

Date of meeting Thursday, 10th September, 2026
Time 7.00 pm
Venue Astley Room - Castle
Contact Geoff Durham - 742222



Health, Wellbeing & Environment Scrutiny Committee

AGENDA

OPEN AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (Pages 3 - 6)
To consider the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee.
- 4 DISTRICT AND BOROUGH HEALTH SCRUTINY ACTIVITY** (Pages 7 - 10)
The minutes of Staffordshire County Council Health & Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings can be viewed at the following address:
[Health & Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Staffordshire County Council](#)
- 5 WALLEYS QUARRY ODOUR UPDATE** (Pages 11 - 20)
- 6 LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY** (Pages 21 - 24)
- 7 DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME & IMPACT ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES** (Pages 25 - 36)
- 8 WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 37 - 38)
- 9 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
Any member of the public wishing to submit a question must serve two clear days' notice, in writing, of any such question to the Borough Council.
- 10 URGENT BUSINESS**
To consider any business which is urgent within the meaning of Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

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

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

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

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

Substitute Members:

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

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

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

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

HEALTH, WELLBEING & ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 11th June, 2026
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

Present: Councillor Scott Stevenson (Chair)

Councillors:	Ashworth	Heesom	J Tagg
	Bailey	Hutchison	Westcott
	Casey-Hulme	Jellyman	
	Harrison	Sparks	

Officers:	Andrew Bird	Service Director - Sustainable Environment
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1. **APOLOGIES**

All members were present.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Cllr Heesom expressed some confusion on the who was chairing the previous meeting (*) as well as two issues raised with Staffordshire County Council Representative Cllr Adam Griffiths for which email responses had been awaited – one pertaining to care workers and the other one to the savings and reductions in the NHS bank / agency staff.

Cllr Griffiths said he had been expecting the questions to be emailed to him so that he could reply and had not received anything.

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2026 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

[Watch the debate here](#)

(*) Democratic Services confirmed that the correct name had been recorded – i.e. Cllr Adcock was chairing the meeting.

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

The County Council Representative Cllr Adam Griffiths congratulated members on their election and referred to the training provided on 1st June. The first meeting of the County Council Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee was scheduled 15th June. Relevant information would be passed on to members at the next session.

Cllr Hutchison wondered about the budget and which proportion of the County Council environment related savings would be impacting Newcastle-under-Lyme's residents. An update would be appreciated at the next meeting.

Cllr Griffiths asked that the request be emailed to him so he could seek out answers. It was noted that the examples provided by Cllr Hutchison fell within the remit of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and the Economy Committee as opposed to Health Scrutiny Activity.

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

[Watch the meeting here](#)

5. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Work Programme was discussed.

Cllr Casey-Hulme put the following questions forward on the recovery of costs incurred by the Council in relation to Walleys Quarry:

- why the cost order awarded against Walleys Quarry was not enforced;
- if consideration was given to pursuing recovery of those costs;
- whether legal advice was obtained regarding enforcement;
- whether the Council intended to seek recovery of any outstanding costs in the future;
- if the Council got any part of the costs awarded.

Cllr Casey-Hulme also asked about the capping and restoration of the site:

- 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;
- if the Council could clarify whether the capping was progressing in accordance with degree specifications;
- what monitoring or independent verification was being undertaken to ensure the capping was adequate;
- whether the council was satisfied that sufficient material had been placed across the capped areas to ensure long-term effectiveness and environmental protection.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment said that an email copy of the questions relating to recovery costs would be helpful and that answers would be sought from officers.

Regarding the management of the facilities, this was under the control of the Environment Agency and was progressing according to plan with a drastic reduction of both odours and complaints. A full report would be provided at the next Cabinet meeting and brought to the next Committee meeting.

The Chair advised that the Work Programme would include the following items:

- Walleys Quarry;
- Environmental Stewardship;
- Park Investment Developing Methodology;
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy including partnerships;

Health, Wellbeing & Environment Scrutiny Committee - 11/06/26

- Waste Litter and Deposit Return Scheme including NOX canisters' impact on communities, waste and street scene services as well as mitigation controls;
- Refresh and Renew Update on Activity leading to Investment;
- PSPOS – developing new and amending current PSPO provision;
- Police Data Reporting – to receive an Update from the Borough Commander on Crime and Partnership Activity
- PFCC and SFRS Update – to receive an update from the Chief Fire Officer on Service Provision in Newcastle;
- Review of Gambling Policy – pencilled for November;
- Community Safety Partnership;
- Borough and District Health Activity Update from Staffordshire County Council;
- ICB changes – annual item to look at changes to the ICB's Geography and Focus Premises Enforcement;
- ENTP Crossover Article 4.

Cllr Heesom asked that the Navigation House topic be considered.

Cllr Hutchison said that the Civic Pride Investment Fund would likewise be of interest as well as the Grassland Cutting, Grassland Management and Sustainable Environment Strategies.

Cllr Heesom wondered why the Work Programme hadn't been included in the agenda.

The Service Director for Sustainable Environment responded that this was down to time constraints and provided more details on the list of items. The Environmental Stewardship would be replacing the Sustainable Environment Strategy that Cllr Hutchison referred to.

Members discussed further about the opportunity to bring the Navigation House into the work programme, agreeing it was desirable.

Cllr Bailey enquired about the provision for homeless veterans.

Cllr Heesom responded that it was the same as for other homeless people, adding that she was not aware of any homeless veterans having reached out to the Council over the last few years and that there was an Armed Forces Covenant at the Council.

Cllr Casey-Hulme suggested that the expected Climate Emergency Declaration motion be brought to the Committee before going to Full Council.

The Chair supported the suggestion which he had also intended to put forward.

The Cabinet Member for Waste, Recycling and Green Spaces advised that the motion would be discussed at Full Council which all available members would be attending and that prior scrutiny may therefore not be necessary.

The County Council Representative Cllr Adam Griffiths highlighted the importance for the Work Programme to remain a fluid document as scrutiny would be required as and when relevant reports would be brought to Cabinet.

The Chair concluded by sharing the list of items to be discussed at the September meeting i.e.:

- Walleys Quarry;
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy;
- Waste Litter and Deposit Return Scheme;
- Police Data Reporting – update from the Borough Commander on Crime and Partnership Activity.

Cllr Hutchison wondered if the County Council Representative could make notes of members' questions rather than awaiting an email to provide responses. Recordings of the meetings were available in case of doubts.

Cllr Griffiths commented that as questions were to be passed on to the appropriate person at the County Council it made sense to have members sending a copy rather than himself drafting an email with his interpretation of the questions.

Resolved: That the Work Programme be discussed and noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions received from members of the public.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved: That the next meeting be held on 17th September 2026.

Councillor Scott Stevenson
Chair

Meeting concluded at 7.36 pm

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Monday 20 July 2026

District and Borough Health Scrutiny Activity

Recommendation

I recommend that:

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

Summary

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

Background

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

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

Cannock Chase District Council

Cannock Chase Council's Health, Wellbeing and The Community Scrutiny Committee met on

East Staffordshire Borough Council

East Staffordshire Borough Council's Scrutiny (Health and Well Being) Committee met on

Lichfield District Council

Lichfield District Council's (LDC) Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

The Borough Council's Health, Well-being and Environment Scrutiny Committee met on 11th June 2026.

Members received an update from the County Council Representative and discussed the work programme for the 4 year-cycle ahead.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled on 17th September 2026.

South Staffordshire District Council

The Committee will next meet in June 2026.

Stafford Borough Council

Stafford Borough Council's Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee met on

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

The Council's Health and Wellbeing Committee met on

Tamworth Borough Council

Tamworth Borough Councils Community Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on

Link to Strategic Plan

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

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

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

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Council	District/ Borough Representative on CC	County Council Representative on DC/BC
Cannock Chase	Carl Boulton	Rhys Mandry
East Staffordshire	Aaron Mansfield	Catherine Brown
Lichfield	Steve Norman	Tracey Dougherty
Newcastle	Scott Stevenson	Adam Griffiths
South Staffordshire	Helen Adams	Michelle Woods
Stafford BC	Ann Edgeller	Antonia Orlandi-Fantini
Staffordshire Moorlands	Lyn Swindlehurst	Mike Broom
Tamworth	Natalie Statham	Wayne Luca

Contact Details

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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

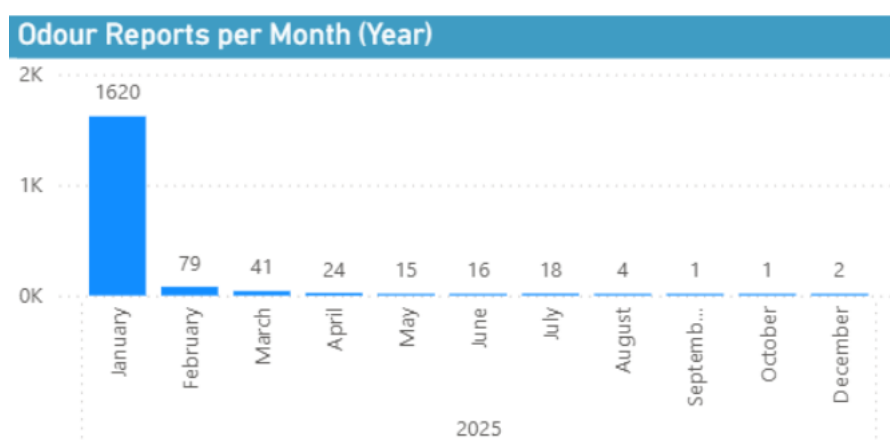
2.1 To provide an update report on:

- 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.

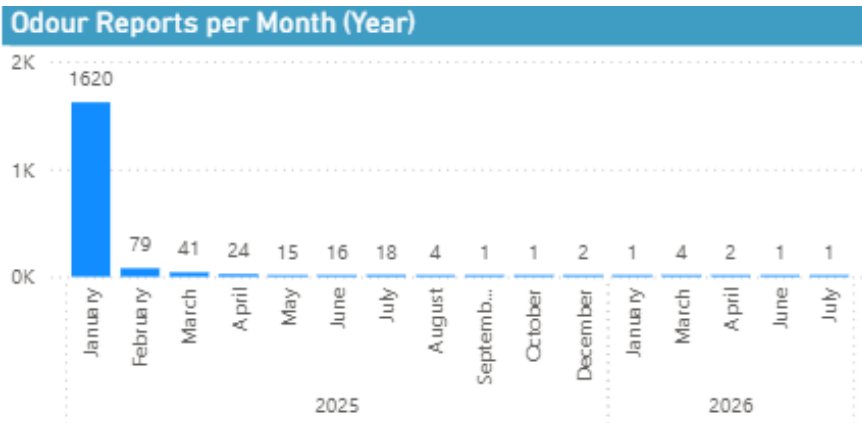
Odour complaints reported to the Council

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

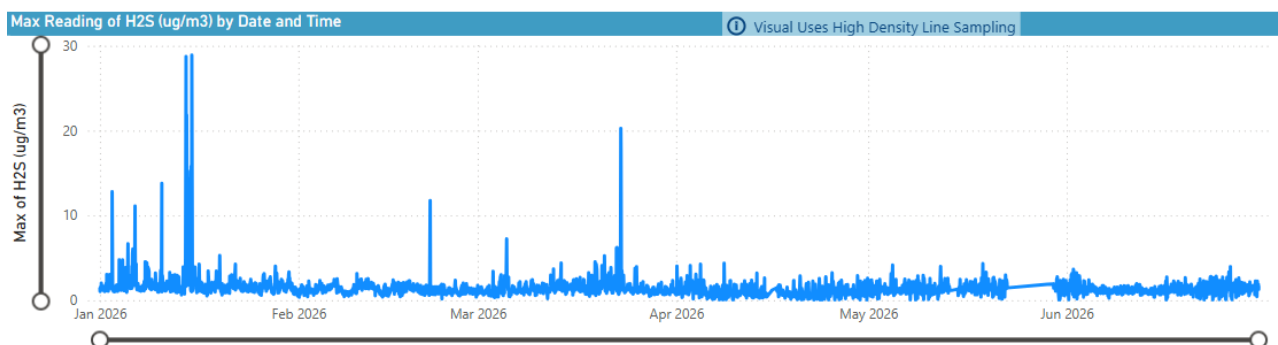
- 2.6 5 odour assessments were undertaken on 14 July 2026. The assessments detected a rating of 0 [no odour].
- 2.7 9 odour assessments were undertaken on 28 July 2026. 1 odour assessment detected a rating of 3 [distinct odour] on Silverdale Road adjacent to STWA Pumping Station. The remaining assessments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

10 September 2026



Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Lead Member:

Cllr Ben Simpson Portfolio Holder – Waste Recycling & Green Spaces

Lead Officer:

Andrew Bird – To Service Director Sustainable Environment

Key Decision: No

Ward(s): All

Appendices: None

Report Assurance:

	Name	Date
Lead Officer	Andrew Bird	01/09/2026
Monitoring Officer		
Section 151		
Chief Executive		
Cabinet Member		

Report Summary

To provide members of the Health wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee with an update on the statutory requirement for provision of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

Notes the report and the update on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent

1. Background

- 1.1. Local Nature Recovery Strategies were introduced through the Environment Act 2021 as a new way to enhance local wildlife and ecosystems. The Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is a legal framework for enhancing and restoring the natural environment in our area. This local nature recovery strategy is one of 48 strategies covering all of England.
- 1.2. The strategy includes a statement of priorities (set out below) and an online map which identifies both existing priority areas for nature and those areas that could become priority areas in the future. The map identifies opportunities where enhancement could make a significant difference – importantly it does not dictate land use.
- 1.3. Whilst focused in particular on nature recovery, the strategy also considers how wider environmental benefits can be delivered, including flood risk management, air quality and climate impacts.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. Nature in England is in steep decline. This decline is apparent in Staffordshire. [The State of Nature Report 2023](#) Identified that Great Britain is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. Nature recovery doesn't just help nature but also helps local communities through flood resilience, food system resilience, positive health and wellbeing impacts, cleaner water and air, and much more.
- 2.2. There are 3 measures of biodiversity change:
 - Abundance (the number of individuals which comprise a species).
 - Distribution (the proportion of sites or locations in which species are present).
 - Extinction risk.
- 2.3 The Purpose of the LNRS
 - Made mandatory by the Environment Act 2021, the main purposes of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) are to:
 - Bring together information about the areas which are most important for biodiversity and make this accessible on a map base, known as the 'Local Habitat Map'.
 - Identify locations where effort can best be focused to improve or create habitat most likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment.

- Help reverse the ongoing decline of nature in England by establishing priorities for nature recovery.
- Provide a strategy around which partners can come together to deliver shared aims and objectives, including around improving public access to nature, natural flood risk management, and resilience to the changing climate.
- Assist government agencies to target biodiversity-related funding.
- Assist land managers, developers, planners, environmental organisations, communities, residents and businesses to pursue opportunities to target actions and thereby help nature recover.
- Inform the delivery of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and guide local planning policy for nature recovery.

3. Strategic Approach

3.1. It is expected that the Strategy will be used to:

- Guide funding and investment into local priorities for nature protection and enhancement, and thereby help realise opportunities for nature recovery.
- Help shape future farming and land management programs, such as Environment Land Management (ELM) and Countryside Stewardship schemes.
- Map areas of opportunity for the use of 'nature-based solutions' to wider environmental problems like flooding or poor water quality, climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Guide mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) investments.
- Provide a source of evidence for local planning authorities, helping to understand locations important for conserving and restoring biodiversity.

3.2. The LNRS will set out priority outcomes and actions, as well as short term targets to support nature recovery in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent

3.3. Where possible, the strategy will seek to support delivery of national targets identified by Government, including halt in the decline in species abundance by 2030, and protect 30% of UK land for biodiversity by 2030.

3.4. NuLBC – LNRS Responsibility

3.5. Adoption – When the LNRS was first announced, Full Council on the 17th of November 2021 proposed a motion to support the LNRS. Since then, the Council has supported the LNRS through development of the draft strategy and subsequent consultation.

3.6. Consultation – Consultation was led by Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust from the 1st of June till the 27th of July 2026 with landowners, farmers, supporting authorities, regulatory bodies, neighboring regional authorities, communities, businesses and environmental bodies. The Council supported the consultation through social media, in person engagements and attendance to one of the in-person consultation sessions. This phase is now completed. A Supporting Authorities consultation will be undertaken in Autumn of 2026 with supporting authorities, which includes the Borough Council. Officers involved from various teams across the Council will be able to respond to the draft presented.

- 3.7. Delivery - The LNRS for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is planned to be fully adopted and published by Autumn/Winter of 2026/2027. The Council had the LNRS embedded into the main Sustainable Environment Strategy and is still a working member of the partnership with supporting authorities, Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. The Delivery of the LNRS will mostly sit with the County, however NuLBC will be expected to support with the delivery of certain projects especially if they are on NuLBC owned land. The Council may also get involved through the LNRS in facilitating local partners like farmers and landowners to contribute land for the projects, the procurement of grant funding for project delivery and the engagement of the Borough with the LNRS.

4. Finance & Resources

- 4.1. There are no financial and resource implications arising from this report. Support for the LNRS will be undertaken within existing resources and budgets.

5. Legal & Governance

- 5.1. Local Nature Recovery Strategies were introduced through the Environment Act 2021 as a new way to enhance local wildlife and ecosystems.

6. Supporting Information

- 6.1. There is more information available on the LNRS Website - [LNRS Website](#)

The Deposit Return Scheme & the Impact on Local Authorities

Harvey Stevenson
Staffordshire Waste Partnership Support Officer
Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council



UNCLASSIFIED Organisational

What is a Deposit Return Scheme & How Does it Work?

- A system where consumers are charged an up-front deposit when they buy a drink in a container that is 'in-scope' of the scheme
- The deposit can be redeemed when the empty container is returned to a designated return point



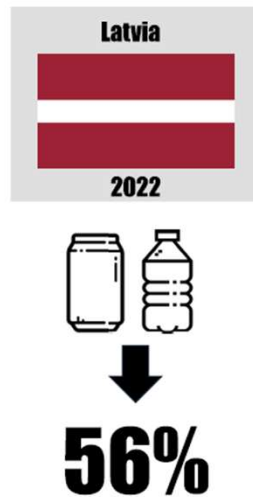
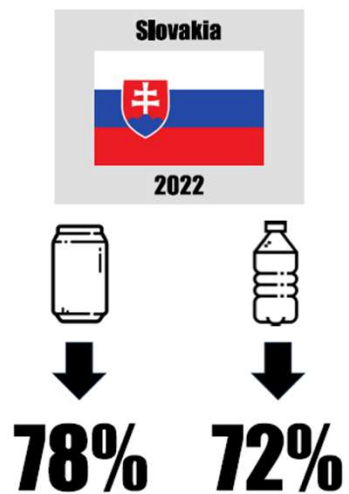
UNCLASSIFIED Organisational

What are the Benefits of a DRS?

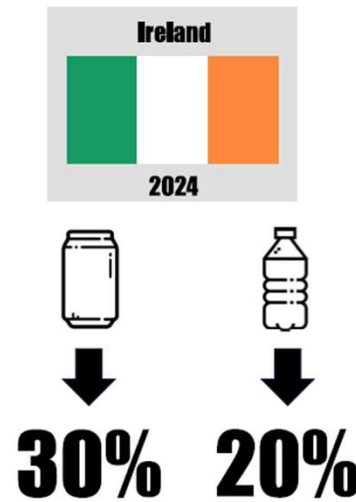
- An increase in recycling rates of the in-scope containers
- Improved material quality
- Reduced littering of the in-scope containers



DRS countries see rapid and substantial reductions in beverage container litter, often within the first year

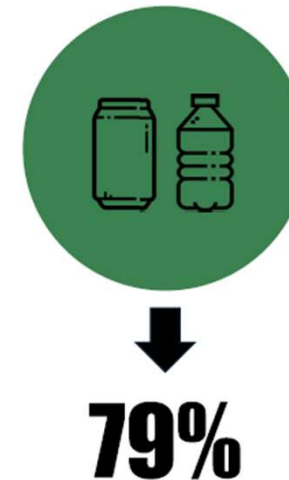


Coastal sites
2021-2023



National survey shows ~50% fall
in bottle can prevalence across
500+ sites

Deposit containers



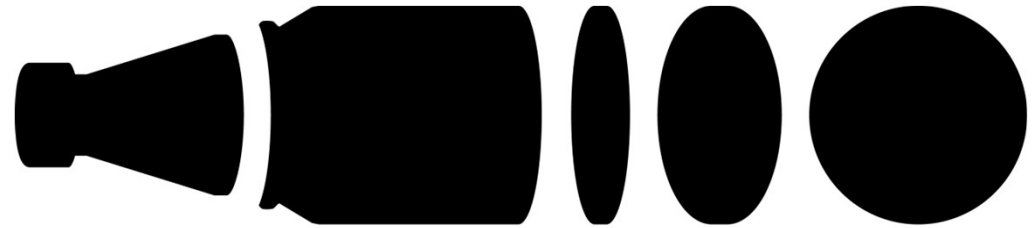
Non-deposit containers



UNCLASSIFIED Organisational

Who will manage the scheme for the UK?

- 'Exchange for Change' are a non-profit, business led organization appointed by the government to develop and deliver the scheme. They will act as the Deposit Management Organisation (DMO)
- Not for profit organisation. Created by the industry, for the industry
- Appointed to deliver a scheme that is practical, inclusive and works for everyone



EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE

What Items are included in the scheme?

<i>Included</i>	<i>Excluded</i>
• Items completely or mainly from aluminium, steel or polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic (plastic bottles and aluminium cans) • (PET is polyethylene terephthalate).	• Single use items
• Items between 150 millilitres (mm) and 3 litres (L)	• Made from high-density (HDPE) such as plastic milk bottles
• Items that are likely to be used only once or for a short period of time	• containers that are used to hold liquid medicines (cough syrup), flavour enhancers or sweeteners that are added to drinks (syrups or hot sauces for example

Scheme Labelling

- All items **MUST** display the scheme barcode and logo to be eligible
- You will be unable to deposit any items without them
- A proof of purchase is **NOT** required to return an item



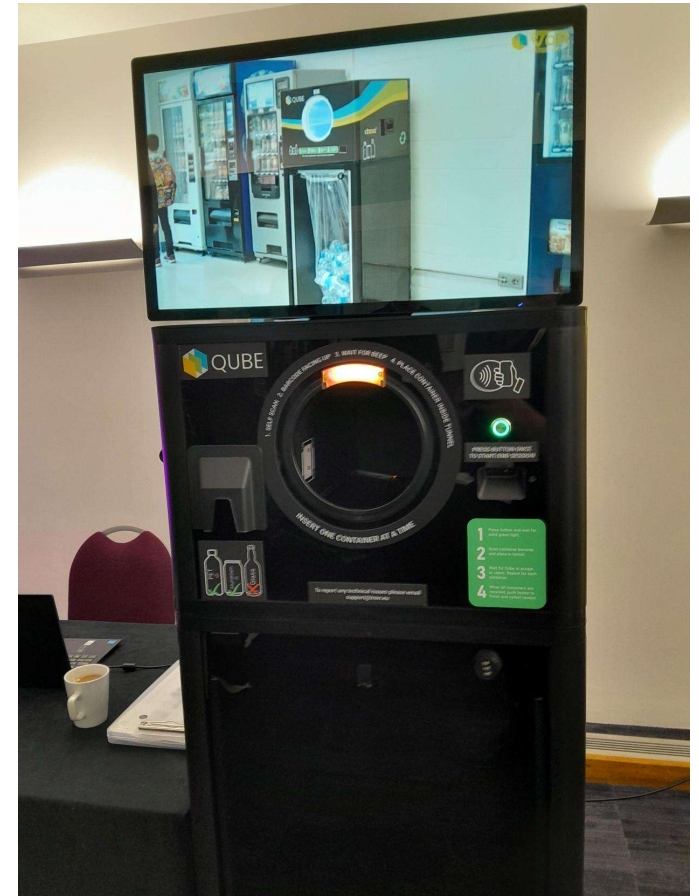
MANUAL RETURN POINTS

- Items are returned over the counter at supermarkets, convenience shops such as newsagents
- These premises that sell the items within the scheme must act as a return point
- Premises with urban areas are NOT required to host a return point if they are sized under 100 metres squared, but could host a return point if they wanted to



AUTOMATIC RETURN POINTS – REVERSE VENDING MACHINES

- **The consumer places an in-scope item that displays a barcode and logo of the scheme into the machine**
- **The barcode is then scanned and weighed by the machine**
- **The machine then provides a paper receipt that can be used in store to redeem for cash**

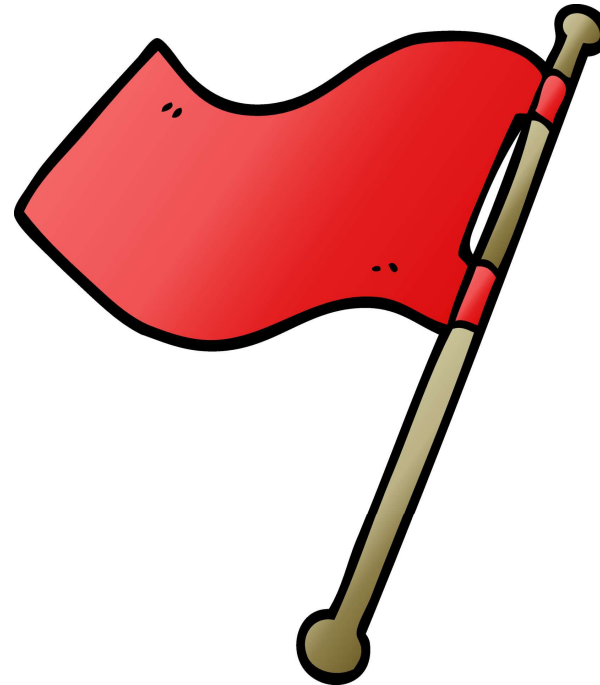


The UK Nations

Country	Launch Date	Materials Accepted	Material Size Accepted
England	1 st October 2027	PET bottles & metal cans	150ml – 3 litres
Wales	Currently have no scheme operator	PET bottles, metal cans but also includes glass	150ml – 3 litres
Scotland	1 st October 2027	PET bottles & metal cans	150ml – 3 litres
Northern Ireland	1 st October 2027	PET bottles & metal cans	150ml – 3 litres

Concerns with the DRS

- Cost of living crisis
- Residents with busy lives
- Initial bad experiences
- Waiting times at return points
- Accessibility
- Fraud risk
- Re-educating residents
- The deposit is on the wrong items!
- Issues with the reverse vending machines
- Who's responsible for educating residents about the scheme?



Challenges Facing Local Authorities & What we Should be Doing

- Valuable materials collected by councils will be lost to the scheme
- Council recycling rates will decrease
- Communications with contractors
- Budgets
- Street cleansing teams
- On the go recycling containers
- Push back from residents



Thank you

Harvey.Stevenson@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

**Staffordshire Waste Partnership Support Officer
Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council**

HEALTH, WELLBEING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Work Programme 2026-27

Chair

Cllr Scott Stevenson

Vice-Chair

Cllr Olivia Wozny

Members

Cllrs Martyn Ashworth, Christopher Bailey, Sheelagh Casey-Hulme, Mark Harrison, Gill Heesom, David Hutchison, Pamela Jellyman, Ian Sparks and John Tagg
Andrew Bird

Scrutiny Champion

Andrew Bird

Portfolio Holders within the Committee's remit

Cllr Andrew Fisher – Residents' Services and Neighbourhoods
Cllr Ben Simpson – Waste, Recycling and Green Spaces

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

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

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

- ✚ Geoff Durham at geoff.durham@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk
- ✚ Alexandra Bond at alexandra.bond@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

Planned Items

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	NOTES
10/09/2026	• Walleys Quarry • Local Nature Recovery Strategy • Waste Litter and Deposit Return Scheme	Officer: Nesta Barker Officer: Andrew Bird Officer: Andrew Bird – Powerpoint Presentation
03/12/2026	• Walleys Quarry • Review of Gambling Policy • Police Data / Crime & Partnership Activity • Anti-Social Behaviour Data Report	Officer: Nesta Barker Officer: Roger Tait Contact: Borough Commander Officer: Michelle Hopper

Future items

- Environmental Stewardship
- Park Investment Developing Methodology
- Refresh and Renew Update on Activity leading to Investment
- PSPOS – developing new and amending current PSPO provision
- PFCC and SFRS Update – to receive an update from the Chief Fire Officer on Service Provision in Newcastle
- Community Safety Partnership
- Borough and District Health Activity Update from Staffordshire County Council
- ICB changes – annual item to look at changes to the ICB's Geography and Focus Premises Enforcement
- ENTP Crossover Article 4

Last updated on 01/09/2026