention and recovery pathway.

The Hub offers; information and advice; signposting to accommodation, services; wellbeing and recovery including specialist health roles and various other partners.

This approach was recognised by LGA Peer Review Assessment describing the multi-agency Vulnerability Hub as "sector leading and a great example of the strong partnership work delivering impressive outcomes" and where "partners all have the same passion to make the difference and with no hierarchy - with everyone's contribution being equally valued."

Severe Weather Emergency Protocols (SWEP) are aimed at preventing harm or death among individuals sleeping rough during severe weather by providing emergency support and accommodation. The Council has adopted SWEPs in collaboration with several partners ranging from local authorities and voluntary organisations.

In the colder months (from November to March) when the temperature is forecast to drop to zero degrees (or below), Brighter Futures Rough Sleepers Team (RST) outreach service in conjunction with the Newcastle Rough Sleeper Team, will identify those rough sleeping who require accommodation.



In line with Government Strategy, the Council has an aspiration to significantly reduce rough sleeping in the Borough. We have embarked on an ambitious approach to achieve this. The Shared Prosperity Fund Board have approved capital and revenue funding to develop a innovative Homeless Hub for Newcastle-under-Lyme; Navigation House, which will serve several functions.

This will support homeless individuals who are some of the most disadvantaged in society and the furthest from accessing mainstream services. It will provide safe, secure emergency accommodation; a unit of 12 beds and 24/7 supported accommodation. It will also provide a conducive environment where an array of agencies; (Department for Works and Pension, Citizens Advice Bureau, rough sleeping services, housing providers, probation, adult social care, homeless healthcare, drug and alcohol services, etc) will be available to support individuals without the need for an appointment.

In addition to this, we will continue to work alongside our partner Aspire Housing who provide an array of initiatives to reduce rough sleeping and support households facing homelessness.

Housing need and accessing appropriate social housing

Affordable housing is key in preventing homelessness and alleviating it. Affordable rented and social rented properties are owned and managed by Registered Providers (RP), which are let below local market rents. The activities of RPs are overseen by the Regulator of Social Housing. Affordable housing can also meet a specific need, such as specialist housing for vulnerable, older or disabled people, known as “supported housing”.

In collaboration with Aspire Housing, who is the largest RP within the Borough, we have created a joint housing register and implemented an online system for the allocation of social housing, a choice-based lettings (CBL) system, allowing those on the housing register to bid for properties.

We have a range of nominations agreements with several registered providers with social housing stock in the Borough, to ensure that available social housing is used in the most effective manner to meet housing needs and to ensure that homeless households are accessing the most appropriate housing stock available. We understand that increasing the supply of affordable housing is important in helping us to address homelessness.

The Council recognises that increasing the supply of affordable housing remains essential to meeting local housing demand and reducing homelessness pressures. Alongside supply, ensuring the efficient use and allocation of existing stock is fundamental to achieving the best possible outcomes for residents.





	Actions
Housing and Health	1. To work collaboratively with organisations to improve health through housing, in particularly with Staffordshire County Council
	2. To identify actual projects related to Housing and Health that bring about tangible outcomes i.e. Damp and Mould, Joint Commissioning of Supported Accommodation
	3. To improve Housing Conditions through the utilisation of the Housing Health and Safety Rating Scheme, which will be both reactive, responding to complaints, and proactive, instigating inspections where appropriate
	4. To stay informed on the requirements of the Renters Rights Act and ensure readiness for its implementation.
	5. To reform the Supported Housing Accommodation Sector, in line with directives of Government, which is to ensure appropriate service provision and value for monies
	6. To work in collaboration with Staffordshire County Council to deliver the Warm Homes Local Grants
	7. To work with Beat the Cold and other organisation to provide an energy advice service that mitigates fuel poverty
	8. To provide efficient, timely adaptations, without compromising on quality to ensure we provide the best service for our applicants
	9. To identify Contractors from the local area who are able to provide adaptations to a high standard supporting the council's local plan and local economy
	10. To enhance the partnership working relationships with registered housing providers and private landlords to embed the introduction of Landlord Applications for Disabled Facilities Grants
	11. To submit a business case for capital funding to complete a borough-wide stock condition survey



	Actions
<i>Housing and Prosperity</i>	1. To embed and implement the Housing Policies in the Local Plan, once it has been adopted, which will bring about open market housing and affordable housing via planning gain 2. To deliver the projects that have been set out within the Town Deals scheme 3. To develop specific projects that would achieve the medium to long term vision of regeneration of communities that have lacked investment, in particular other former mining communities that were subject to the Housing Market Renewal Initiative 4. To work with Registered Providers, with a view of facilitating affordable and accessible housing via grant funding
<i>Homelessness and Rough Sleeping</i>	1. To work with Homes England to bring about Affordable Housing within the Borough 2. To create a step-down housing pathway from Navigation House 3. To work collaboratively with our partners to focus on preventing rough sleeping and homelessness 4. To continue our partnership working to coordinate efforts and resources



NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL



HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

2026-2030

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Report to Cabinet

04 August 2026



Traffic Regulation Order Amendment Consultation

Lead Member:

Cllr Jonathan Gullis – Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Commercial Services

Lead Officer:

Joanne Halliday – Service Director, Commercial Services

Key Decision: Yes

Ward(s): Kidsgrove and Ravenscliffe, Keele

Appendices: Appendix A – Traffic Regulation Order Amendment 2026 Consultation

Report Assurance:

Name		Date
Lead Officer	Joanne Halliday	08/07/26
Monitoring Officer	Olwen Brown	20/07/26
Section 151	Craig Turner	17/07/26
Chief Executive	Gordon Mole	17/07/26
Cabinet Member		

Report Summary

Traffic Regulation Orders are used to control the operating requirements for Council owned car parks. The Council has an adopted Traffic Regulation Order which it is proposed to amend to include 3 new car parks; Lyme Park Countryside Park, Keele, Meadows Road, Kidsgrove and Heathcote Street, Kidsgrove.

Recommendations

That the Cabinet:

1. Approve the Traffic Regulation Order Amendment for consultation.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Commercial Services to review the consultation response and make minor alterations as appropriate before adopting the Traffic Regulation Order.

1. Background

- 1.1. Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) are used by the Council to control car parks, they set out the operating rules and form the basis for drivers to know when and how they can park, which in turn is used to enforce where these rules are breached.
- 1.2. Before adopting or altering a TRO the Council should outline the proposals and consult to ensure that the proposals deliver the intended outcomes.
- 1.3. The appended TRO proposal seeks to introduce regulations on the following car parks:
 - 1.3.1. Lyme Park Countryside Park, Keele
 - 1.3.2. Meadows Road, Kidsgrove
 - 1.3.3. Heathcote Street, Kidsgrove
- 1.4. Cabinet previously approved the formation of the Lyme Park Countryside Park with the proposal for a time restriction on parking set at 2 hours. This is to ensure that there is a turnover of cars and that local people wishing to use the Park are able to find a space when they arrive.
- 1.5. Meadows Road, Kidsgrove is part of the UK Government-funded Local Regeneration Fund (Town Deal) programme with the construction of three small enterprise units on Meadows Road car park alongside realignment of the car park to provide up to 16 car parking spaces for short term use by both customers of local businesses and also those using public facilities such as the Library and Job Centre, as at the moment it is used by commuters using the train station. The TRO seeks to enable free parking for up to 2 hours and then chargeable after, with a discount for Sunday, Bank Holidays and event parking.
- 1.6. Heathcote Street, Kidsgrove, this is also part of the Town Deal programme whereby improvements are being made to the public realm in the town centre and the car parking closest to the shops is prioritised for use by customers. This TRO seeks to enable nipper parking of 30mins on King Street by the shops, short stay on the redeveloped lower bays of a maximum of 2 hours and long stay on the upper bays, all free. The intention of this is to ensure the turnover of the spaces closest to the shops but still provide free parking for those working all day in Kidsgrove.

2. Reasons

- 2.1. It is appropriate that Cabinet are aware of and support the TRO proposals before the consultation commences.
- 2.2. By combining the proposals for Lyme Park Countryside Park and the regeneration projects involving the car parks in Kidsgrove the Council is being efficient in utilising officer time and in minimising the advertising costs.

3. Strategic Approach

- 3.1. An up to date TRO enables the Council to effectively charge and enforce parking regulations which in turn supports the delivery of the Council Plan.

4. Finance & Resources

- 4.1. The costs of advertising for the TRO can be met from existing Kidsgrove Town Deal and Lyme Park revenue budgets. The enforcement will be undertaken by the existing staffing resources within the Neighbourhood Delivery service's Mobile Multi-functional team.

5. Legal & Governance

- 5.1. The Council uses 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 to make the Order Amendment.
- 5.2. In developing these proposals, the Council believes that the benefits of the amendments are worth pursuing the proposals. There is a risk that the consultation will raise objections. If after due consideration these objections are viewed to be minor and can be safely incorporated into the proposals, the order can proceed in the current form. Should the objections be significant the Council would have to consider if the order should proceed in its current form or not.

6. Supporting Information

- 6.1. On 14 October 2025, Cabinet agreed that 'a Traffic Regulation Order 2025 Amendment is drafted for consultation on the basis that the car park to serve the Lyme Park Countryside Park is free for a 2-hour limit per day, then subject to consultation comments that delegation is given to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Town Centres and Growth to adopt the amendment.'
- 6.2. A key objective of the Kidsgrove Town Deal Investment Plan is to create a connected, accessible town centre which links key assets, retains the heritage and uniqueness of Kidsgrove, promotes active travel and diversifies and drives new demand and footfall.

- 6.3 Appendix 1 to this report sets out the Traffic Regulation Order Amendment 2026 Consultation Version, containing the legal basis for the order and the operating proposals for the car parks.

**THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME 'OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES' AMENDMENT ORDER 1/ 2026
CONSULTATION**

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 Regulation 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, after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police hereby make the following Order:

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

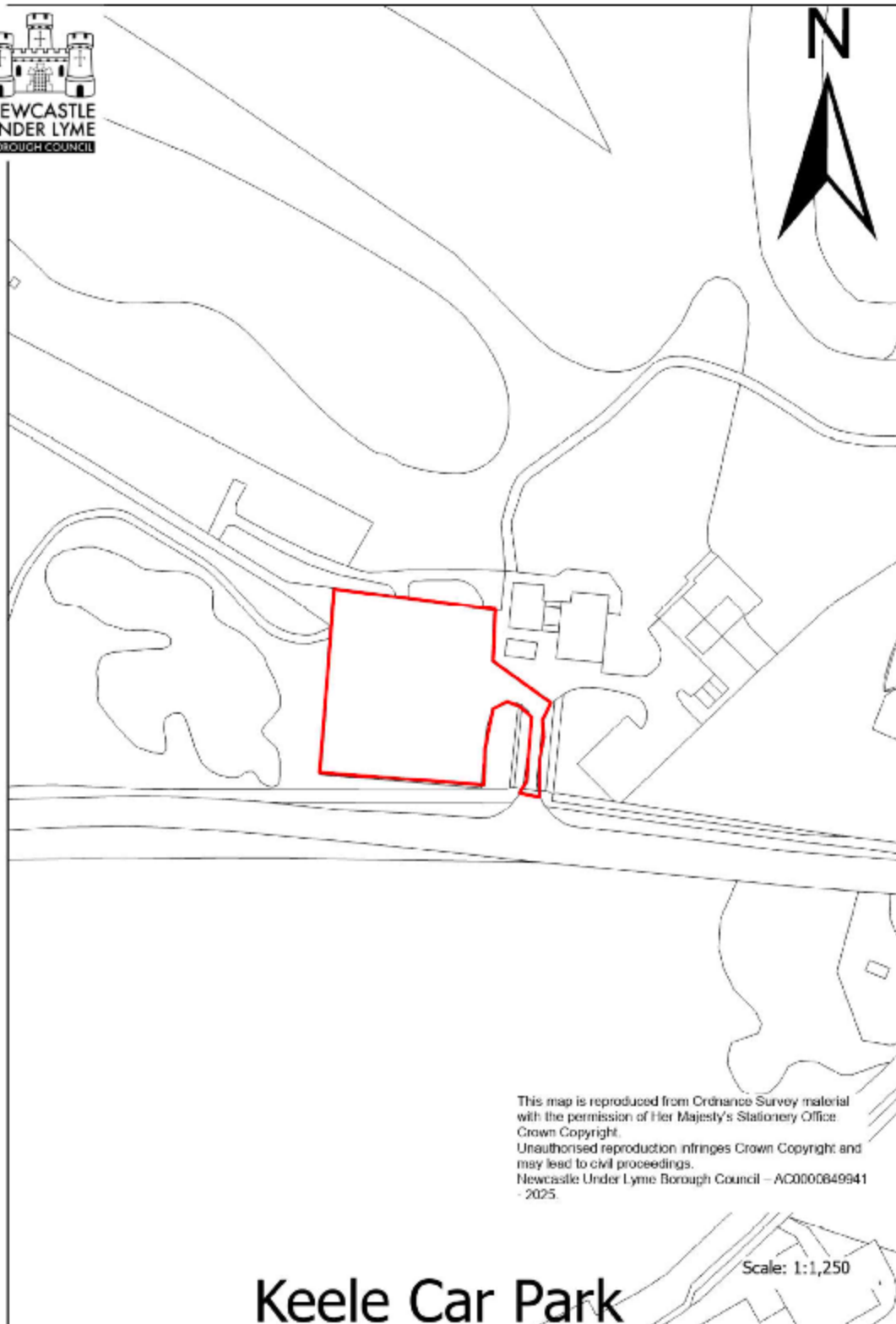
Mayor / Councillor

Authorised Signatory

Dated

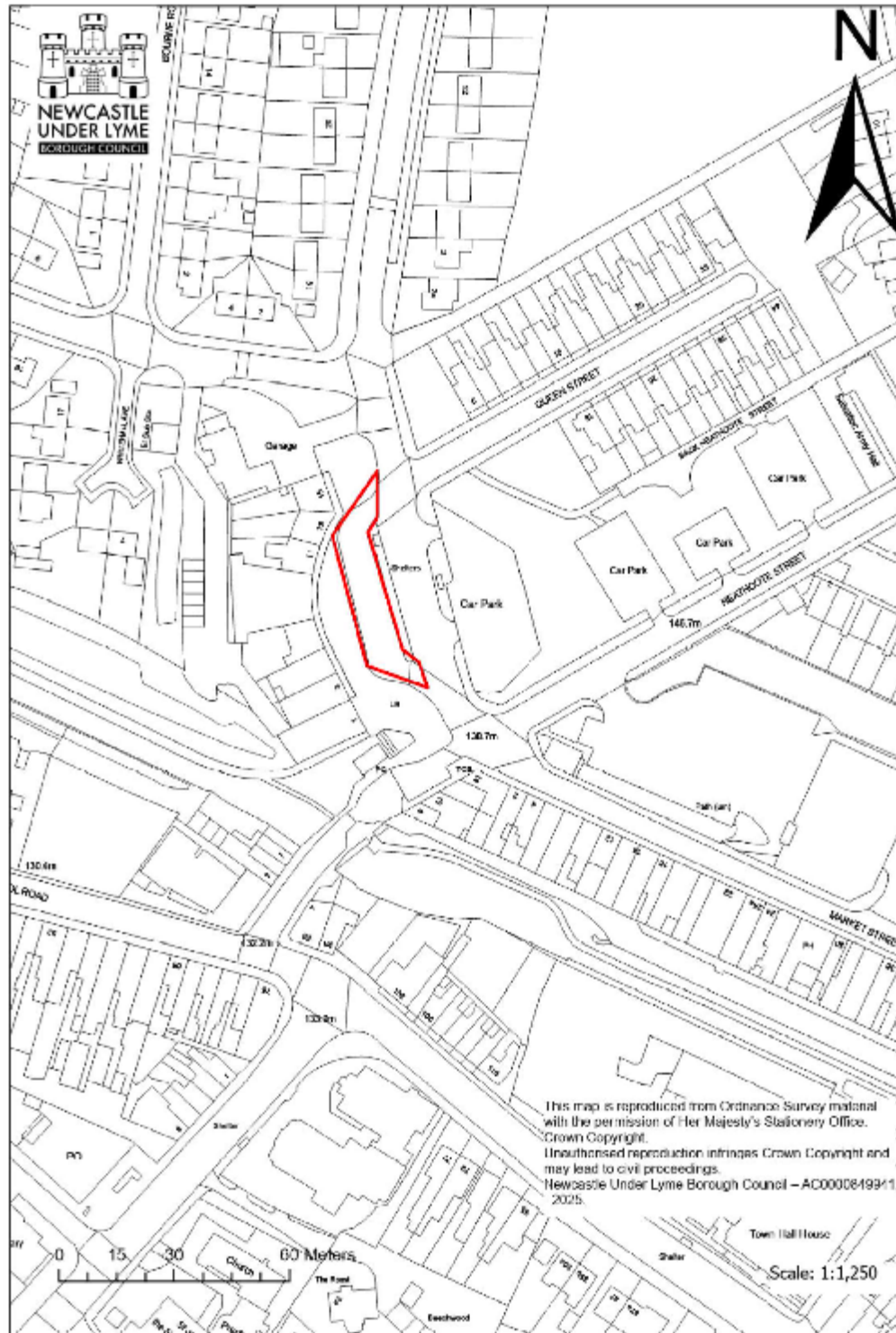
FIRST SCHEDULE

No.	Parking Place	Classes of Vehicles	a) Days of operation b) Hours of operation	Charging days and hours	Maximum period of waiting	Scale of Charges (£)
1	Lyme Park Countryside Park	Passenger vehicles Goods vehicles Motor vehicles	a) All days b) All hours	Free	2 hours and no return within 6 hours Angler Permits unlimited waiting	£0
2	Meadows Road	Passenger vehicles Goods vehicles Motor vehicles	a) All days b) All hours	Monday to Sunday 24 hours	24 hours	Up to 2 hours Free Up to 24 hours £3.00 Sunday, BH and Event Parking £1.50
3	Heathcote Street	Passenger vehicles Goods vehicles Motor vehicles	a) All days b) All hours	Monday to Sunday 24 hours	Shop/Nipper on King Street – 30mins Short Stay lower bays – 2 hours max stay Long Stay upper bays – 24 hours	Short Stay (under 2hours) £0 Long Stay (over 2hours) £0

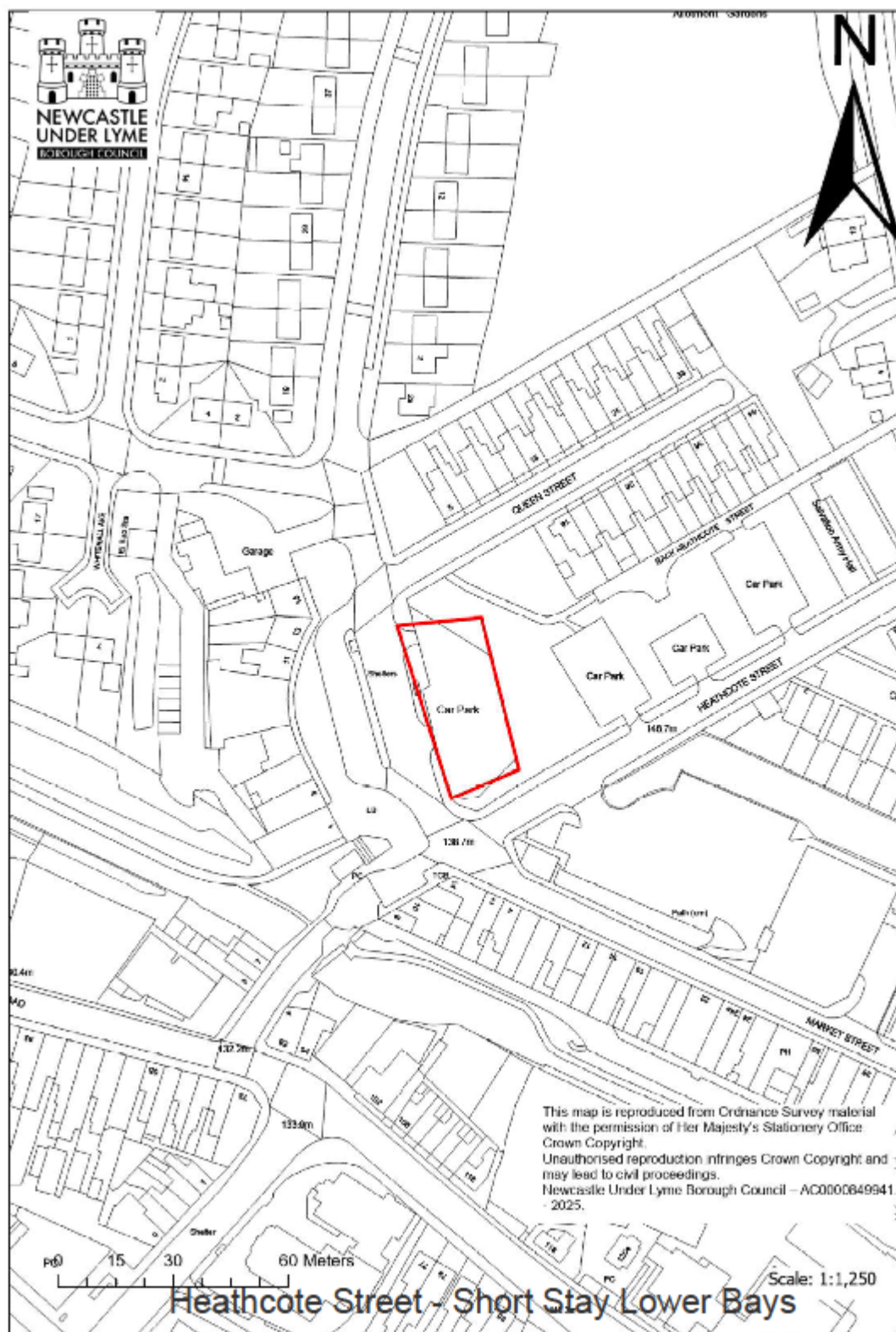




Heathcote Street - Long Stay Upper Bays



Heathcote Street - Shop/Nipper on King Street



Report to Cabinet

04 August 2026



Lyme Valley Pump Track

Lead Member:

Cllr Andrew Fisher – Portfolio Holder for Residents Services and Neighbourhoods

Lead Officer:

Roger Tait – Service Director, Neighbourhood Delivery

Key Decision: Yes

Ward(s): Clayton

Appendices: Initial Design and Costing Proposals for Consultation

Report Assurance:

	Name	Date
Lead Officer	Roger Tait	24/06/26
Monitoring Officer	Olwyn Brown	
Section 151	Craig Turner	17/07/26
Chief Executive	Gordon Mole	17/07/26
Cabinet Member	Andrew Fisher	

Report Summary

The report seeks approval to transform an existing BMX Track in Lyme Valley into a modern pump track facility to cater for a range of wheeled sports, and to allocate existing Section 106 Agreement funding to the project. Public consultation will be undertaken online to gauge community views on options for the facility, which have been prepared by specialist design and build contractors.

Recommendations

That the Cabinet:

1. Approves the initial draft proposals received from specialist design and build contractors for consultation;
2. Authorises the Service Director – Neighbourhood Delivery, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Residents Services and Neighbourhoods, to approve the final design having considered the consultation responses, and to award the contract for construction of the facility to the lowest suitable tender subject to the full costs falling within the available budget;
3. Allocates the identified Section 106 Agreement funding totalling £135,000 to the project, and authorises officers to continue to seek additional funding to bridge the gap to the estimated total cost of £150,000.

1. Background

- 1.1. The Lyme Valley is one of the Borough Council's strategic parks, serving a large catchment area and providing a wide range of sporting and recreational facilities to cater for all ages.
- 1.2. There is an existing BMX Track in Lyme Valley which was installed around 20 years ago as part of the "Greening for Growth" programme which invested in green spaces across the North Staffordshire conurbation as a contributor to economic development.
- 1.3. Although popular, the BMX Track is in need of updating and remodelling to enable it to cater for other wheeled sports. The more modern version of this type of facility is a pump track, which can be used by BMX bikes, skateboards, scooters and rollerblades. A very successful pump track was installed at Newchapel Recreation Ground in 2021 as part of the Kidsgrove Advance Town Deal Fund, and another pump track is currently under construction at Bradwell Dingle.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The estimated cost of installing a pump track at Lyme Valley, based on previous similar projects, is around £150,000. To date, approximately £135,000 has been identified in existing secured Section 106 Agreement funds which can be allocated to the scheme.
- 2.2. The project would reprofile and extend the existing BMX Track and surface it in tarmac to provide a smooth riding surface for wheeled sports.

- 2.3. Specialist design and build contractors were invited to provide options for the facility within the prescribed budget envelope. The initial draft design options are attached to this report at Appendix 1.
- 2.4. It is proposed that the options are now subject to a public consultation exercise via the Council's website and with targeted stakeholders (ward members, community groups etc) for a period of around 6 weeks.
- 2.5. Subject to the consultation outcome, it is proposed that the final detailed scheme is approved and the contract is awarded to the lowest suitable tender in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Residents Services and Neighbourhoods. Following this, the construction contract would be let with an estimated build time of 10-12 weeks.
- 2.6. It is estimated that the facility would be open for use in late 2026, based on the above sequencing and subject to the full amount of required funding being secured.
- 2.7. The project would be managed by the Neighbourhood Delivery Service (Landscape and Community Team) by outsourcing to a specialist design and build contractor.

3. Strategic Approach

- 3.1. The Lyme Valley is a strategic park in the Borough and serves a large catchment area, providing a range of sport, play and recreational facilities catering for all ages. This project will enhance the offer in the park and provide further opportunities for young people to engage in outdoor activities which contribute to improved health and wellbeing.

4. Finance & Resources

- 4.1. The estimated capital cost of installing a pump track in Lyme Valley on the site of the current BMX Track is approximately £150,000.
- 4.2. To date, approximately £135,000 has been identified in secured Section 106 Agreement funds which can be allocated to the project. Officers will continue to review opportunities to identify additional funds but in the meantime, the brief to specialist design and build contractors specified an option within the current secured budget envelope of £135,000, and a provisional option for a scheme within a budget envelope of £150,000, which could be progressed if additional funds are secured.
- 4.3. Staff resources within the Neighbourhood Delivery Service are limited but have been diverted into initiating this project as members decided that it is a priority. This may impact on the ability to deliver other projects or workstreams.

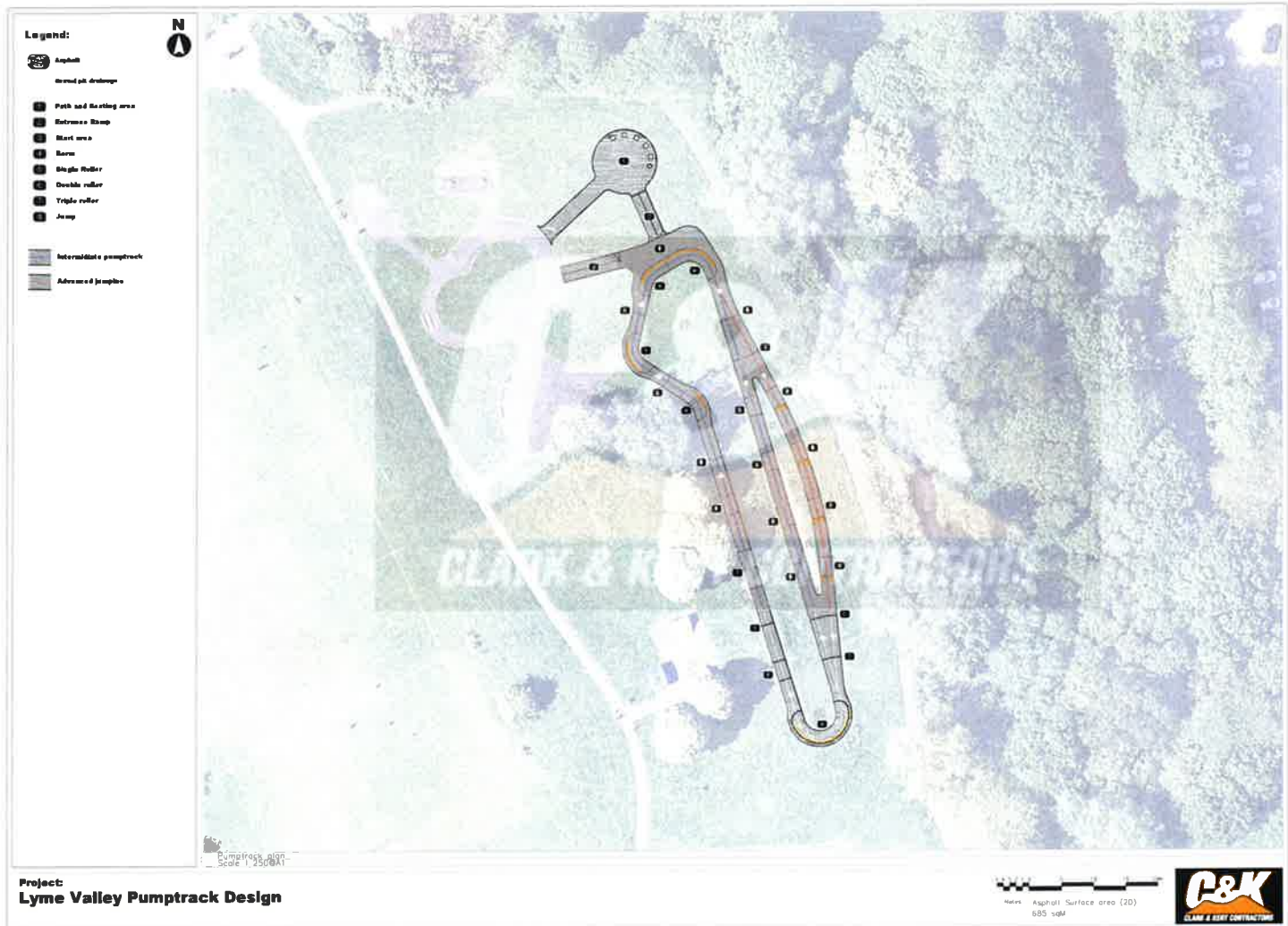
5. Legal & Governance

- 5.1. The Council owns and manages the land in Lyme Valley Parkway and has the power to provide recreational facilities for the community in such sites.
- 5.2. There is a risk that the scheme costs could exceed the current budget. This has been mitigated by specifying the available budget envelope in the brief to the contractor, and by continuing to seek additional funding opportunities.
- 5.3. There is a risk of an adverse response to the consultation on the facility from the community. This will be mitigated by siting it on the existing footprint of the BMX Track where use of this nature is already established.

6. Supporting Information

6.1. Appendix 1 – initial design options and costings for consultation.

4. Design Proposal (35%)



Design Philosophy

The proposed pump track will be designed as a flowing, organic circuit that blends naturally into Lyme Valley Park. Largely utilising all of the existing footprint of the track along with using some of the space to the north of the existing track. Having grown up in and around the borough and using Lyme valley pump track when it was originally built we have a good understanding of the area, site access, user group and what it means for the local community.

Key objectives include:

- Suitable for beginners through to experienced riders
- Continuous riding without pedalling
- Inclusive layout
- Safe sight lines

- Natural landscaping integration
- Durable low-maintenance construction and low future on costs to the council

Proposed Features

Main loop

Advanced line

Rollers

Berms

Table tops

Progression features

Rest area

Viewing area

Seating

Native planting around perimeter

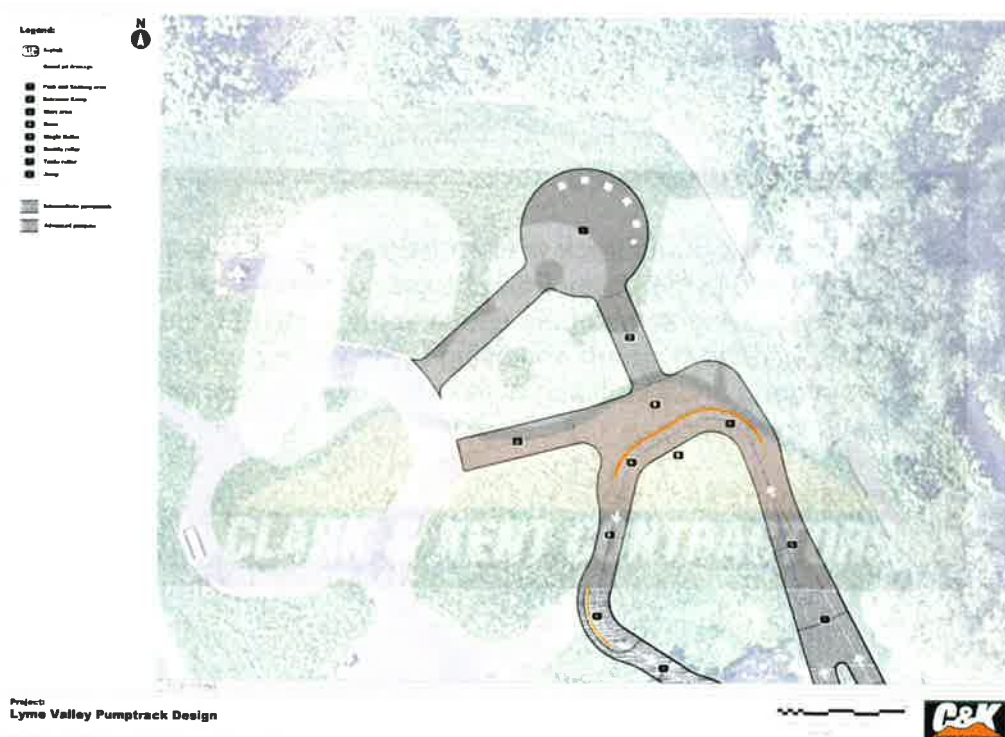
Seating Area

A robust seating area will be positioned overlooking the pump track to allow:

- Parents supervision
- Rest area
- Social gathering space
- Informal meeting point

Materials:

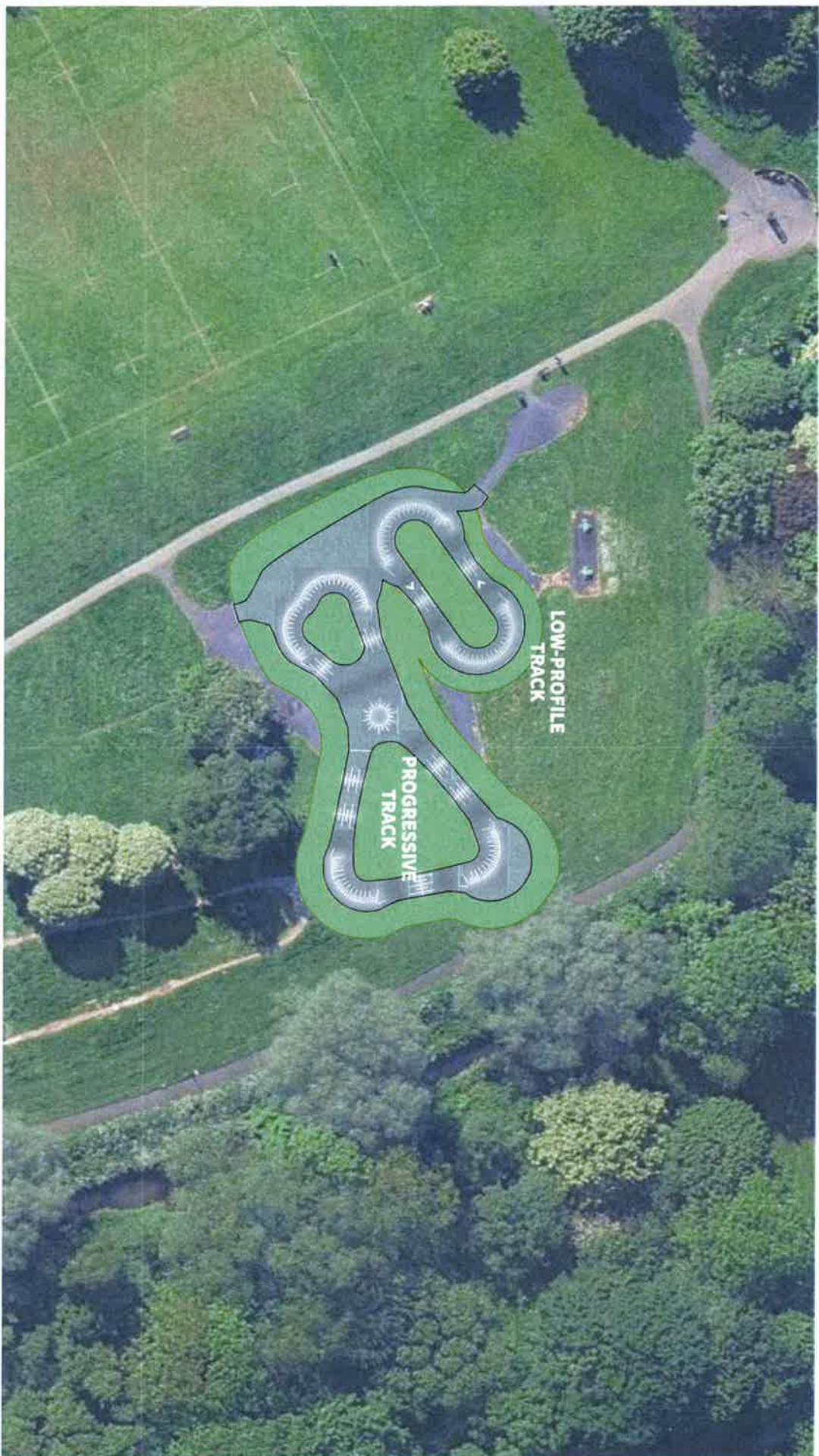
- Concrete cube seating
- Tarmac surface
- Anti-vandal finishes



ON TRACK

SKETCH DESIGN

PRICE ESTIMATE - £135,000



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Report to Cabinet

04 August 2026



Local Government Association Withdrawal

Lead Member:

Cllr. Jonathan Gullis – Leader of the Council

Lead Officer:

Gordon Mole – Chief Executive

Key Decision: No

Ward(s): All Wards

Appendices: Not applicable

Report Assurance:

	Name	Date
Lead Officer	Gordon Mole	13/07/26
Monitoring Officer	Olwen Brown	20/07/2026
Section 151	Craig Turner	17/07/26
Chief Executive		
Cabinet Member		

Report Summary

Following the resolution of full Council on 8th July 2026 to withdraw from the Local Government Association (LGA) immediately, this report sets out the Council's position in respect of its membership and next steps to be carried out.

Recommendations

That the Cabinet:

1. Notes the will of the Council to seek immediate withdrawal from the Local Government Association including all committees, events, activities, and information sharing;
2. Notes the terms and conditions of LGA membership and agrees to delegate to the Service Director for Finance and Service Director, Legal & Governance in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Portfolio Holder for Legal, Governance & Operational Performance to engage with the LGA to withdraw on immediate terms;
3. Notes the engagement with other authorities to understand the position of the Council outside of the LGA;
4. Notes the Council's withdrawal from LGA associated bodies, including the Local Councils Network and LG Inform.
5. Agrees that, should the purpose and structure of the LGA change significantly to address members' concerns as expressed in the motion to full Council, Cabinet will give due consideration to membership in future years.

1. Background

- 1.1. Following the commencement of the Council's new administration in May 2026, on 8th July 2026 a motion was resolved at full Council to withdraw immediately from the Local Government Association.
- 1.2. The LGA acts as a representative body for councils in England, offering events, advice, training for members and officers and representation of the local government sector to UK Government.
- 1.3. Membership of the LGA is voluntary, and is paid in advance for each financial year. Annual membership of the LGA for 2026/2027 for the Council was £11,xxx. Additional costs are applicable for attendance at some events and activities, such as the annual LGA Conference.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council's departure from the LGA has precedent, with a number of councils having left the LGA (with some electing to rejoin following changes of administration). Officers have sought to engage with those councils and officers who have experience of operating outside of the LGA to understand what, if any, areas they have required to resource which were previously provided by the LGA.

3. Strategic Approach

- 3.1. Officers have reviewed the relevant services provided by the LGA in the following areas:
 - 3.1.1 Annual employer-side negotiation of employee pay
 - 3.1.2 Data and information
 - 3.1.3 Information from UK Government
 - 3.1.4 Member and officer training
 - 3.1.5 Member committees and networks
 - 3.1.6 Participation in reviews and peer activity

Annual Employer-side negotiations of employee pay

- 3.2. Advice in relation to the Council's position in respect of annual pay negotiations was sought from West Midlands Employers, the representative body for councils in the region.
- 3.3. The LGA, as a membership body, acts as the host body for the Employers side of the NJC and the other local government negotiating bodies such as Fire and Rescue services, Teachers and Craft/ Red Book staff. In this role, the LGA acts as the national secretariat but agreements are technically negotiated by Elected Members which make up the Employer Side.
- 3.4. The Council will continue to implement its pay awards for National Joint Council (NJC) and JNC settlements. National Joint Council (Green Book) or JNC (Senior Manager) contracts mean that within their terms and conditions the Council has agreed, as the employer, to adhere to a number of provisions within those frameworks (for example the NJC pay spine and annual pay awards) in addition to any existing local arrangements of the employment contract which are not specified within the Green Book.
- 3.5. Councils including Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council who are NJC employers are bound by agreements made jointly by trades unions and the Employers Side negotiating body, independent of the involvement of the LGA. Employers can therefore apply NJC pay awards and whether they are LGA members or not.
- 3.6. West Midlands Employers shares all relevant staffing and pay-related information with all councils in the region, including those emanating from the LGA.

Data and Information

- 3.7. The LGA hosts the data resource *LG Inform*, which provides contextual, financial and performance data across a range of topic areas. This resource is funded by UK Government and is free to access. A separate product, *LG Inform Plus*, is utilised by the Council to complete its annual API (application programmable interface) data submission. *LG Inform Plus* is a commercial, chargeable product which does not form part of LGA membership and is available to all organisations whether members of the LGA or not.
- 3.8. Officers are currently reviewing the data required to enable Local Government Reorganisation and that which may be needed in the development of a new Council Plan 2026-2030.
- 3.9. Following the announcement of Local Government Reorganisation, officers will be working closely with officers from other Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent authorities and regularly network with other authorities through professional networks.

- 3.10. Officers will monitor any areas which require alternative data or information sharing arrangements and work with the Administration on requirements as may arise.

Information from UK Government

- 3.11. Since 2025, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has implemented a daily email briefing during parliamentary terms directly to all local authorities with key information and updates. MHCLG also hosts a place engagement team, whom officers meet on a regular basis to raise any points which may be applicable to the local government sector. Further updates are provided through West Midlands Employers.
- 3.12. UK Government funds a range of support activity which is delivered through organisations including the LGA, on areas such as sector support for Local Government Reorganisation. This support is available to all local authorities, whether members of the LGA or not.
- 3.13. UK Government departments also write regularly to the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive, Statutory and Chief Officers, on a range of matters such as grant information, data provision and requests, legislative and policy changes.

Member and Officer Training

- 3.14. The LGA has previously provided training to elected members including seminars on policy and practice, equality, regulatory committees (including training on licencing and planning), and induction resources (some of which are free to access).
- 3.15. The Council will not be able to access LGA training and briefing materials, or resources such as coaching for elected members. Officers have recently delivered training to committee members for planning and licencing, and are developing in-house training for newly elected members in areas such as standards and media training, and will regularly review what additional areas of training and development may be required. There may be an additional cost if this cannot be delivered by officers.
- 3.16. As noted above, MHCLG funds some training and development programmes, for example seminars to district and borough council officers on upper tier council services (SEND, Children's Services and Adult Social Care), which are delivered through the LGA but are open to all local authorities.
- 3.17. Through service training budgets and a commitment to continuing professional development, officers remain able to access to training and upskilling, including through sector professional networks.
- 3.18. LGA also provides advice to councils in areas such as workforce issues, skills and member support. Whilst the Council has significant professional experience in these and other areas, officers will utilise its networks, including West Midlands Employers, for any ad-hoc advice required.

Member committees and networks

- 3.19. Annual Council nominates a representative to the Local Government Association, currently the Leader of the Council. This role acts as the key representative for the Council at the LGA. Members may seek election to policy and other committees such as the Local Government resources Committee, Neighbourhoods Committee and Inclusive Growth Committee within the LGA structure, which are based on a balance of council type and political balance.
- 3.20. The Council's appointed LGA representative attends the General Assembly as the Council's formal representative, while attendance at boards, committees, forums and networks depends on whether individual councillors have been appointed or elected into those LGA roles.

- 3.21. General Assembly is held during the LGA Annual Conference, for which there is an additional cost. In 2025, the price of attendance was c. £3,000, including accommodation for three representatives (one officer and two elected members). The Council did not attend the 2026 Annual Conference.
- 3.22. Elected members have also been able to provide services to other LGA members, such as peer support.
- 3.23. Going forward, in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, formal arrangements are in place for a Staffordshire Leaders' Board which covers a range of thematic areas, together with a focus on forthcoming implementation of Government policy in areas such as devolution. In addition, members may elect to work with their political groups for any formal or informal networks which exist.
- 3.24. Councillors and officers will not be able to attend LGA events following the passing of the resolution at full Council on 8th July 2026 in their capacity as elected members or representatives of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council.
- 3.25. The LGA also comprises networks for upper and lower-tier local authorities. The Local Councils Network (previously District Councils Network) provides support, advice, networking and guidance to lower-tier authorities, and membership of this body will also cease following the motion to full Council.

Participation in reviews and peer activity

- 3.26. The LGA oversees and supports additional activity, such as peer reviews for authorities. These remain accessible to authorities outside LGA membership, and London Borough of Bromley, which left the LGA in 2010, has just completed its peer review process. The Council was last peer reviewed in 2023 and is not due any further review ahead of Local Government Reorganisation.
- 3.27. In the development of this report, officers engaged with the LGA Regional representative, West Midlands Employers and officers who had direct experience of withdrawing from the LGA in LB Barnet and LB Bromley. LB Bromley withdrew from the LGA some 16 years ago, and notes that in their consideration there are no areas of concern around being outside of the LGA, and no plans to rejoin the association.

4. Finance & Resources

- 4.1. The Council's primary outlay in respect of the LGA is its annual subscription. Table 1, below sets out the subscription costs since 2021/2022, together with costs associated with the LGA Annual Conference, as noted in para 3.20 above. These costs do not include travel or accommodation expenses in relation to attendance at events and meetings, which are accrued to service budgets for officers or to corporate expenses for elected members.

Financial Year	Subscription	Events	Staff Time (inc. on costs)	Accommodation/ Expenses	Total
2026/27	£11,538	-	-	-	£11,538
2025/26	£11,311	£1,734	£1,946	£1,088	£16,079
2024/25	£11,311	£1,701	£1,879	£1,643	£16,534
2023/24	£11,311	£2,065	£2,504	£1,392	£17,272
2022/23	£11,090	£1,689	£1,750	£1,284	£15,813
2021/22	£10,872	-	-	-	£10,872
Total	£67,433	£7,189	£8,079	£5,407	£88,108

Table 1: Subscription and associated costs for LGA membership, note subscription for 2026/27 paid in April 2026

- 4.2 The Council will accrue savings from 2027/2028, subject to exiting the membership agreement with the LGA.

5. Legal & Governance

- 5.1. The LGA Articles of Association sets out the conditions of payment for membership as below.
- 5.1.1 Any Member Authority wishing to terminate its individual membership of the Association... shall give not less than twelve months' notice in writing to the Chief Executive to expire on 31 March in any year. [] At the expiration of the period of notice the Member Authority giving notice shall cease to be a Member Authority and shall become a Past Member Authority.
- 5.2 The membership cycle for the LGA is not concurrent with the elections cycle and therefore is not aligned to a political change in leadership and direction. Officers are therefore engaged with the LGA to seek early release from the association, noting that a payment had been made in 2026 ahead of the May elections.

6. Supporting Information

- 6.1. None

Report to Cabinet

04 August 2026



Local Government Reorganisation Update

Lead Member:

Cllr. Jonathan Gullis, Leader of the Council

Lead Officer:

Gordon Mole, Chief Executive

Key Decision: No

Ward(s): All Wards

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Letter from Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government for LGR in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent

Report Assurance:

	Name	Date
Lead Officer	Gordon Mole	17/07/26 (updated 03/08/26)
Monitoring Officer	Olwen Brown	21/07/26
Section 151	Craig Turner	17/07/26
Chief Executive	Gordon Mole	17/07/26 (updated 03/08/26)
Cabinet Member	Cllr. Jonathan Gullis	03/08/26

Report Summary

This report provides an update on Local Government Reorganisation following the announcement of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government on 16th July 2026.

Recommendations

That the Cabinet:

1. Notes the Secretary of State's Written Ministerial Statement of 16th July 2026 concerning Local Government Reorganisation;
2. Notes the Government's decision to replace the current two-tier local government arrangements in Staffordshire with two new unitary authorities from April 2028, subject to Parliamentary approval;
3. Notes that Newcastle-under-Lyme would form part of the proposed North Staffordshire Unitary Council alongside Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council;
4. Notes the Leader of the Council has asked officers to seek specialist legal advice in respect of the Secretary of State's decision;
5. Agrees that in respect of arrangements to meet required activity for Local Government Reorganisation, that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, progresses early stage activity to be in a position to carry out statutory work.
6. Notes that a special meeting of full Council will be held to debate the announced reorganisation and next steps.

1. Background

- 1.1 UK Government's Local Government Reorganisation programme has sought to replace two-tier local government arrangements with unitary councils exercising all principal local authority functions.
- 1.2 On 16 July 2026, the Secretary of State, Rt Hon Steve Reed MP, announced decisions on fourteen reorganisation areas across England. The announcement followed the consideration of proposals submitted by councils and subsequent public consultation.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 UK Government has now reached a formal decision on the future governance arrangements for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent following consultation on reorganisation proposals submitted by local authorities.
- 2.2 The decision represents the most significant reform of local government structures in Staffordshire since the 1974 local government reorganisation and will ultimately result in the abolition of the Borough Council and the creation of successor unitary authorities.

3 Strategic Approach

- 3.1 In November 2025, following approval at full Council, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council submitted a final proposal to UK Government for the establishment of new unitary authorities. This proposal, for four unitary councils in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, formed one of five cases to UK Government, with other submissions setting out plans for 2 or 3 unitaries, the majority of which sought a north-south arrangement, and Staffordshire County Council favouring an east-west geography.
- 3.2 Newcastle-under-Lyme's proposal sought to reflect local opinion on maintaining a distinct footprint on the existing borough boundaries. This submission was supported on a cross-party basis. The Council's Administration simultaneously sought to engage with Ministers and local Members of Parliament to strongly object to local government reorganisation taking place and the removal of the two-tier council system in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.
- 3.3 Following the Council's elections on 7th May 2026, the new Administration has written to the outgoing and incoming Prime Ministers, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government and Ministers and Members of Parliament to urge UK Government to halt reorganisation and focus on the earliest establishment of a Mayor for the region.
- 3.4 The Member of Parliament for Newcastle-under-Lyme spoke against the plans for new authority geographies, together with the process for the announcement, on 16th July 2026.
- 3.5 The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government issued a letter to Leaders of councils in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent following his announcement in Parliament, confirming that the Government has selected the two-unitary proposal submitted by East Staffordshire Borough Council, Stafford Borough Council, Cannock Chase District Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council.
- 3.6 The proposal provides for the new unitary areas of:
 - 3.1. North Staffordshire Unitary Council Comprising: Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council area; Stoke-on-Trent City Council area; and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council area; and
 - 3.2. South Staffordshire Unitary Council Comprising: Stafford Borough; Cannock Chase; East Staffordshire; Lichfield; South Staffordshire; and Tamworth.
 - 3.3. All functions currently delivered by councils in these two areas will be carried out by the new authorities from 1st April 2028 with elections to a Shadow Authority held in May 2027.
- 3.7 Following the announcement, the Secretary of State has appointed the Chief Executive of Staffordshire County Council as Senior Responsible Owner for the reorganisation programme in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, to lead preparing councils (current authorities) in commencing and completing work ahead of a) the establishment of new 'shadow' authorities in May 2027 and b) the transition to these new authorities in April 2028.

Councils are required to co-operate with the minded-to decision by the Secretary of State but may consider whether there are grounds to challenge decisions. A structural change order for the creation of the new authorities must be delivered on the current timetable to Parliament in late Autumn 2026, to be approved by Parliament by March 2027.

- 3.8 On 20th July 2026, a letter was issued to affected Councils' Chief Executives setting out the required actions to deliver a Structural Change Order for reorganisation in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. A copy of this letter is included as Appendix 3 to this report.
- 3.9 The letter requested early response from preparing councils on warding and electoral arrangements. Officers have prepared a Newcastle-under-Lyme position and work continues with the four preparing councils for North Staffordshire ahead of a submission date of 17th August 2026. The letter outlines the number of councillors for the new authority, which will be 84 in total for North Staffordshire.
- 3.10 The letter also sets out preliminary arrangements for Joint Committees ahead of the election of a shadow authority in May 2027. For North Staffordshire, 8 councillors will form the Joint Committee, with 4 of these coming from the existing Stoke-on-Trent City Council, 2 from Staffordshire County Council and one each from Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.
- 3.11 An announcement by the Prime Minister on 31st July 2026 set out plans for the transferral of some fiscal and legal powers to existing Mayoral authorities. For areas without an established Mayor, it is anticipated that a Strategic Authority will be in place by 2028 (with a Mayoral system to follow at a future date), and further information is expected in the Autumn of 2026. The Leader of the Council has written to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State to press a case for an early Mayoral authority for the region.

4. Finance & Resources

- 4.1 Based on the experience of other regions which have undertaken local government reorganisation, (LGR) there will be a significant draw on both human and financial resources to prepare for LGR, involving both new staff requirements and the repurposing of staffing to provide the necessary information, data and collaboration required to deliver against challenging timescales. More detail of these requirements are being scoped across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent following the announcement on 16th July 2026, and will be provided in a further report.
- 4.2 Following the decision of the Secretary of State, initial briefing and question-and-answer sessions have been held with staff across the Council, as part of a regular engagement approach to involve and inform all staff as to the forthcoming changes. Elected members received an update on the day of the announcement, and will have an opportunity to debate the matter further through full Council and committees as matters progress.
- 4.3 The Council has, to date, expended c. £200,000 in the preparation of proposals for LGR. At its budget meeting of February 2026, the Council set aside a Local Government Reorganisation reserve of £400,000 for the current financial year to cover staffing and professional fees costs, implementation work and other expenses associated with LGR. A further £200,000 has been allowed for in the budget setting process for 2027/28. This will be regularly monitored to ensure sufficient and proportionate resources are available.
- 4.4 The Council will seek to appoint a dedicated Service Director, Local Government Reorganisation to deliver the Council's responsibilities as set out in the directions from UK Government. This officer will report to the Cabinet Member for Residents' Services & Neighbourhoods, with LGR work being overseen by the Cabinet Member and the Leader of the Council.

- 3.4. This issuing of a 'minded-to' decision by the Secretary of State is the first stage of direction by UK Government in implementing LGR, ahead of the passing of a Structural Change Order to establish new authorities and abolish existing councils in April 2028. The decision may be challenged if there are sufficient grounds for doing so. Three county council authorities are currently pursuing judicial review on specific grounds related to their areas, with further authorities considering their position. Havant District Council considered but subsequently didn't pursue a judicial review following advice from Counsel.
- 3.5. If the Council is minded to seek to challenge the decision by way of judicial review such a challenge would have to be made quickly. The Leader of the Council has therefore requested that officers seek initial Counsel advice on whether the Council would have grounds for a judicial review.
- 3.6. There is a three-month time limit on actions for judicial review, running from when the decision is made, but the courts emphasise that any challenge should be made as soon as possible. If the Council wished to challenge it would need grounds upon which to do so. Any successful challenge would mean the decision was quashed but it would not prevent the secretary of State reconsidering the matter. The courts will not substitute their own decision.

6 Supporting Information

- 6.1 A letter from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government is set out in Appendix 1.
- 6.2 A breakdown of consultation responses to the five proposals for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are set out in Appendix 2.
- 3.7. A letter from MHCLG in respect of work required for the Structural Change Order covering Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is set out in Appendix 3.
- 3.8. A letter from the Leader of the Council to the Prime Minister following the announcement of LGR in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is set out in Appendix 4.
- 3.9. A letter from the Leader of the Council to the Secretary of State following the announcement of LGR in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is set out in Appendix 5.

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Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP

*Secretary of State for Housing,
Communities & Local Government*
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Leaders in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent

By email

16 July 2026

Dear Leaders,

Thank you for your continued work to deliver local government reorganisation in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. This Government is delivering the most ambitious programme of local government reform in a generation, replacing the inefficient two-tier system with new unitary councils so that all parts of our country can access strong services, and are ready for devolution. We need to devolve power out of Whitehall so that we can rebalance wealth, power and opportunity across our country. But devolution must be built on strong local councils that can deliver good public services, support growth, and remain closely connected to the communities they serve.

Doing this right means recognising the unique contributions that different areas make to people's lives, as well as to the national economy. Some of our smaller cities are highly productive, but have been constrained by tight boundaries, set decades ago, which stop them from building the homes they need. Others are more rural, with significant demand for social care services and affordable housing. Local government should be set up to address the unique circumstances of each area and design public services tailored to each community.

Reorganisation provides us with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to ensure that councils genuinely represent the communities they serve today and stand the test of time. We know that people care about their own villages, home towns, high streets and communities. In many parts of the country, existing boundaries do not match local economies, public services, or local identities.

We won't achieve effective devolution or enable effective place-based public services with outdated and misaligned structures that slow down delivery, fragment public services, hamper housebuilding and slow down important decision making. We need to make sure that new councils are grounded in place and are genuinely connected to their communities.

Decisions

I have considered your proposals carefully against the criteria set out in the invitation letter of 5 February last year, alongside the responses to the consultation, representations made, requests for modifications made alongside the proposals and all other relevant information.

Following this assessment, I have decided to move forward with implementation of the two unitary proposal submitted by East Staffordshire Borough Council, Stafford Borough

Council, and Cannock Chase District Council, and also by Stoke-on-Trent City Council (“my selected option”).

These new councils will comprise the current areas of:

- Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, and Stoke-on-Trent City Council (referred to in the proposal as ‘North Staffordshire’)
- Cannock Chase District Council, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Lichfield District Council, South Staffordshire Council, Stafford Borough Council, and Tamworth Borough Council (referred to in the proposals as ‘Southern and Mid-Staffordshire’)

I want to thank you for all the work that has gone into developing proposals that seek to deliver new unitary councils that will help to grow the local economy and provide better public services for the people of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. Your ongoing collaboration will be vital to ensure that the proposal submitted by East Staffordshire, Stafford and Cannock Chase, and also by Stoke-on-Trent council is implemented by April 2028 with the interests of residents at its heart.

Turning to the reasons for my decision, in my judgement four of the five options submitted meet the criteria. I have concerns that the four unitary proposal submitted by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council continues to split the functional housing market area of Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme and establishes a small unitary of 128,000 people. I have concerns about the financial efficiency of this proposal. I also have concerns about how services will be delivered over this footprint and judge that the proposal would struggle to meet housing demand. Therefore, in my view, this proposal did not meet all of the criteria; specifically, criterion 1.

While I recognise that the two unitary option submitted by Staffordshire County Council, the two unitary option submitted by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and the three unitary option all meet the criteria and offer some advantages in terms of balanced population sizes, with some local support, I consider the option submitted by East Staffordshire, Stafford and Cannock Chase, and Stoke-on-Trent to be the best option overall.

In particular the chosen proposal performs well in the following areas:

- **Supports economic growth and meeting housing need:** In my view, my selected option creates sensible economic geographies that can support housing supply and economic growth. My selected option will enable housing and land-use planning to be more strategic and respond to the specific circumstances of each area. In particular, I note that the options with a North-South split (the two unitary put forward by Staffordshire Moorlands and the three unitary option) will better help address housing challenges around the city of Stoke-on-Trent, where contaminated land has restricted opportunities to develop within the current boundaries. I found that other options, that proposed East–West splits, would fragment the functional economic areas around Stoke-on-Trent, which would directly undermine growth in the area. I have also judged the growth opportunities which would be missed by the three unitary option, which splits the south of the invitation area into two separate authorities, my selected option keeps major growth locations within a single authority. This allows growth opportunities and

infrastructure pressures to be managed across one geography rather than being divided between separate councils.

- **Strong public services that meet local needs:** While all options will require a degree of disaggregation of services, in my view my selected option is best for public service delivery. I judge that the new councils will better align with existing service delivery, NHS patient and discharge flows, and established partnership arrangements with other public services. This creates opportunities for further improvements in the integration of health and social care, as well as enabling better place-based delivery of public services at the right scale to support prevention, early intervention and service transformation. While the three unitary proposal and the two unitary proposal submitted by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council both have merits, my selected option requires fewer organisational interfaces and creates less fragmentation across public services. It aligns well with existing health and public service footprints and avoids both the additional complexity associated with boundary changes and the greater service fragmentation that would result from establishing three unitary authorities. As a result, I find my selected option to be the strongest for maintaining service resilience while enabling future reform and integration.
- **Financial stability and opportunity for efficiencies:** I considered the expected costs and benefits set out in the proposals, as well as the ability of each new council to be financially resilient. I judge that my selected option performs strongly against the criteria. I judge that this option is likely to deliver savings and represent an overall improvement in sustainability over current structures. I note that the two unitary option from Staffordshire Moorlands and the three unitary option may have higher upfront costs due to increased complexity.

Next steps

In relation to next steps, as you are aware a Structural Changes Order, which will be subject to Parliamentary approval, is required to abolish existing councils, establish new structures and make transitional arrangements. I have carefully considered the information in the proposals as well as the further representations you have made on the content of this Order.

My officials will shortly write to your Chief Executives setting out the next steps and timeline for implementation, including my initial decisions on transitional arrangements that will be included in the draft legislation. This will enable you to take forward the work needed to begin preparation for implementation, in advance of Parliamentary approval of the Order. Critically, and drawing on learning from previous rounds of reorganisation, this will include a single Implementation Team formed of officers from across the area, and elections to the new unitary councils in May 2027. For the avoidance of doubt, these elections to the new unitary councils will replace any scheduled local elections, and affected councillors will have their terms extended.

Where local government reorganisation may affect ceremonial arrangements through changes to administrative boundaries, the Government will engage with local leaders across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to ensure ceremonial rights are preserved. Where specific provision is needed in legislation then this will be considered, as necessary, reflecting the

circumstances in each area, as has previously been done for other areas undergoing local government reorganisation. Officials are giving careful consideration to the sequencing and legislative approach required to ensure that arrangements are robust, legally sound and provide certainty for councils across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and residents alike.

A broad support offer is in place for councils, including support to councils through our sector advisors and through funding to the Local Government Association for an enhanced support offer. We have already announced £63m in capacity funding to support the reorganisation process, and I am pleased to provide further detail today on how this funding will be allocated.

Of the £63 million capacity funding, as well as the unprecedented £900,000 transition support to each new unitary already announced, we are also committing up to £150,000 per each new unitary as supplementary funding for Leadership Capacity and Continuity in Children's Services, Adult Social Care and Public Health. This is part of a wider package of support worth up to £10m for children's services, adult's social care and public health leadership, which will also fund targeted development, mentoring and peer support for current, new and aspiring leaders.

In addition, up to £1m of funding overall will be available to support the small number of areas with complex fire and rescue authority transitions.

Taken together, this means that areas undergoing local government reorganisation will receive more than £1 million per new unitary created. This is the first time reorganisation has been supported in this way and shows this Government is committed to supporting councils to get these reforms right. We will confirm details of these allocations in due course.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with you to deliver the vital improvements that reorganisation can facilitate.

I am copying this letter to your Chief Executives, MPs and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Steve Reed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

RT HON STEVE REED OBE MP

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Summary and analysis of consultation responses and summary of representations from named consultees

Background

1. A statutory consultation on proposals for unitary local government in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent was opened on 5 February and closed on 26 March 2026. We received a total of 1,875 responses.
2. The 5 proposals being consulted on were made by councils and submitted to the Government on 28 November 2026.
3. This document provides a summary of the 1,875 responses received to the Government's consultation on the proposals for future unitary local government in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent area.
4. The Government announced to Parliament on 16 July 2026 that the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government had decided to implement, subject to Parliamentary approval, **the two unitary proposal submitted by Cannock Chase District Council, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Stafford Borough Council, and Stoke-on-Trent City Council. These would comprise the current areas of:**
 - a. **North Staffordshire:** Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire Moorlands, and Stoke-on-Trent
 - b. **South Staffordshire:** Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, South Staffordshire, Stafford, and Tamworth

From here, this is referred to as the 2 unitary (Cannock Chase) proposal.

5. The consultation also invited views on the proposal submitted by:
6. **Staffordshire County Council proposed 2 unitary councils across the whole area of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent, comprising the areas of:**
 - a. **East Staffordshire:** East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, and Tamworth
 - b. **West Staffordshire:** Cannock Chase, Newcastle-under-Lyme, South Staffordshire, and Stafford

From here, this is referred to as the 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council) proposal.

7. **Staffordshire Moorlands District Council proposed 2 unitary councils across the whole area of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent, comprising the areas of:**
 - a. **North Staffordshire:** Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire Moorlands, plus 16 parishes from East Staffordshire and 6 from Stafford

- b. Southern and Mid-Staffordshire:** Cannock Chase, Lichfield, South Staffordshire, Tamworth, and the remaining 22 parishes of East Staffordshire, and 34 parishes of Stafford

From here, this is referred to as the 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands) proposal.

- 8. **Lichfield District Council, South Staffordshire Borough Council, Tamworth Borough Council proposed 3 unitary councils across the whole area of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent, comprising the areas of:**
 - a. **North Staffordshire:** Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire Moorlands, and Stoke-on-Trent
 - b. **South-West Staffordshire:** Cannock Chase, South Staffordshire, and Stafford
 - c. **South-East Staffordshire:** Lichfield, East Staffordshire, and Tamworth

From here, this is referred to as the 3 unitary proposal.

- 9. **Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council proposed 4 unitary councils across the whole area of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent, comprising the areas of:**
 - a. **Unitary Authority 1:** Newcastle-under-Lyme
 - b. **Unitary Authority 2:** Cannock Chase, South Staffordshire, and Stafford
 - c. **Unitary Authority 3:** Staffordshire Moorlands, and Stoke-on-Trent
 - d. **Unitary Authority 4:** East Staffordshire, Lichfield and Tamworth.

From here, this is referred to as the 4 unitary proposal.

- 10. The consultation on these proposals has informed an assessment of the merits of each proposal. All the proposals have been considered carefully, alongside the responses received to this consultation, representations and any other relevant information, in assessing the proposals against the criteria before a judgement was taken on which proposal to implement.
- 11. The criteria by which proposals for local government reorganisation have been assessed are set out in the letter of invitation, sent to councils in area on 5 February 2025 [Letter of Invitation](#). The consultation asked questions relating to the criteria for each of the above proposals.
- 12. This consultation relates to the structure of local government in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent. These proposals relate to England only.

Methodology

- 13. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 states that the Secretary of State may not implement a proposal unless they have consulted with every authority affected by the proposal and other such other

persons as they consider appropriate. Those councils and persons considered appropriate are hereafter referred to as 'named consultees'.

14. The list of named consultees is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).
15. In addition, the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government (the Ministry) welcomed the views of any other persons or bodies interested in these proposals, including local residents, town and parish councils, businesses and the voluntary and community sector.
16. The Ministry used Citizen Space, a third-party consultation programme to collect responses. Citizen Space was open to both named consultees and all other interested parties. Further information on the statutory basis for, and methodology of, the consultation is provided on the [publication page](#).
17. Responses to the consultation were also received by email and letter.
18. The Ministry used a tool named Consult AI to assist in the analysis of responses. The AI tool identified themes present in the responses which Ministry officials have checked for accuracy. The tool did not have access to any personal data. All responses from named consultees were read by Ministry staff.
19. The department has conducted an evaluation of the Consult tool and concluded that Consult's theme mappings are consistent with human reviewers' assessments. For this consultation, human reviewers independently checked the theme assignments Consult had produced and likewise found that Consult's theme mappings were broadly consistent with the human reviewers.

Consultation Questions

20. Respondents answered the questions below using a five-point agree–disagree scale, ranging from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree', with an additional 'don't know' option
21. The questions were as follows:
 - a) **Question 1:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal suggests councils that are based on sensible geographies and economic areas?
 - b) **Question 2:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will be able to deliver the outcomes they describe in the proposal?
 - c) **Question 3:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils are the right size to be efficient, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks?
 - d) **Question 4:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that this proposal will put local government in the area as a whole on a firmer footing, particularly

given that some councils in the area are in receipt of exceptional financial support?

- e) **Question 5:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will deliver high quality, sustainable public services?
- f) **Question 6:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal has been informed by local views and will meet local needs?
- g) **Question 7:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing the councils in this proposal will support devolution arrangements?
- h) **Question 8:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal enables stronger community engagement and gives the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment?
- i) **Question 9:** If you would like to, please use the free text box to explain the answers you have provided to questions 1-8 referring to the question numbers as part of your answer. You may also use the box to provide any other comments you have on the proposal.
- j) **Question 10:** This is a proposal that is accompanied by a request that the Secretary of State considers boundary change or that affects wider public services. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal sets out a strong public services and financial sustainability justification for boundary change? - Prop 3 Q10.
- k) **Question 11:** If you would like to, please use this free text box to explain your answer to question 10 (Proposal 3 only)

Summary of responses

- 22. There were 1,875 responses to this consultation, 28 from named consultees and 1,847 other respondents.

Responses from named consultees

Named Consultee respondents	Number of Responses
Principal councils	10
Neighbouring councils	3
Strategic Authority	0
Health Bodies	4
Police and Fire	1
Education Bodies	3
Other Public Sector	1
Voluntary and Community Sector	2
Business Organisations	1
National Bodies	3

Other named consultees	0
Total named consultees	28

Reponses from other respondents

<i>Other respondents</i>	Number of Responses
Individual living in Staffordshire Stoke on Trent	1702
Individual not living in affected area or who did not specify their location	61
Organisation	84
Total other respondents	1,847
Total responses (Including named consultees)	1,875

Summary of findings

23. Tables in this report included numbers rounded to the nearest whole number, and as such, not all cumulative scores will equal 100%.
24. Respondents were invited to respond to 8 multiple choice questions per proposal and could provide a rationale for their answers in a free text box. Where a proposal included boundary change, respondents were invited to answer an additional question and provide an additional free text response. The multiple choice questions invited respondents to state whether they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed/agreed, neither agreed nor disagreed, somewhat disagreed/disagreed, strongly disagreed, or did not know when responding to a statement.
25. For the purposes of this document we have classified positive responses as strongly agree, somewhat agreed or agree and negative responses as somewhat disagree or disagree and strongly disagree.
26. Quantitative scoring against specific questions was applied to responses submitted by email and post only where respondents provided explicit answers based on the scale provided. No assumptions or inferred positions were applied to submissions that did not directly address those questions.
27. Responses received by email and post are not included in the respondent count for questions 9 and 11. A summary of the relevant views expressed in those responses against each criterion is included within the summary of free text responses for each respondent type.
28. In addition to this round of consultation, the Government undertook consultation on 6 other local government reorganisation areas between 19 November 2025 and 11 January 2026. One response received as part of that consultation is relevant to all local government reorganisation areas, including those in this round of consultation. A summary of the relevant views expressed in that

response against each criterion is included within the summary of free text responses for that respondent type.

29. The table below takes the average response across the multiple choice questions to provide an overall view of whether all respondents viewed a proposal positively or negatively.

All respondents

<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	11,546	31%	57%	10%	2%
2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	11,096	14%	76%	8%	2%
2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	12,114	25%	63%	10%	2%
3 unitary	11,122	40%	49%	9%	2%
4 unitary	12,068	39%	50%	9%	2%

30. Overall, the responses demonstrate a marginal preference for the 3 unitary proposal. 40% of respondents to the 3 unitary proposal provided positive responses to the questions and 49% of respondents provided negative responses. 11% were responses of neither agree nor disagree or don't know. The second preference is for 4 unitary at 39% positive responses, and third preference is for the 2 unitary (Cannock Chase) at 31% positive responses.

Named consultees

<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	128	63%	9%	21%	6%
2 unitary (Staffordshire	119	25%	41%	27%	7%

County Council)					
2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	135	42%	22%	29%	7%
3 unitary	127	33%	30%	30%	7%
4 unitary	125	15%	50%	29%	6%

31. Overall, the responses from named consultees demonstrate a clear preference for the 2 unitary (Cannock Chase) proposal. 63% of respondents to the 2 unitary (Cannock Chase) proposal provided positive responses to the questions and 9% of respondents provided negative responses. 27% were responses of neither agree nor disagree or don't know. The second preference is for 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands) at 42%, followed by the 3 unitary.

Individuals living in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent

<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
2 Unitary (Cannock Chase)	10596	30%	59%	9%	2%
2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	10163	14%	76%	7%	2%
2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	11091	25%	64%	9%	2%
3 unitary	10182	40%	50%	8%	2%
4 unitary	11089	40%	50%	8%	2%

32. Overall, the responses from individuals living in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent demonstrate an equal preference for the 3 and 4 unitary proposals. 40% of respondents to both the 3 and 4 unitary proposal provided positive responses to the questions and 50% of respondents provided negative responses. 10% were responses of neither agree nor disagree or don't know. The second preference is for the 2 unitary (Cannock Chase) proposal at 30% positive responses and the 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands) at 25% positive responses.

Individuals living outside of the affected area

<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	392	33%	52%	10%	5%
2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	391	14%	71%	12%	4%
2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	423	30%	54%	12%	4%
3 unitary	383	30%	52%	14%	4%
4 unitary	448	41%	43%	12%	4%

33. Overall, the responses from individuals living outside Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent area demonstrate a preference for the 4 unitary proposal. 41% of respondents to the 4 unitary proposal provided positive responses to the questions and 43% of respondents provided negative responses. 16% were responses of neither agree nor disagree or don't know. Second preference is for the 2 unitary (Cannock Chase) at 33% positive responses, followed by both the 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands) at 30% and 3 unitary with 30% positive responses.

Organisations

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Total all responses 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	430	43%	34%	20%	3%
Total all responses 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	423	13%	72%	12%	3%
Total all responses 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	465	24%	54%	16%	6%

Total all responses 3 unitary	430	47%	35%	16%	2%
Total all responses 4 unitary	406	17%	60%	19%	4%

34. Overall, the responses from organisations demonstrate a marginal preference for the 3 unitary proposal. 47% of respondents to the 3 unitary proposal provided positive responses to the questions and 35% of respondents provided negative responses. 18% were responses of neither agree nor disagree or don't know. The next most popular option was 2 unitary (Cannock Chase) with 43% positive responses, followed by 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands) at 24% positive responses.

Analysis of responses by question

Question 1: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal suggests councils that are based on sensible geographies and economic areas?

Summary of Named Consultee Responses

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Principal Council 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	4	75%	25%	0%	0%
Principal Council 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	4	25%	75%	0%	0%
Principal Council 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	4	75%	25%	0%	0%
Principal Council 3 unitary	5	80%	20%	0%	0%
Principal Council 4 Unitary	5	20%	80%	0%	0%
Neighbouring Council 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	2	50%	0%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%

Neighbouring Principal Council 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 3 unitary	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 4 unitary	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Strategic Authority 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 3 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 4 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Health Bodies 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	3	100%	0%	0%	0%
Health Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	3	33%	33%	33%	0%
Health Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	3	0%	67%	33%	0%
Health Bodies 3 unitary	3	100%	0%	0%	0%
Health Bodies 4 unitary	3	33%	33%	33%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%

Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 3 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 4 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Education Bodies 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	3	100%	0%	0%	0%
Education Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	0%	100%	0%	0%
Education Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	100%	0%	0%	0%
Education Bodies 3 unitary	2	50%	50%	0%	0%
Education Bodies 4 unitary	2	50%	50%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%

Other Public Sector 3 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 4 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	2	100%	0%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	0%	100%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	100%	0%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 3 unitary	2	50%	50%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 4 unitary	2	0%	100%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	1	100%	0%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1	100%	0%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1	100%	0%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 3 unitary	1	0%	100%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 4 unitary	1	0%	100%	0%	0%
National Bodies 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies	1	0%	0%	100%	0%

2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)					
National Bodies 3 unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 4 unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Other named consultees 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 3 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 4 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total Named Consultees 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	16	81%	6%	13%	0%
Total Named Consultees 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	15	20%	60%	20%	0%
Total Named Consultees 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	15	53%	27%	20%	0%
Total Named Consultees 3 unitary	16	56%	31%	13%	0%
Total Named Consultees 4 unitary	16	19%	63%	19%	0%

Individuals and Organisation (not named consultees)

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Individual living in affected area 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	1330	41%	54%	5%	0%
Individual living in affected area 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1275	16%	80%	4%	0%
Individual living in affected area 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1238	32%	61%	6%	0%
Individual living in affected area 3 unitary	1275	49%	46%	5%	0%
Individual living in affected area 4 unitary	1392	45%	51%	5%	0%
Individual living outside affected area 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	49	47%	47%	6%	0%
Individual living outside affected area 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	49	14%	80%	6%	0%
Individual living outside affected area 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	47	38%	55%	4%	2%
Individual living outside affected area 3 unitary	48	40%	48%	13%	0%
Individual living outside affected area 4 unitary	56	50%	45%	5%	0%
Organisations	54	56%	35%	9%	0%

2 unitary (Cannock Chase)					
Organisations 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	53	19%	74%	8%	0%
Organisation 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	52	31%	58%	8%	4%
Organisations 3 unitary	54	57%	31%	11%	0%
Organisations 4 unitary	51	24%	65%	10%	2%

Total Responses Question

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Total all responses 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	1449	42%	53%	5%	0%
Total all responses 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1392	16%	79%	4%	0%
Total all responses 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1352	32%	61%	7%	0%
Total all responses 3 unitary	1393	49%	46%	6%	0%
Total all responses 4 unitary	1515	44%	51%	5%	0%

Question 2: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will be able to deliver the outcomes they describe in the proposal?

Summary of Named Consultee Responses

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Principal Council Proposal	4	50%	50%	0%	0%

2 unitary (Cannock Chase)					
Principal Council 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	4	25%	75%	0%	0%
Principal Council 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	4	75%	25%	0%	0%
Principal Council 3 unitary	5	60%	40%	0%	0%
Principal Council 4 unitary	5	20%	80%	0%	0%
Neighbouring Council 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	2	50%	0%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 3 unitary	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 4 unitary	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Strategic Authority 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 3 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 4 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%

Health Bodies 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	3	100%	0%	0%	0%
Health Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	3	33%	33%	33%	0%
Health Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	3	0%	67%	33%	0%
Health Bodies 3 unitary	3	67%	0%	33%	0%
Health Bodies 4 unitary	3	33%	33%	33%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 3 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 4 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Education Bodies 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	3	67%	0%	0%	33%
Education Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	50%	0%	0%	50%
Education Bodies 2 unitary	2	50%	0%	0%	50%

(Staffordshire Moorlands)					
Education Bodies 3 unitary	2	0%	50%	0%	50%
Education Bodies 4 unitary	2	0%	50%	0%	50%
Other Public Sector 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 3 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 4 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	2	100%	0%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	50%	50%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	100%	0%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 3 unitary	2	50%	50%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 4 unitary	2	50%	50%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	1	100%	0%	0%	0%

Business Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1	100%	0%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1	100%	0%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 3 unitary	1	0%	100%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 4 unitary	1	0%	100%	0%	0%
National Bodies 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 3 unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 4 unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Other named consultees 2 unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 3 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 4 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total Named Consultees	16	69%	13%	13%	6%

2 unitary (Cannock Chase)					
Total Named Consultees 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	15	33%	40%	20%	7%
Total Named Consultees 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	15	47%	27%	20%	7%
Total Named Consultees 3 unitary	16	38%	38%	19%	6%
Total Named Consultees 4 unitary	16	19%	56%	19%	6%

Individuals and Organisation (not named consultees)

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Individual living in affected area 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	1329	33%	57%	8%	2%
Individual living in affected area 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1272	16%	76%	6%	2%
Individual living in affected area 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1235	27%	63%	9%	1%
Individual living in affected area 3 unitary	1275	43%	49%	7%	2%
Individual living in affected area 4 unitary	1389	41%	51%	7%	1%
Individual living outside affected area 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	49	39%	53%	6%	2%

Individual living outside affected area 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	49	14%	73%	10%	2%
Individual living outside affected area 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	47	38%	55%	6%	0%
Individual living outside affected area 3 unitary	48	31%	54%	13%	2%
Individual living outside affected area 4 unitary	56	43%	45%	9%	4%
Organisations 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	54	46%	35%	17%	2%
Organisations 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	53	17%	70%	13%	0%
Organisation 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	52	23%	54%	17%	6%
Organisations 3 unitary	53	51%	32%	17%	0%
Organisations 4 unitary	51	20%	57%	20%	4%

Total Responses Question

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Total all responses 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	1448	34%	56%	8%	2%
Total all responses 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1389	16%	75%	7%	2%

Total all responses 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1349	28%	62%	9%	2%
Total all responses 3 unitary	1392	43%	48%	7%	2%
Total all responses 4 unitary	1512	40%	51%	7%	1%

Question3: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils are the right size to be efficient, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks?

Summary of Named Consultee Responses

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Principal Council 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	4	50%	50%	0%	0%
Principal Council 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	4	25%	75%	0%	0%
Principal Council 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	4	75%	25%	0%	0%
Principal Council 3 unitary	5	40%	60%	0%	0%
Principal Council 4 unitary	5	20%	80%	0%	0%
Neighbouring Council 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	2	50%	0%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 2 unitary	2	0%	50%	50%	0%

(Staffordshire Moorlands)					
Neighbouring Principal Council 3 unitary	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 4 unitary	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Strategic Authority 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 3 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 4 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Health Bodies 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	3	67%	0%	33%	0%
Health Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	3	67%	0%	33%	0%
Health Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	3	33%	0%	67%	0%
Health Bodies 3 unitary	3	0%	0%	100%	0%
Health Bodies 4 unitary	3	0%	33%	67%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%

Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 3 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 4 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Education Bodies 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	3	67%	0%	0%	33%
Education Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	50%	0%	0%	50%
Education Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	50%	0%	0%	50%
Education Bodies 3 unitary	2	0%	50%	0%	50%
Education Bodies 4 unitary	2	0%	50%	0%	50%
Other Public Sector 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 3 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 4 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%

Voluntary and Community Sector 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	2	50%	0%	0%	50%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	0%	0%	50%	50%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	50%	0%	0%	50%
Voluntary and Community Sector 3 unitary	2	0%	50%	0%	50%
Voluntary and Community Sector 4 unitary	2	0%	50%	0%	50%
Business Bodies 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	1	100%	0%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1	100%	0%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1	100%	0%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 3 unitary	1	0%	100%	0%	0%
Business Bodies proposal 4 unitary	1	0%	100%	0%	0%
National Bodies 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 3 unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies	1	0%	0%	100%	0%

4 unitary					
Other named consultees 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 3 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 4 unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total Named Consultees 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	16	56%	13%	19%	13%
Total Named Consultees 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	15	33%	27%	27%	13%
Total Named Consultees 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	15	47%	13%	27%	13%
Total Named Consultees 3 unitary	16	13%	44%	31%	13%
Total Named Consultees 4 unitary	16	6%	56%	25%	13%

Individuals and Organisation (not named consultees)

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Individual living in affected area	1326	33%	58%	8%	1%

2 unitary (Cannock Chase)					
Individual living in affected area 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1271	18%	71%	9%	2%
Individual living in affected area 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1230	28%	62%	9%	2%
Individual living in affected area 3 unitary	1273	39%	52%	7%	1%
Individual living in affected area 4 unitary	1387	38%	55%	6%	1%
Individual living outside affected area 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	49	35%	49%	14%	2%
Individual living outside affected area 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	49	22%	65%	10%	2%
Individual living outside affected area 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	47	38%	53%	6%	2%
Individual living outside affected area 3 unitary	48	29%	58%	13%	0%
Individual living outside affected area 4 unitary	56	39%	50%	9%	2%
Organisations 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	54	44%	30%	22%	4%
Organisations 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	52	13%	67%	15%	4%

Organisation 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	52	27%	46%	21%	6%
Organisations 3 unitary	54	44%	37%	17%	2%
Organisations 4 unitary	50	12%	70%	16%	2%

Total Responses Question

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Total all responses 2 unitary (Cannock Chase)	1445	28%	60%	10%	3%
Total all responses 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1389	14%	75%	9%	2%
Total all responses 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1346	24%	62%	11%	3%
Total all responses 3 unitary	1391	35%	52%	10%	3%
Total all responses 4 unitary	1508	35%	53%	9%	3%

Question 4: To what extent do you agree or disagree that this proposal will put local government in the area as a whole on a firmer footing, particularly given that some councils in the area are in receipt of exceptional financial support?

Summary of Named Consultee Responses

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Principal Council Proposal 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	4	50%	50%	0%	0%

Principal Council 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	3	0%	100%	0%	0%
Principal Council proposal 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	4	75%	25%	0%	0%
Principal Council proposal 3 Unitary	5	60%	40%	0%	0%
Principal Council 4 Unitary	4	0%	100%	0%	0%
Neighbouring Council 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	2	50%	0%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 3 Unitary	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 4 Unitary	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Strategic Authority Proposal 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Strategic Authority 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Strategic Authority proposal 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Strategic Authority proposal 3 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%

Strategic Authority 4 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Health Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	2	50%	0%	50%	0%
Health Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	50%	0%	50%	0%
Health Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	50%	0%	50%	0%
Health Bodies 3 Unitary	2	0%	0%	100%	0%
Health Bodies 4 Unitary	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 3 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Education Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	3	67%	0%	0%	33%
Education Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	50%	0%	0%	50%
Education Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	50%	0%	0%	50%
Education Bodies 3 Unitary	2	0%	50%	0%	50%

Education Bodies4 Unitary	2	0%	50%	0%	50%
Other Public Sector 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Other Public Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Other Public Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Other Public Sector 3 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Other Public Sector4 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	2	50%	0%	0%	50%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	0%	0%	50%	50%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	50%	0%	0%	50%
Voluntary and Community Sector 3 Unitary	2	0%	50%	0%	50%
Voluntary and Community Sector 4 Unitary	2	0%	50%	0%	50%
Business Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1	100%	0%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1	100%	0%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1	100%	0%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 3 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%

Business Bodies proposal 4 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
National Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
National Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
National Bodies 3 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
National Bodies 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Named consultees 3 Unitary (Lichfield)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Named consultees 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total Named Consultees 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	16	50%	13%	25%	13%
Total Named Consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	14	21%	29%	36%	14%
Total Named Consultees 2	15	47%	13%	27%	13%

Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)					
Total Named Consultees 3 Unitary	16	19%	31%	38%	13%
Total Named Consultees 4 Unitary	15	0%	53%	33%	13%

Individuals and Organisation (not named consultees)

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Individual living in affected area 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1326	27%	62%	9%	2%
Individual living in affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1273	14%	76%	8%	2%
Individual living in affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1233	23%	64%	10%	2%
Individual living in affected area 3 Unitary	1274	36%	52%	10%	2%
Individual living in affected area 4 Unitary	1387	37%	53%	8%	3%
Individual living outside affected area 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	49	22%	51%	18%	8%
Individual living outside affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	49	8%	65%	20%	6%
Individual living outside affected area 2 Unitary	47	26%	49%	19%	6%

(Staffordshire Moorlands)					
Individual living outside affected area 3 Unitary	48	23%	58%	13%	6%
Individual living outside affected area 4 Unitary	56	34%	52%	9%	5%
Organisations 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	54	39%	37%	22%	2%
Organisations 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	53	11%	75%	9%	4%
Organisation 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	51	25%	51%	16%	8%
Organisations 3 Unitary	53	45%	42%	11%	2%
Organisations 4 Unitary	50	10%	62%	24%	4%

Total Responses Question

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Total all responses 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1445	28%	60%	10%	3%
Total all responses 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1389	14%	75%	9%	2%
Total all responses 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1346	24%	62%	11%	3%
Total all responses 3 Unitary	1391	35%	52%	10%	3%

Total all responses 4 Unitary	1508	35%	53%	9%	3%
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Question 5: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will deliver high quality, sustainable public services?

Summary of Named Consultee Responses

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Principal Council Proposal 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	4	75%	25%	0%	0%
Principal Council 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	4	25%	75%	0%	0%
Principal Council proposal 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	4	75%	25%	0%	0%
Principal Council proposal 3 Unitary	5	40%	60%	0%	0%
Principal Council 4 Unitary	4	0%	100%	0%	0%
Neighbouring Council 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	2	50%	0%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%

Neighbouring Principal Council 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 3 Unitary (Lichfield)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 4 Unitary	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Strategic Authority Proposal 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority proposal 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority proposal 3 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Health Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	3	100%	0%	0%	0%
Health Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire)	3	0%	0%	0%	0%

County Council)					
Health Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	3	0%	0%	0%	0%
Health Bodies 3 Unitary	3	0%	0%	0%	0%
Health Bodies 4 Unitary	3	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 3 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Education Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	3	67%	0%	0%	33%

Education Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	50%	0%	0%	50%
Education Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	50%	0%	0%	50%
Education Bodies 3 Unitary	2	0%	0%	50%	50%
Education Bodies 4 Unitary	2	0%	50%	0%	50%
Other Public Sector 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 3 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	2	50%	0%	0%	50%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2	2	0%	50%	0%	50%

Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)					
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	50%	0%	0%	50%
Voluntary and Community Sector 3 Unitary	2	0%	50%	0%	50%
Voluntary and Community Sector 4 Unitary	2	0%	50%	0%	50%
Business Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Business Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Business Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Business Bodies 3 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Business Bodies propo sal 4 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 2	1	0%	0%	100%	0%

Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)					
National Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 3 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 4 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Other named consultees 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Named consultees 3 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Named consultees 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total Named Consultees 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	16	63%	6%	19%	13%
Total Named Consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshir e County Council)	15	27%	40%	20%	13%

Total Named Consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	15	40%	20%	27%	13%
Total Named Consultees 3 Unitary	16	25%	31%	31%	13%
Total Named Consultees 4 Unitary	15	13%	53%	20%	13%

Individuals and Organisation (not named consultees)

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Individual living in affected area 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1325	26%	60%	12%	2%
Individual living in affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1269	14%	76%	9%	2%
Individual living in affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1227	23%	64%	11%	2%
Individual living in affected area 3 Unitary	1269	38%	50%	9%	2%
Individual living in affected area 4 Unitary	1386	39%	50%	10%	2%
Individual living outside affected area 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	49	29%	55%	14%	2%
Individual living outside affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	49	14%	76%	8%	2%

Individual living outside affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	47	32%	53%	13%	2%
Individual living outside affected area 3 Unitary	48	25%	63%	10%	2%
Individual living outside affected area 4 Unitary	56	38%	43%	14%	5%
Organisations 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	53	42%	34%	23%	2%
Organisations 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	53	11%	74%	11%	4%
Organisation 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	51	24%	55%	16%	6%
Organisations 3 Unitary	54	43%	35%	19%	4%
Organisations 4 Unitary	51	14%	59%	24%	4%

Total Responses Question

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Total all responses 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1443	28%	58%	12%	2%
Total all responses 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1386	14%	75%	9%	2%
Total all responses 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1340	23%	63%	11%	3%

Total all responses 3 Unitary (Lichfield)	1387	38%	50%	10%	2%
Total all responses 4 Unitary (Newcastle Under Lyme)	1508	38%	50%	10%	2%

Question 6: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal has been informed by local views and will meet local needs?

Summary of Named Consultee Responses

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Principal Council Proposal 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	4	75%	25%	0%	0%
Principal Council 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	4	25%	75%	0%	0%
Principal Council proposal 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	4	75%	25%	0%	0%
Principal Council proposal 3 Unitary (Lichfield)	5	80%	20%	0%	0%
Principal Council 4 Unitary (Newcastle Under Lyme)	5	20%	40%	40%	0%
Neighbouring Council 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	2	50%	0%	50%	0%

Neighbouring Principal Council 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 3 Unitary	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 4 Unitary	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Strategic Authority Proposal 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority proposal 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority proposal 3 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Health Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	3	33%	0%	0%	67%

Health Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	3	33%	0%	0%	67%
Health Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	3	33%	0%	0%	67%
Health Bodies 3 Unitary	3	33%	0%	0%	67%
Health Bodies 4 Unitary	3	33%	0%	0%	67%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 3 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Education Bodies 2	3	67%	0%	0%	33%

Unitary – (Cannock Chase)					
Education Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	0%	50%	0%	50%
Education Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	50%	0%	0%	50%
Education Bodies 3 Unitary	2	0%	0%	50%	50%
Education Bodies 4 Unitary	2	50%	0%	0%	50%
Other Public Sector 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 3 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	2	100%	0%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community	2	0%	100%	0%	0%

Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)					
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 3 Unitary	2	50%	50%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 4 Unitary	2	50%	50%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1	0%	100%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1	0%	100%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1	0%	100%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 3 Unitary	1	0%	100%	0%	0%
Business Bodies propos al 4 Unitary	1	0%	100%	0%	0%
National Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire	1	0%	0%	100%	0%

County Council)					
National Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 3 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 4 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Other named consultees 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Named consultees 3 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Named consultees 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total Named Consultees 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	16	56%	13%	25%	6%
Total Named Consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	15	13%	53%	27%	7%
Total Named Consultees 2 Unitary	15	33%	27%	33%	7%

(Staffordshire Moorlands)					
Total Named Consultees 3 Unitary	16	38%	25%	31%	6%
Total Named Consultees 4 Unitary	16	25%	31%	38%	6%

Individuals and Organisation (not named consultees)

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Individual living in affected area 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1321	24%	64%	10%	2%
Individual living in affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1273	11%	82%	5%	2%
Individual living in affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1232	21%	68%	8%	3%
Individual living in affected area 3 Unitary	1273	39%	49%	9%	3%
Individual living in affected area 4 Unitary	1382	42%	48%	8%	2%
Individual living outside affected area 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	49	29%	55%	6%	10%
Individual living outside affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	49	10%	67%	14%	8%
Individual living outside affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	47	21%	57%	15%	6%

Individual living outside affected area 3 Unitary	48	29%	46%	17%	8%
Individual living outside affected area 4 Unitary	56	39%	34%	20%	7%
Organisations 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	54	33%	39%	22%	6%
Organisations 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	53	8%	75%	11%	6%
Organisation 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	52	19%	56%	13%	12%
Organisations 3 Unitary	54	46%	35%	15%	4%
Organisations 4 Unitary	51	20%	57%	16%	8%

Total Responses Question

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Total all responses 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1440	25%	62%	10%	2%
Total all responses 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1390	10%	81%	6%	3%
Total all responses 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1346	21%	67%	9%	4%
Total all responses 3 Unitary	1391	39%	48%	10%	3%

Total all responses 4 Unitary	1505	41%	47%	9%	3%
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Question 7: To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing the councils in this proposal will support devolution arrangements?

Summary of Named Consultee Responses

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Principal Council Proposal 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	4	75%	25%	0%	0%
Principal Council 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	4	50%	50%	0%	0%
Principal Council proposal 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	4	50%	25%	25%	0%
Principal Council proposal 3 Unitary	5	60%	20%	20%	0%
Principal Council 4 Unitary	5	20%	60%	20%	0%
Neighbouring Council 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	2	50%	0%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%

Neighbouring Principal Council 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 3 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 4 Unitary	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Strategic Authority Proposal 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority proposal 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority proposal 3 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Health Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	3	100%	0%	0%	0%
Health Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	3	100%	0%	0%	0%
Health Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	3	100%	0%	0%	0%

Health Bodies 3 Unitary	3	100%	0%	0%	0%
Health Bodies 4 Unitary	3	67%	0%	33%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 3 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Education Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	3	100%	0%	0%	0%
Education Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Education Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	100%	0%	0%	0%
Education Bodies 3 Unitary	2	0%	0%	50%	50%

Education Bodies 4 Unitary	2	0%	100%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 3 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	2	50%	0%	50%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	50%	0%	50%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 3 Unitary	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Voluntary and Community	2	0%	50%	50%	0%

Sector 4 Unitary					
Business Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1	100%	0%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1	100%	0%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1	100%	0%	0%	0%
Business Bodies 3 Unitary	1	0%	100%	0%	0%
Business Bodies proposal 4 Unitary	1	0%	100%	0%	0%
National Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 3 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 4 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Other named consultees 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 2 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%

(Staffordshire County Council)					
Other named consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Named consultees 3 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Named consultees 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total Named Consultees 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	16	75%	6%	19%	0%
Total Named Consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	15	40%	33%	27%	0%
Total Named Consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	15	60%	13%	27%	0%
Total Named Consultees 3 Unitary	15	40%	20%	33%	7%
Total Named Consultees 4	16	19%	50%	31%	0%

Individuals and Organisation (not named consultees)

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Individual living in affected area 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1317	32%	53%	11%	4%
Individual living in affected area 2 Unitary	1264	14%	68%	12%	5%

(Staffordshire County Council)					
Individual living in affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1231	25%	59%	13%	4%
Individual living in affected area 3 Unitary	1272	37%	49%	10%	4%
Individual living in affected area 4 Unitary	1383	35%	50%	10%	5%
Individual living outside affected area 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	49	33%	49%	10%	8%
Individual living outside affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	49	16%	59%	16%	8%
Individual living outside affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	47	28%	51%	15%	6%
Individual living outside affected area 3 Unitary	47	28%	47%	17%	9%
Individual living outside affected area 4 Unitary	56	38%	45%	13%	5%
Organisations 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	53	40%	25%	30%	6%
Organisations 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	53	13%	64%	19%	4%
Organisation 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	51	24%	45%	27%	4%
Organisations 3 Unitary	54	43%	31%	22%	4%
Organisations 4 Unitary	51	16%	53%	27%	4%

Total Responses Question

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Total all responses 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1435	32%	51%	12%	5%
Total all responses 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1381	15%	67%	13%	5%
Total all responses 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1344	25%	57%	14%	4%
Total all responses 3 Unitary	1388	37%	48%	11%	4%
Total all responses 4 Unitary	1506	35%	50%	11%	5%

Question 8 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal enables stronger community engagement and gives the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment?

Summary of Named Consultee Responses

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Principal Council Proposal 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	4	50%	25%	25%	0%
Principal Council 2 Unitary (Staffordshire)	4	25%	50%	25%	0%

County Council)					
Principal Council proposal 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	4	50%	25%	25%	0%
Principal Council proposal 3 Unitary	5	60%	20%	20%	0%
Principal Council 4 Unitary	4	0%	75%	25%	0%
Neighbouring Council 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	2	50%	0%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 3 Unitary	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 4 Unitary	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Strategic Authority Proposal 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 2	0	0%	0%	0%	0%

Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)					
Strategic Authority pro posal 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority pro posal 3 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Strategic Authority 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Health Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	3	67%	0%	33%	0%
Health Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	3	33%	0%	67%	0%
Health Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	3	33%	33%	33%	0%
Health Bodies 3 Unitary (Lichfield)	3	33%	0%	67%	0%
Health Bodies 4 Unitary	3	33%	0%	67%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue	0	0%	0%	0%	0%

Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)					
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 3 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Education Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	3	100%	0%	0%	0%
Education Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	0%	100%	0%	0%
Education Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	100%	0%	0%	0%
Education Bodies 3 Unitary	2	50%	0%	50%	0%
Education Bodies 4 Unitary	2	100%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%

Other Public Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 3 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Public Sector 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	2	50%	0%	50%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	2	0%	100%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 3 Unitary	2	50%	50%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 4 Unitary	2	0%	50%	50%	0%

Business Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Business Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Business Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Business Bodies 3 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Business Bodies proposal 4 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 3 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 4 Unitary	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Other named consultees 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%

Other named consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other named consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Named consultees 3 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Named consultees 4 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total Named Consultees 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	16	56%	6%	38%	0%
Total Named Consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	15	13%	47%	40%	0%
Total Named Consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	15	33%	27%	40%	0%
Total Named Consultees 3 Unitary	16	38%	19%	44%	0%
Total Named Consultees 4 Unitary	15	20%	33%	47%	0%

Individuals and Organisation (not named consultees)

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Individual living in affected area 2 Unitary –	1322	24%	65%	10%	1%

(Cannock Chase)					
Individual living in affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1266	11%	82%	5%	2%
Individual living in affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1236	22%	68%	8%	2%
Individual living in affected area 3 Unitary	1271	42%	49%	8%	2%
Individual living in affected area 4 Unitary	1383	44%	46%	9%	2%
Individual living outside affected area 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	49	31%	59%	6%	4%
Individual living outside affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	48	8%	81%	6%	4%
Individual living outside affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	47	23%	53%	19%	4%
Individual living outside affected area 3 Unitary	48	33%	46%	19%	2%
Individual living outside affected area 4 Unitary	56	45%	32%	20%	4%
Organisations 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	54	41%	41%	17%	2%
Organisations 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	53	13%	74%	9%	4%
Organisation 2 Unitary	52	23%	58%	15%	4%

(Staffordshire Moorlands)					
Organisations 3 Unitary	54	46%	33%	19%	2%
Organisations 4 Unitary	51	22%	57%	18%	4%

Total Responses Question

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Total all responses 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	1441	25%	63%	10%	1%
Total all responses 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	1382	11%	81%	6%	2%
Total all responses 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1350	23%	66%	9%	2%
Total all responses 3 Unitary	1389	42%	48%	9%	2%
Total all responses 4 Unitary	1505	43%	45%	10%	2%

Question 9: If you would like to, please use the free text box to explain the answers you have provided to questions 1-8 referring to the question numbers as part of your answer. You may also use the box to provide any other comments you have on this proposal.

<i>Respondent type/Proposal</i>	<i>Total Named consultees</i>	<i>Total Individuals living in area</i>	<i>Total individuals not in area</i>	<i>Total Organisation</i>
Total all responses 2 Unitary – (Cannock Chase)	13	734	34	35
Total all responses 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council)	13	735	32	39

Total all responses 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	13	672	27	37
Total all responses 3 Unitary	14	707	28	41
Total all responses 4 Unitary	10	813	42	37

35. We also received 69 responses by email and post. 12 were from named consultees, 12 were from individuals living in area, 21 were from individuals not in area or who did not specify their location, 36 were from organisations. A summary of the views shared in these responses is included within the summaries below.

Summary of named consultee responses

36. Principal Councils

Principal councils supported those proposals that they had put forward. Principal councils who challenged other proposals and raised concerns over issues such as complex boundary changes, weak support locally, poor geographic and economic fit, disruption to established partnership and service delivery. There was strong opposition to the social care disaggregation and financial viability within the 4 unitary proposal.

37. Neighbouring principal councils

Neighbouring principal councils were either neutral or indicated a preference for the 2 unitary (Cannock Chase) proposal, while noting the interplays with devolution and supporting outcome delivery across a wider geographic area.

38. Health Bodies

There were mixed views across health bodies. There was broad support for either the 2 unitary (Cannock Chase) based on alignment with current service delivery footprints and partnership working, or the 3 unitary which is seen as a pragmatic solution for patient flows in the South of the area. Opponents of the 2 unitary (Staffordshire County Council) note the East/West split does not align well with existing health, local government and education systems, and raise concerns about the distance from top to bottom of these authorities. Some support for the 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands) for alignment to current service delivery footprints, but concerns expressed about the boundary change and complicated disaggregation. Opponents of the 4 unitary raised concerns about significant fragmentation, service disruption, and the viability of the smaller authority for delivering services.

39. Other public sector

One respondent provided broad views without specifying a preferred proposal.

40. Education Bodies

Support was expressed from education bodies for a north/south split, preferring the 2 unitary (Cannock Chase) proposal, with some support for the 2 unitary

(Staffordshire Moorlands). A north-south split, particularly 2 unitary (Cannock Chase) is seen as reflecting travel to learn patterns and aligning with the functional economic, labour market and service geographies.

41. Voluntary and Community Sector

There was broad support for a north-south split from voluntary sector respondents, with preference for a 2 unitary (Cannock Chase) and a 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands) as best aligning with current service delivery. They raised that additional attention is required to ensure rural areas are not disadvantaged through a north-south proposal where the north unitary risks being dominated by Stoke-on-Trent.

42. Business Bodies

One respondent business body set out a preference for two unitary councils, with a preference for a north/south division which best reflects existing community ties, travel patterns, and service delivery relationships. They could also support an east/west division too. They noted opposition to the 3 unitary and 4 unitary proposals.

Comments against the criteria

43. For criterion 1: A proposal should seek to achieve for the whole of the area concerned the establishment of a single tier of local government:

Respondents preferred a north-south division, with a preference for the 2 unitary (Cannock Chase) as best aligning with functional economic areas, service footprints, and commuting patterns. Responses noted that the proposal keeps Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme together, that would support housing and growth around Stoke-on-Trent, and would also align with existing health, education, transport and partnership arrangements. While the 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands) is also on a north-south division, concerns were raised about the complexity and cost of a boundary change and the impact on local identifies. The 3 unitary was also broadly supported as a sensible geographic footprint, though concerns were raised about efficiency and additional service fragmentation. The 4 unitary has some resident support however the majority of named consultees opposed this proposal as poorly evidenced, with additional disaggregation of services compounded by establishing a very small Newcastle-under-Lyme council.

44. For criterion 2: Unitary local government must be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks:

Respondents had a preference for larger unitary authorities to be better able to deliver efficiencies, build capacity and withstand financial shocks. Across all proposals concerns were raised about the financial position of Stoke-on-Trent for whichever authority the city is included within. Support was strongest for the 2 unitary (Cannock Chase) as the most financially resilient proposal. Concerns were raised about the 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands) high estimated transition costs and a costly boundary modification proposal. Concerns were raised about the efficiency of the 3 unitary and 4 unitary proposals, with opposition concerns greatest regarding the proposed very small Newcastle-

under-Lyme council given the small tax base, lower savings and adult social care sustainability concerns.

45. For criterion 3: Unitary structures must prioritise the delivery of high quality and sustainable public services to citizens:

The two-unitary proposals were generally seen as better able to protect high quality and sustainable public services, because they reduce fragmentation, limit the number of organisational interfaces, and provide greater scale for adult social care, children's services, SEND, transport and wider public service delivery. Support was strongest for the 2 unitary (Cannock Chase) as it aligns with existing health, care, commissioning, hospital discharge and partnership arrangements. Respondents noted that the 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council) has some scale benefits but is weakened by poor alignment with health and service delivery footprints, while the 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands) has similar North/South integration benefits but is weakened by boundary-change complexity and disaggregation risks. Respondents noted the 3 Unitary has some advantages from maintaining a coherent North Staffordshire footprint and more localised southern geographies, but raises concerns about additional interfaces, service fragmentation and statutory leadership requirements. The 4 Unitary presents the greatest risk, with significant concerns that four smaller authorities would fragment services, increase complexity, weaken social care and SEND resilience, and undermine integrated public service delivery.

46. For criterion 4: Proposals should show how councils in the area have sought to work together in coming to a view that meets local needs and is informed by local views:

Consultation responses raised common concerns about the adequacy and transparency of the process. Respondents felt the 2 unitary (Cannock Chase) was based on extensive local engagement, while 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands) was said to reflect a range of local views, though feedback was mixed in areas affected by boundary change. The 3 Unitary had the strongest public and organisational support. Concerns were raised about the 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council) as lacking wider community support. Opponents also raised concerns the 4 Unitary proposal engagement process was focused mainly on Newcastle-under-Lyme rather than the whole Staffordshire area. Across all proposals, respondents raised concerns that decisions should better reflect local identity, historic boundaries and community views.

47. For criterion 5: New unitary structures must support devolution arrangements:

Respondents felt all options could support devolution by enabling constituent membership of a new Strategic Authority. The two-unitary options were generally viewed more favourably by transport officials because they avoid splitting transport and highways functions before any future Strategic Authority arrangements are established. The 2 unitary (Cannock Chase) appears strongest overall, as it was described as a robust platform for devolution, aligns with sensible economic geographies and had the strongest organisational support. Though similar benefits for the 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands), opponents raised concerns around council consensus and transition risks due

to boundary change. Some support for 3 the unitary was providing a voting majority within a Foundational Strategic Authority. Concern the 4 unitary would increase complexity, weakening strategic coordination and undermining effective devolution.

48. For criterion 6: New unitary structures should enable stronger community engagement and deliver genuine opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment:

All proposals include some commitment to neighbourhood governance and community engagement, using mechanisms such as area committees, community boards, neighbourhood hubs, parish and town councils, and community forums. However, named consultees consistently raised concerns that the proposals need more detail on how these arrangements would work in practice, including roles, accountabilities, funding, capacity and how residents would meaningfully influence decisions. Respondents supported the 2 unitary (Cannock Chase) given the proposed neighbourhood governance framework, including Neighbourhood Area Committees and a focus on local voice, accountability and inclusivity. The 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands) also received some positive feedback with a structured model based on Neighbourhood Area Committees and Integrated Neighbourhood Teams, though concerns were raised about boundary changes and local identity issues. While the 2 Unitary (Staffordshire County Council) set out a good approach, respondents were concerned the east-west geography was less coherent and therefore weaker for neighbourhood empowerment. The 3 and 4 Unitary received strong resident support on local identity and keeping decision-making closer to communities.

49. The themes identified by the AI tool were as follows:

Loss of local identity and creation of artificial boundaries

The proposed reorganisation, especially the East-West split, would undermine historic and community ties, erode local identity, and result in artificial administrative boundaries that could weaken effective governance.

Concerns about authority size and imbalance

Proposed authorities may be too large, imbalanced, or diverse, leading to manageability issues, unequal representation, and neglect of smaller or rural areas.

Loss of local identity and representation from larger councils

Creating larger or merged councils risks eroding local identities, reducing local representation and accountability, and disrupting established community ties, particularly in rural areas and smaller towns.

Financial unsustainability and increased costs

Concern that the reorganisation may not be financially viable, could increase bureaucracy and costs, and may fail to deliver promised efficiencies or savings.

Preservation of local identity and independence

Maintaining local identity, community ties, and council independence is crucial; mergers, especially with Stoke-on-Trent, threaten effective governance and local representation.

50. Summary of paper and emailed non-named consultee responses

Common themes across offline non-named consultee responses include support for rationalisation into unitary authorities to improve efficiency, accountability, and service delivery, alongside consistent emphasis on maintaining strong local identity and ensuring decision-making remains close to communities. Health and social care stakeholders highlight alignment with existing service footprints and support a North Staffordshire geography. Parish councils and sector bodies stress the importance of strengthening the role of local councils and avoiding a “democratic deficit” in larger authorities. Financial sustainability and resilience are recurring considerations, with some respondents raising concerns about the ability of smaller unitary authorities to withstand financial shocks and others highlighting risks associated with merging areas with existing financial pressures, particularly relating to Stoke-on-Trent. Respondents also note potential transition risks, including disruption to partnerships and services, while identifying opportunities for improved strategic planning, clearer accountability, and economic growth under reorganisation. Some respondents raise concerns about the consultation process itself, including calls for greater evidence, longer engagement, and broader options. Overall, views are mixed, with no single proposal commanding unanimous support.

Boundary Change:

Question 10: One proposal is accompanied by a request that the Secretary of State considers boundary changes. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal sets out a strong public services and financial sustainability justification for boundary change? This question and question 11 were asked in relation to proposal 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands).

Summary of Named Consultee Responses

<i>Respondent type</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Principal Council 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	4	50%	50%	0%	0%
Neighbouring Principal Council 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	0%	50%	50%	0%
Strategic Authority proposal 2 Unitary	0	0%	0%	0%	0%

(Staffordshire Moorlands)					
Health Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	3	0%	67%	33%	0%
Police and Fire and Rescue Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Education Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	0%	0%	50%	50%
Other Public Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Voluntary and Community Sector 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	2	50%	0%	50%	0%
Business Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
National Bodies 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Other named consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	0	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total Named Consultees 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	15	20%	33%	40%	7%

Individuals and Organisation (not named consultees)

<i>Respondent type</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Individual living in affected area 2	1229	23%	65%	9%	3%

Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)					
Individual living outside affected area 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	47	28%	57%	9%	6%
Organisations 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	52	23%	60%	10%	8%

Total Responses Question 10

<i>Respondent type</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Total all responses 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	1343	23%	64%	10%	3%

Question 11: If you would like to, please use this free text box to explain your answer to question 10

<i>Respondent type</i>	<i>Total Named consultees</i>	<i>Total Individuals living in area</i>	<i>Total individuals not in area</i>	<i>Total Organisation</i>
Total all responses 2 Unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands)	11	497	25	32

51. We also received 69 responses by email and post. 12 were from named consultees, 12 were from individuals living in area, 21 were from individuals not in area or did not specify their location, 36 were from organisations. A summary of the views relevant to this question shared in these responses is included within the summaries below.

Summary of Local Government Boundary Commission (The Commission) Response

52. The Commission provided observations on the evidence provided to support the boundary change request within the 2 unitary (Staffordshire Moorlands) proposal, drawing on its Principal Area Boundary Review expertise. It considered the evidence in the proposal as it related to the identity and interests of local communities, and the promotion of effective and convenient

local government. The Commission observed that, while some evidence was provided to support the proposal in a general sense, there was less detail to support the specific boundary changes requested

Summary of named consultee responses

53. Principal Councils

Principal councils recognised the change would provide more balanced populations and service demand, and that moving Stone and parts of Uttoxeter would reflect travel to work patterns in the north. However, responses noted concern that the proposal is not supported by other Councils creating implementation uncertainty. They also raised concern that the boundary change would negatively impact community identities and does not reflect resident views. Concerns about the complexity and cost incurred from a boundary change.

54. Neighbouring principal councils

The majority of neighbouring principal councils did not express a view on the proposed boundary change modification, with one neighbouring council broadly disagreeing with this option.

55. Health Bodies

There was a mix of neutral views alongside some concerns regarding the proposed boundary change modification which could risk service delivery though increased complexity and cost. Some support for improving alignment with health body geographies, and potential to support integrated care for communities.

56. Police and Fire

Respondent provided a preference for any of the 2 unitary authorities to best support collaboration and information sharing.

57. Other public sector

Respondent did not comment on the boundary change proposal specifically.

58. Education Bodies

Support for a north-south split from education bodies, though without strong views on the boundary change modification option.

59. Voluntary and Community Sector

Some moderate support for boundary change modification option, though reassurance regarding engagement with local communities would be welcomed. Rural engagement was flagged as a concern.

60. Business Bodies

Support for all 2 unitary proposals, with a preference for a north-south configuration. No comments regarding the boundary change modification option.

Comments against the criteria

61. **For criterion 1: A proposal should seek to achieve for the whole of the area concerned the establishment of a single tier of local government:**
There was broad support for the north-south split being a sensible footprint for the area, and for working smaller and larger authorities. Some support for a boundary change to deliver a more balanced population, with some support for moving Stone and parts of Uttoxeter to reflect travel to work patterns in the north of Staffordshire. Others raised concerns it was not a coherent proposal and split existing districts and economic areas.
62. **For criterion 2: Unitary local government must be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks:**
There was a limited commentary from named consultees on boundary change modification, with some limited support that it would strengthen financial resilience by rebalancing service demand, council tax and business rate bases across Staffordshire. Concerns were raised about the cost and complexity of a boundary change, which would reduce the scale of potential savings and efficiencies.
63. **For criterion 3: Unitary structures must prioritise the delivery of high quality and sustainable public services to citizens:**
There was broad support for a north-south configuration to support service delivery, with some concerns the boundary change could increase complexity, cost and quality of service delivery through transition. Some support for improving alignment with health body geographies, and potential to support integrated care for communities.
64. **For criterion 4: Proposals should show how councils in the area have sought to work together in coming to a view that meets local needs and is informed by local views:**
There was some concern the proposal is not supported widely by principal councils, which could hinder implementation, although one named consultee acknowledged some strengths of this proposal.
65. **For criterion 5: New unitary structures must support devolution arrangements:**
There was limited commentary on the boundary change proposal in the context of devolution, though one named consultee raised concerns the lack of consensus on this proposal could complicate devolution.
66. **For criterion 6: New unitary structures should enable stronger community engagement and deliver genuine opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment:**
Some concerns were expressed that the boundary change proposal does not have sufficient community and resident support, while another named consultee raised concerns about rural engagement. Some concern about community engagement and how this would be delivered alongside town and parish councils.
67. **The themes identified by the AI tool were as follows:**

Proposal lacks justification and risks negative impacts The proposal does not provide a strong case for improved public services or financial sustainability, with unclear benefits, increased costs, and efficiency concerns.

Preference for existing boundaries Retaining current boundaries or smaller councils is preferable, as major changes are unnecessary or undesirable and the current system is satisfactory.

Opposition to merging with Stoke-on-Trent Merging with Stoke-on-Trent is undesirable due to concerns about its financial management, potential dominance, and negative consequences for other areas.

Improved alignment enhances services Aligning council boundaries with natural communities, economic corridors, and service areas will improve service delivery, planning, and better reflect local ties.

Boundary changes threaten local identity and representation Altering boundaries will erode local identity, reduce representation, split established communities, and centralize decision-making, making councils less responsive to local needs.

68. Summary of paper and emailed non-named consultee responses

Views mirrored response received from named consultees. Supporters noted the change would create a more balanced geography, better reflect economic and travel-to-work links, address existing boundary anomalies and strengthen democratic representation. While opponents highlighted that the proposed splitting of existing district areas would weaken community identity, particularly in Stone and surrounding Stafford parishes, create additional complexity, cost and service disruption, and reduce alignment with existing partnerships and local governance arrangements. Concerns were also raised about the integration of rural and urban areas, local representation, accountability and the practical delivery of services, while some respondents did not express a clear view on boundary change or focused instead on the wider reorganisation proposals.



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Chief Executives of Staffordshire and
 Stoke-on-Trent Councils

20 July 2026

Dear Chief Executives,

Thank you for your continued engagement and hard work throughout this process.

As you know, the Secretary of State has decided to move forward with implementation of the proposal for two unitary councils submitted by Stoke-on-Trent City Council, and also by East Staffordshire Borough Council, Stafford Borough Council, and Cannock Chase District Council. This is, of course, subject to Parliamentary approval. We will now prepare the necessary Structural Changes Order, which will be shared with you in due course for review and any factual amendments. This letter provides information on the decisions Ministers have taken in relation to that Order, the additional information that we require from you by **17 August**, the allocations of grant for the new unitary councils, and the next steps in the process.

Overview of the Structural Changes Order

As we have previously discussed, the Order will establish the new councils and abolish the existing councils. Your councils will remain responsible for services in your areas until they are abolished on 1 April 2028 and will be under a duty to co-operate with each other and with the new councils. The Order provides the transitional arrangements, with the core of that being elections to 'shadow' councils in 2027 and providing them with preparatory functions, including the preparation of budgets and plans, to enable the assumption of local government functions and powers on 1 April 2028. It will also provide duties to implement a Leader and Cabinet model, appoint statutory officers, and adopt codes of conduct and members' allowances.

The Order will provide for matters that Ministers have decided upon following consideration of information in your proposals and your representations submitted in response to my letter of 19th May 2026. Some other matters have also been identified where we will need further input from you by **17 August** in order to finalise the Order and move through the stages described below.

Ministers have also noted that there have been a number of councils who have requested further time to respond on some matters, such as names and councillor numbers. While decisions have been reached, having regard to proposals, representations and all other information available to them, to allow progress to be made, Ministers have been clear that they will consider any further unanimous

representations (i.e. from all affected councils within the area of a new unitary) made by **17 August**. The final decision on what to include in the legislation is ultimately for the Secretary of State to ensure any new councils are well placed to go live.

Matters that Ministers have decided

Ministers have now taken decisions on key areas within the Order and we are working closely with our lawyers to prepare a draft, which we anticipate we will share with you in September.

Names and councillor numbers

The new unitary councils, and the number of councillors that will represent them, are to be:

North Staffordshire	Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire Moorlands	84
South and Mid Staffordshire	Cannock Chase, Lichfield, South Staffordshire, Tamworth, East Staffordshire and Stafford	92

It is necessary that the new councils have a legal name, that will be set out in the secondary legislation establishing them. Once established, the new councils will have the same powers as other local councils to change their name, should they wish to do so (local authorities may change their name under Section 74 of the Local Government Act 1972 if they convene a council meeting for that purpose and secure the support of two-thirds of members voting at that meeting). It is also possible for councils to use a name other than their legal name for branding and local identity purposes.

We have also identified some sensitivities on naming conventions for new council names that have been considered by Ministers in coming to these names. First, 'City' will not be included in the legal name for councils as conferral of city status is a matter of Royal prerogative. There are mechanisms available for the preservation of city status separately (see below) and councils with city status may choose to adopt it as their legal name or be known by it. It is also not possible to use the -ern suffix, i.e. 'Southern' or to include dashes in council names.

Joint Committees

The Order will provide that all existing councils should be involved, so implementation is a shared endeavour, while ensuring a lead role for those who understand the proposal being implemented and lead the key services being disaggregated and aggregated. A Joint Committee will be established for each new council. More information on the role of Joint Committees can be found in our [guidance note](#).

For the Joint Committees for North Staffordshire Council, 50 per cent of the membership is for councillors representing the existing unitary council of Stoke-on-Trent, with the other 50 per cent to be councillors representing the county and districts as set out in the table below. The Chair is to be a member of the unitary council, with the Deputy Chair determined by the joint committee and to not come from the unitary council.

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent	Councils <i>*All areas incl. members from County Council</i>	Recommended structure			
		District	County	Unitary	Total
North Staffordshire	Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire Moorlands	2	2	4	8
South and Mid Staffordshire	Cannock Chase, Lichfield, South Staffordshire, Tamworth, East Staffordshire and Stafford	6	6	n/a	12

Implementation Team

There will be one Implementation Team, and officers from all predecessor councils are to be included. The Leader of the team will be the Head of Paid Service of Staffordshire County Council. They will be supported by two deputy team leaders – each from a council within each new area. In South and Mid Staffordshire the deputy team leader will be agreed locally from a district in each respective new unitary area. For North Staffordshire the deputy team leader will be from Stoke on Trent Council. These will be the minimum requirements, and it will be for the implementation team to agree locally how these operate, including substitutes or additional deputies to reflect local circumstances

New unitary	Implementation team leader	Deputy implementation team leader
North Staffordshire	Staffordshire County Council Head of Paid Service	Stoke-on-Trent council Head of Paid Service (existing unitary)

South and Mid Staffordshire		To be agreed locally from the district/borough councils within the area of the new council.
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We expect deputy leads to have a significant role in co-leading their respective Joint Committees. More information on the role of the Implementation Teams can be found in our guidance note.

To support the work of the Implementation Team, we would encourage you to use your sector advisor, Theresa Grant, to act as an independent critical friend.

Electoral arrangements:

The Government is committed to protecting local democracy and electoral arrangements that are fit for purpose. The Order will replace any scheduled local elections in May 2027 with elections to the new councils. This is in line with recent reorganisations and brings benefits of stability, with new councillors serving most of their first year on the 'shadow' council. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England will have time to complete a programme of electoral reviews in all new councils before the next elections.

Areas where we need further information

We require further information from you by **17 August** to finalise the Order on Returning Officers, warding arrangements and parish elections. If you think this deadline is going to be challenging, please get in touch, as a delay will have implications for the Parliamentary timetable as set out below.

Returning officers

Many of you asked to nominate returning officers for the inaugural elections once a decision was taken on which proposal was to be implemented. Please confirm which council's Head of Paid Service should be named as Returning Officer for each new council area.

Warding arrangements

We would be grateful if you could provide us with your suggested interim warding arrangements for each of the new councils for inclusion in the Order. These can be based on existing wards, divisions and parish boundaries. Please note that polling districts cannot be used. We will require this in a table format:

Name of new ward	Current Electoral areas that comprise it (county divisions, district wards or parishes/parish wards)	Number of councillors

Please include links/footnotes to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England orders establishing the current electoral areas where necessary and ensure that the correct spelling is used that exactly matches the legal name of the current electoral areas. A map is helpful additional information but is not sufficient on its own.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England guidance, as set out on their [website](#) and in our joint webinars last year is a good place to start, while recognising that the usual criteria are unlikely to be met in the same way as a full review. The Commission are able to offer advice and guidance as you draw up these boundaries. Please do reach out to them directly if you have not already. Ideally, the proposed warding would be collectively agreed by the councils in the area of each new council. The final decision remains for Ministers on what is included in the Order.

Parish elections

As requested, parish elections will be aligned with the new unitary elections, and we will need some more information from you on this to prepare the Order. We would like to understand the current electoral cycles for parish councils in the area of each new council (i.e. in which years there are parish elections) and your preferences as to if and how alignment with the new councils' elections should best be achieved.

Allocations of grant funding

The Secretary of State has agreed to provide funding of £900,000 per new unitary authority to assist with the transition costs. For Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, this means a total of £1,800,000. This funding is intended to support the effective establishment of new councils, and as such should be spent on activities that directly relate to those outcomes. If external support is needed, then it should leave a lasting legacy – short term consultancy is unlikely to offer good value for money on this basis. We envisage spend could include:

- Activity that supports your work on service disaggregation and aggregation
- Early investment in data and digital infrastructure and cyber resilience that will underpin everything new councils do
- Establishing robust programme management arrangements to support the development of implementation plans and the new authorities
- Putting arrangements in place to be ready to support new councillors and senior officers once elections have been held – such as new IT equipment.
- Putting early arrangements in place for the transition of children's services, adult social care and public health

We want to make payments as soon as possible in 2026/27 by Section 31 grants so as not to delay your work. As described above, there will be a deputy team leader within the Implementation Team for each new unitary council who will be an officer from a district or borough or unitary within the area of the new unitary council. Accordingly, we intend to pay the grant directly to the councils that are the employers of the deputy team leaders. Alternatively, if you inform us that you have agreed locally it should be paid to a different council, we can do this – we expect this would be by unanimous agreement of all those councils within the area of the new unitary council. We would be grateful if you could confirm the council to receive the funding by **17 August** so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Ministers also announced that they were committing **up to £10m funding** for Children's Services, Adult Social Care and Public Health leadership capacity and continuity from within our existing £63 million capacity fund. This includes areas receiving up to a further £150,000 per each new unitary council to help manage the practical demands of reorganisation while maintaining focus on critical frontline services and wider reform priorities. We will be in touch in due course regarding the distribution of this funding.

Next steps

We hope these decisions will enable you to start to put arrangements in place voluntarily, ahead of the Order being shared, to progress local government reorganisation. We consider that in particular you will want to make arrangements for the Implementation Team. This will support the preparatory work that can be progressed prior to the Order coming into force, recognising that the Order will place duties on your councils to cooperate.

You will want to consider the point at which it is helpful to move to more formal arrangements with Councillors that mirror the joint committees that will be required by the Order. While Surrey chose to do this quite quickly, this was driven by the limited time before their inaugural elections.

We envisage that joint committees should be meeting on a regular basis for up to six months before the inaugural elections. We are committed to continuing to work in partnership with you with a shared objective of delivering new unitary councils in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent that provide residents with excellent public services.

We thought it would also be helpful to set out next steps relating to the process, section 24 Directions and further legislation.

Process

Once we have finalised the Order, we anticipate sharing this draft informally with legal advisors to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments, for informal scrutiny and feedback. Following this informal scrutiny, we will be in a position to ask Ministers to formally lay the draft instrument before Parliament. It will then go through the Parliamentary process. This includes formal consideration by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments and the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee for the House of Lords, a debate by a Committee of each House, and then, subject to their agreement, approval motions in each House. We anticipate that the Order will be made, and so come into force, in 2027.

Section 24 Directions

In addition to the Order, we expect to issue a direction under section 24 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act once the Order is in force. This will require the predecessor councils to obtain consent from the shadow councils before entering into certain contracts or for certain asset disposals.

The purpose of the section 24 direction is to ensure new agreements will be in the best interests of the new councils or the residents of the area, and do not undermine or diminish the benefits or savings anticipated as a result of reorganisation, or which may

have an effect on the financial position of the new councils. We encourage you to share information about spend that could in the future be captured by such a direction, as set out in our [guidance note](#). We will later share a draft direction and explanatory note for you to consider.

Further legislation

Following the Order, we will also work with you on the further legislation that we expect will be needed to cover matters such as local government pensions, housing revenue accounts, ceremonial matters that need specific provision, such as Lord Lieutenants or Charter Trustees, and matters relating to where a council is a member of a body or organisation that needs to be updated. An example is available at [The Local Government \(Structural Changes\) \(Supplementary Provision and Amendment\) Order 2023](#). We envisage this supplementary order could cover a number of reorganisations and would come into force in time for 1 April 2028.

With regard to ceremonial matters, these can also be preserved via the existing suite of general regulations which make arrangements for transfer of functions, responsibilities, assets, liabilities and rights and privileges from predecessor to successor councils. Councils affected by a reorganisation may also make their own agreements about how certain assets should be handled.

With regard to city status in particular, this is conferred by the Monarch and applies to a defined locality and arrangements need to be put in place to ensure that this status is preserved. In cases where the existing local authority structure no longer aligns with the area originally granted city status, Charter Trustees are the usual legislative solution used in these circumstances and may be established for unparished areas. These trustees can hold historic property, such as charters or insignia, on behalf of the whole area.

We will be in touch to arrange a meeting in August to further discuss the matters in this letter.

We are copying this letter to Leaders, and your Sector Advisor, Theresa Grant.

Yours sincerely,

Beatrice Andrews
Co-Deputy Director, Local Government Reorganisation

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Councillor Jonathan Gullis, Leader



Rt. Hon Andy Burnham MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 0AA

Via email: Andy.Burnham.MP@parliament.uk
LGREorganisation@communities.gov.uk

22nd July 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

Local Government Reorganisation in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent

May I begin by congratulating you on your appointment as Prime Minister. Whatever our political differences, becoming Prime Minister is an extraordinary honour and responsibility, and I wish you success in serving our country.

Your appointment also provides an immediate opportunity for the Government to reconsider the decision announced on 16 July concerning Local Government Reorganisation in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

That announcement was made just four days before you took office. Now that you are Prime Minister and responsible for the policy and decisions of the Government, I must ask:

- Were you consulted before the decision was made?
- Did you agree with the decision to create a new North Staffordshire authority?
- Will your Government proceed with forcing Newcastle-under-Lyme into an authority with Stoke-on-Trent?

These are straightforward questions to which the residents of Newcastle-under-Lyme deserve straightforward answers.

Both the current and previous administrations of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council have consistently raised serious concerns about these proposals. On 8 July 2026, the Council passed a motion reaffirming its opposition to forced Local Government Reorganisation and calling for the process to be halted.

That motion specifically requested that the Leader and Chief Executive write to you again once you had formally taken office as Prime Minister. I am therefore writing in accordance with the clear and democratically expressed resolution of the Council.

The motion recognised that:

- More than 11,000 people have signed a petition opposing forced Local Government Reorganisation;

- There is strong and widespread local opposition to merging Newcastle-under-Lyme with Stoke-on-Trent;
- The proposals would weaken local democracy, reduce accountability and move decision-making further away from residents;
- No clear evidence has been presented that this upheaval would improve local services; and
- Newcastle-under-Lyme has existed as a Borough for more than 850 years, with a proud identity and a strong record of delivering for its residents.

A copy of the motion, as amended and agreed by the Council, is appended to this letter.

The announcement made by the Secretary of State on 16 July failed to engage meaningfully with any of these concerns. It ignored the voices of thousands of residents and offered no credible explanation of how this reorganisation would improve the services on which local people rely.

Most seriously, the Government has still not explained what will happen to Stoke-on-Trent City Council's estimated £600 million to £700 million debt burden. The people of Newcastle-under-Lyme did not create that debt. They should not be expected to inherit it, underwrite it or repay it through higher taxation and poorer public services.

Will you give an unequivocal guarantee that the residents of Newcastle-under-Lyme will not be made financially responsible for Stoke-on-Trent City Council's historic debts and liabilities?

Without such a guarantee, this proposal risks becoming little more than a mechanism for transferring another authority's financial problems onto the taxpayers of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

The claimed savings from reorganisation are equally unconvincing. Councils such as ours are already securing efficiencies through improved productivity, commercial delivery and responsible financial management, without abolishing historic local authorities or removing democratic accountability.

Local Government Reorganisation will itself be a costly and disruptive undertaking. It will consume vast amounts of officer time and public money at precisely the wrong moment.

Our officers should be concentrating on the services that matter most to residents: emptying bins, maintaining parks and playgrounds, tackling homelessness, supporting vulnerable families, regenerating town centres, and keeping our communities clean and safe.

Instead, they are being required to divert their attention towards restructuring councils, transferring staff, reconciling IT and financial systems, redistributing assets and liabilities, and designing an entirely new authority.

For this, the Government is offering just over £1 million per new authority, including a wholly inadequate £150,000 towards the costs of reorganising children's and adult services. The Government must know that the true cost of this work will be many times greater.

This upheaval is being imposed at a time when councils are already under intense pressure to protect frontline services and when residents continue to contend with significant cost-of-living pressures.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council has consistently supported meaningful devolution. We have supported, and will continue to support, the creation of a Mayoral Strategic Authority covering Staffordshire and Shropshire, bringing investment and strategic decision-making closer to our communities.

However, devolution and Local Government Reorganisation are not the same thing.

A strategic mayoral authority could improve transport, infrastructure, investment and economic leadership without abolishing well-run district and borough councils or forcing Newcastle-under-Lyme to absorb the debts and liabilities of Stoke-on-Trent.

Your predecessor's Government paused progress on the genuine devolution that councils across our region support while pressing ahead with an expensive, disruptive and unwanted restructuring exercise. I urge you to reverse those priorities.

I welcome the unequivocal opposition expressed by Adam Jogee MP in the House of Commons on 16 July. Speaking on behalf of his constituents, he described the proposals as "*completely unacceptable*" and stated: "*I reject them in the strongest terms.*"

He also rightly condemned the decision to make such a momentous announcement on the final sitting day before the parliamentary recess and only four days before a new Prime Minister took office.

It remains deeply disappointing that, while Adam Jogee MP spoke clearly and forcefully in defence of Newcastle-under-Lyme, the Borough's other Members of Parliament, Leigh Ingham MP and David Williams MP, have not opposed the abolition of our historic Borough.

I therefore ask you, as Prime Minister, to immediately reverse the Government's decision. It threatens the future of a Borough that has governed itself for more than eight centuries and affects the democratic representation, public services and financial interests of more than 120,000 residents.

As Prime Minister, you now have the opportunity to listen, reconsider and prevent a historic mistake. It is not too late to pause the process and think again.

I urge you to take that opportunity.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr. Jonathan Gullis
Leader of the Council

Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough Council
Castle House, Barracks Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 1BL

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Our ref:

Your ref:

Date: 22nd July 2026



The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government

Via e-mail: angela.rayner.mp@parliament.uk
Ministerial.Correspondence@communities.gov.uk

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

Dear Secretary of State,

Local Government Reorganisation in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent

May I begin by congratulating you on your reappointment as Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and welcoming you back to the role.

Your return to the Department provides an immediate opportunity to take a fresh look at the decision announced on 16 July concerning Local Government Reorganisation in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

As Leader of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, I am writing to reaffirm our unequivocal opposition to the forced abolition of our Borough and its incorporation into a new North Staffordshire authority with Stoke-on-Trent.

This decision was announced only four days before the appointment of a new Prime Minister and a new Secretary of State. It is therefore entirely reasonable to ask that you stop this immediately.

Both the current and previous administrations of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council have raised serious concerns about these proposals. On 8 July 2026, the Council passed a motion reaffirming its opposition to Local Government Reorganisation and its commitment to maintaining Newcastle-under-Lyme as a standalone authority.

The motion recognised that:

- More than 11,000 people have signed a petition opposing forced Local Government Reorganisation;
- There is strong and widespread local opposition to merging Newcastle-under-Lyme with Stoke-on-Trent;
- The proposals would weaken local democracy, reduce accountability and move decision-making further away from residents;
- No clear evidence has been presented that this upheaval would improve local services; and
- Newcastle-under-Lyme has existed as a Borough for more than 850 years, with a proud identity and a strong record of delivering for its residents.

A copy of the motion, as amended and agreed by the Council, is appended to this letter.

The announcement made on 16 July failed to engage meaningfully with any of these concerns. It ignored the voices of thousands of residents and offered no credible explanation of how abolishing Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council would improve the services on which local people rely.

The Government has still not explained what would happen to Stoke-on-Trent City Council's estimated £600 million to £700 million debt burden. Newcastle-under-Lyme residents did not create that debt and should not be expected to inherit it, underwrite it or repay it through higher taxation and poorer public services.

I ask you to provide an unequivocal guarantee that Newcastle-under-Lyme residents will not be made financially responsible for Stoke-on-Trent City Council's historic debts and liabilities.

The claimed savings from reorganisation are also unconvincing. Well-run councils such as ours are already securing efficiencies through productivity improvements, commercial delivery and responsible financial management without abolishing historic local authorities or removing democratic accountability.

Local Government Reorganisation will itself be a costly and disruptive undertaking. It will consume vast amounts of officer time and public money at precisely the wrong moment.

Our officers should be concentrating on the services that matter most to residents: emptying bins, maintaining parks and playgrounds, tackling homelessness, supporting vulnerable families, regenerating town centres, and keeping our communities clean and safe. Instead, they are being required to divert their attention towards restructuring councils, transferring staff, reconciling financial and IT systems, redistributing assets and liabilities, and designing an entirely new authority.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council supports meaningful devolution. We have supported, and will continue to support, the creation of a Mayoral Strategic Authority covering Staffordshire and Shropshire.

Such an authority could provide stronger strategic leadership on transport, infrastructure, skills, investment and economic development while allowing existing councils to remain accountable to the communities they serve.

However, devolution and Local Government Reorganisation are not the same thing.

A Staffordshire and Shropshire Mayoral Strategic Authority does not require the abolition of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council. Nor does it require our residents to absorb the debts and liabilities of Stoke-on-Trent.

I appreciate that you will have many urgent matters requiring your attention as you return to the Department. However, this decision threatens the future of a Borough that has existed for more than eight centuries and affects the democratic representation, public services and financial interests of more than 120,000 residents.

Your return to office provides an opportunity to listen and reconsider before a historic and irreversible mistake is made. I urge you to take that opportunity.

Yours faithfully,



Jonathan Gullis
Leader of the Council



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 August 2026 and 30 November 2026

This plan gives notice of decisions that [Cabinet](#) is expecting to take over the next few months. It also gives, except in cases of urgency, at least 28 days notice of all “Key Decisions” that will be taken “Key Decisions” are decisions about “executive” functions that will:-

- A) result in the Council incurring expenditure or making savings of an amount which is significant having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or the function to which the decision relates. (NB: The financial threshold above which expenditure or savings become significant has been set by the Council at £100,000 Revenue and £250,000 Capital Expenditure); and/or
- B) be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards of the Borough.

We have to take some Cabinet decisions in private because they deal with confidential or “exempt” information. That is information described in one or more of the following categories set out in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under the authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals an authority proposes;

- a. to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - b. to make an order or direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of a crime

If we intend to take a decision in private, we will tell you why in the plan below. If you disagree with our reasons, you can tell us why using the contact details below. We will respond to you directly and will publish our response in the meeting agenda. If we have published the meeting agenda before we can respond, we will respond verbally at the meeting and record the response in the minutes.

You can find more information about Cabinet, Cabinet Members and their portfolios, agendas, reports and minutes [here](#).

More information on Cabinet procedures, executive functions, Key Decisions, urgent decisions and access to information is available in our [Constitution](#).

For all enquiries, please contact Democratic Services, Castle House, Barracks Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 1BL.
Telephone – 01782 742222 / Email – DemocraticServices@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	Key Decision
Walleys Quarry Odour update	To consider a report on the Walleys Quarry odour update	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 4 August 2026	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	No
Proposed Pump Track at Lyme Valley Parkway	To consider a report on a proposed Pump Track at Lyme Valley Parkway	Cabinet Member for Residents' Services and Neighbourhoods	Cabinet 4 August 2026	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	Town	N/A	Yes
Traffic Regulation	To consider a report on a Traffic Regulation	Cabinet Member for Planning and Town	Cabinet 4 August 2026	Economy and Place	All Wards	N/A	Yes

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	
Order Consultation	Order Consultation	Centres					
Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2026-2030	To consider a report on the Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2026-2030	Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Protection	Cabinet 4 August 2026	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	No
Local Government Reorganisation Update	To consider a report on Local Government Reorganisation	Cabinet Member for Finance, Cabinet Member for Legal, Governance and Organisational Performance	Cabinet 4 August 2026	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N/A	Yes
Withdrawal of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council from the Local Government Association	To consider a report on the withdrawal of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council from the Local Government Association	Cabinet Member for Planning and Town Centres	Cabinet 4 August 2026	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N/A	Yes
Walleys Quarry Odour Update	To consider a report on the Walleys Quarry Odour issues	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 15 September 2026	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	No
Article 4	To consider a report	Cabinet Member for	Cabinet 15	Economy and	All Wards	N/A	Yes

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	
Direction	seeking to implement an Article 4 Direction across the Borough	Planning and Town Centres, Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Protection	September 2026	Place,Health, Wellbeing and Environment			
Medium Term Financial Strategy - Refresh 2027/28	To consider a report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy - Refresh 2027/28	Cabinet Member for Finance	Cabinet 15 September 2026	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N/A	Yes
Quarter 1 Finance and Performance Report 2026/27	To consider a report on Quarter 1 Finance and Performance 2026/27	Cabinet Member for Finance, Cabinet Member for Legal, Governance and Organisational Performance	Cabinet 15 September 2026	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N/A	No
Improving Welfare and Safety infrastructure at Knutton Lane Depot	Improving Welfare and Safety infrastructure at Knutton Lane Depot	Cabinet Member for Finance, Cabinet Member for Waste, Recycling and Green Spaces	Cabinet 15 September 2026	Finance, Assets and Performance,Health, Wellbeing and Environment	Town	N/A	Yes
Recycling and Waste re-routing	To consider a report on recycling and waste re-routing	Cabinet Member for Waste, Recycling and Green Spaces	Cabinet 15 September 2026	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	Yes

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	
Approval for Continuing Contract for H&S Monitoring	To consider a report for approval for Continuing Contract for H&S Monitoring	Cabinet Member for Legal, Governance and Organisational Performance	Cabinet 15 September 2026	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	Yes
Walleys Quarry Odour Update	To consider a report on the Walleys Quarry Odour Update	Cabinet Portfolio Holder - One Council, People and Partnerships	Cabinet 6 October 2026	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	No
Housing Assistance Policy	To consider a report on the Housing Assistance Policy	Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Protection	Cabinet 6 October 2026	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	Yes
Annual Report	To consider the Annual Report	Cabinet Member for Legal, Governance and Organisational Performance	Cabinet 6 October 2026	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N/A	No
Council Plan	To consider a report on the Council Plan	Cabinet Member for Planning and Town Centres	Cabinet 6 October 2026	Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	N/A	Yes
Joint Allocations Policy 2026	To consider a report on the Joint Allocations Policy 2026	Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Protection	Cabinet 6 October 2026	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	No
Asset Management Plan	To consider a report on the Asset Management Plan	Cabinet Member for Planning and Town Centres	Cabinet 6 October 2026	Economy and Place	All Wards	N/A	Yes

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	
Section 106 Strategy for Investment in Green Spaces	To consider a report on necessary updates to the use of Section 106 Funding for use in investing in parks and green spaces	Cabinet Member for Planning and Town Centres	Cabinet 6 October 2026	Economy and Place	All Wards	N/A	No
Facilities Upgrades for Service provision	To consider a report on investment in operational facilities for enhanced service provision	Cabinet Member for Waste, Recycling and Green Spaces, Cabinet Member for Finance	Cabinet 6 October 2026	Health, Wellbeing and Environment, Finance, Assets and Performance	All Wards	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 3 November 2026	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	No
Safeguarding Policy	To consider a report on the Safeguarding Policy	Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Protection	Cabinet 3 November 2026	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	No
Domestic Abuse Policy	To consider a report on the Domestic Abuse Policy	Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Protection	Cabinet 3 November 2026	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	All Wards	N/A	No
Outcome of Land Disposal Consultation	To consider a report on the outcome of the Land Disposal	Cabinet Member for Planning and Town Centres	Cabinet 3 November 2026	Economy and Place	All Wards	N/A	Yes

Report Title	Description	Portfolio	Intended Decision Taker and Date	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards Affected	Reason for Determining in Private Session (if Applicable)	
	Consultation						
Playing Pitch Strategy	To consider a report on the Playing Pitch Strategy	Cabinet Member for Planning and Town Centres	Cabinet 3 November 2026	Economy and Place	All Wards	N/A	Yes

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