

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: BID, DCN, LGA, NP, SLB, WME, CPRE

Submitted by: Simon Tagg

Update:

- **Newcastle Business Improvement District (BID)**

Monthly Board meetings during this period. Main items discussed – town centre events, business support and BID re-ballot. Link to details: <https://www.newcastleunderlyme.org/>

- **District Council Network (DCN)**

Various meetings relating to Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution that have fed into Council and Cabinet reports.

- **Local Government Association (LGA)**

Attended the LGA Conference and various meetings relating to Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution that have fed into Council and Cabinet reports.

- **Newcastle Partnership**

Attended the partner priority setting meeting. Link to details: <https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/community-safety/newcastle-partnership>

- **Staffordshire Leaders Board**

Attended Board meetings relating to Local Government Reorganisation, Devolution and asylum dispersal, economic development and transport that have fed into Council and Cabinet reports. Link to details:

<https://staffordshire.moderngov.co.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=1250>

- **West Midlands Employers (WME)**

Two meetings during this period that clashed with Cabinet meetings. Link to details:

<https://wmemployers.org.uk/>

- **Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)**

One meeting during this period. Link to details: <https://www.cprestaffordshire.org.uk/>

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: **West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association**

Submitted by: **Cllr Stephen Sweeney**

Update:

The Association has not met for the last six months.

Next meeting date: N/A

Actions arising from the Meeting:

N/A

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: **Enjoy Staffordshire – Destination Management Partnership**

Submitted by: **Cllr Stephen Sweeney**

Update:

The Partnership has not met for the last six months.

Next meeting date: N/A

Actions arising from the Meeting:

N/A

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: Corporate Parenting Panel

Submitted by: Gill Heesom

Update:

Staffordshire's corporate parent meetings involve the Corporate Parenting Panel which holds business, working, and hot topic meetings to improve services for children in care and care leavers. The Children in Care Council also meets twice monthly, and the The Voice Project holds monthly forums, to ensure that the voices of young people are heard and acted upon by the panel, managers, and partner agencies. These meetings focus on a shared responsibility for corporate parenting, with a focus on improving outcomes for children and young people.

Main Corporate Parenting Meetings were held on 16/7/2025, 18/9/2025 and 23/10/25 although several earlier meetings from May to July were cancelled by the new administration when they took control of the council in May 2025.

Corporate Parenting meetings are not open to the public and a link to the most recent annual report is shown below.

<https://staffordshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s201940/Corporate%20Parenting%20Panel%20Annual%20Report%202024-25.pdf>

Next meeting date: 18 December 2025

Actions arising from the Meeting:

Not open to the public, although a request for Christmas presents for children in care will be publicised shortly and I would ask that Cllrs and any other interested parties consider providing a present.

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: North Staffs Victim Support
Submitted by: Gill Heesom

Update:

North Staffs Victim Support is no longer a charity and has not met in the current civic year.

The region's victim support is now part of the Staffordshire Victim Gateway further details of which can be found on the following link: <https://svg.org.uk/>

Next meeting date: N/A

Actions arising from the Meeting: N/A

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London (PATROL)
Submitted by: Gill Heesom

Update:

PATROL met on 15 July 2025 and **14 October 2025** links to available meeting papers are shown below:

https://www.patrol.gov.uk/committee_papers/July-2025-JC-Agenda.pdf

https://www.patrol.gov.uk/committee_papers/ESC-Agenda-14-10-2025.pdf

Next meeting date: 20 January 2026

Actions arising from the Meeting: N/A

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: **Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel (PFCP)**
Submitted by: **Gill Heesom**

Update: Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel (PFCP): This is the main body that scrutinizes the Commissioner's work, decisions, and performance. The panel is comprised of ten local Councillors from different local authorities in the area and two independent members.

PFCP met on 28 July 2025, 22 September 2025 and also a confirmation hearing for consideration for a proposed Section 151 Officer appointment was held 22 September 2025.

Links to the meeting papers and webcasts are shown below

<https://staffordshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1150&MId=17907&Ver=4>

<https://staffordshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1150&MId=17759&Ver=4>

<https://staffordshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1150&MId=18093&Ver=4>

Next meeting date: 17 November 2025

Actions arising from the Meeting: N/A

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: LGiU

Submitted by: Cllr David Hutchison

Update:

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough is a member of the Local Government Information Unit. This provides Daily and Weekly news updates to all Borough Councillors. If you are not receiving updates, you can register at lgIU.org

Next meeting date:

Actions arising from the Meeting:

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: **Staffordshire Sustainability Board**

Submitted by: **Cllr David Hutchison**

Update:

Staffordshire Sustainability Board (SSB).

Staffordshire Sustainability Board is made up of Lead Members and Senior Officers from each of the 10 authorities in Staffordshire. The board considers issues relating to sustainability and waste management. As the Portfolio Holder for the Sustainable Environment at the Borough Council. I am the lead member for the Borough Council at the SSB.

For more details, see [Staffordshire Sustainability Board - Staffordshire County Council](#)

Next meeting date:

Actions arising from the Meeting:

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Outside Body: **Waste and Mineral Site Liaison Committee-Holditch House**

Submitted by: **Cllr Sue Beeston**

Hasn't met

Next meeting date:

Actions arising from the Meeting:

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: **Knutton Quarry Waste and Mineral Site Liaison Committee**

Submitted by: **Cllr Rupert Adcock**

Update:

The Committee met on 25 September and I sent apologies. Operational and site updates were given. I discussed with them the community fund and following this the committee voted on a proposal submitted by Silverdale Primary for grant funding which was approved. An update to membership was also being discussed to reflect changes in council membership.

Next meeting date: unknown

Actions arising from the Meeting:

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: **Waste and Mineral Site Liaison Committee- Knutton Quarry**

Submitted by: **Cllr Lynn Dean**

At the last meeting it was discussed what the company's plans are for restoration.
We also discussed the company's local community fund scheme.

Next meeting date:

Actions arising from the Meeting:

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: **Keele Waste Mineral Committee**

Submitted by: **Cllr Amanda Berrisford & Cllr Jill Whitmore**

Update:

We are not aware of any meetings having been held, we have not been invited to any.

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: **ASPIRE HOUSING**

Submitted by: **Cllr Paul Northcott**

Update:

The Board has met 6 times during this period including a 2 day away day for board members and the executive management team. These have been a mixture of both in person and online platforms. During the previous year there has been quite a few changes to the Board membership as there have been several retirements. Appointments have refreshed and strengthened the Board building upon the successes of the previous encumbrance.

The Board has steered the company through some challenging economic times that have changed due to external influences but has come through this period and finds itself in a strong position today. Today Aspire own and manage across Staffordshire and Cheshire more than 9,500 properties and look after more than 19,000 customers. Aspire are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year.

Customer service remains at the centre of Aspire's top priorities. The company has improved on both customer and staff satisfaction over the last 6 years and recent positive feedback has reflected this improvement. Aspire's 2030 Corporate plan can be found here.

<https://www.aspirehousing.co.uk/about-us/corporate-plan/>

<https://www.aspirehousing.co.uk/about-us/tenant-satisfaction-measures/>

Members may have noticed through the Planning process, the Council's interactions with the development arm of Aspire to deliver Joint improvements for the residents of Newcastle from the securing bid for Government improvement funds. This has been highlight through this Council's Cabinet and Planning Committee Agenda and Reports. Aspire continues to work with the leadership and executive officers of Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council.

The full details of specific items discussed at board meetings, contain commercially sensitive information which is not put in the public domain. However, any further questions outside confidential content may be discussed with me by arrangement, and if members wish to know more about the present and current company position a link is included to provide more detail as to the global business here:

<https://www.aspirehousing.co.uk/about-us/our-policies/>

Kindest regards

Cllr Paul Northcott.

November 2025

Next meeting date: 16th December 2025

Actions arising from the Meeting: N/A

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: **Staffordshire Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Submitted by: **Cllr Rupert Adcock**

Update:

The committee met on the following dates 30 June, 31 July, 15 Sept and is due to meet on 10 Nov

Many items were discussed relating to the Integrated Care Board 2025/6 operations plan, proposed cost savings plan, Freedom to Speak Up update, updates on services at Stafford hospital and cardiac services at Burton. We had a briefing on the rollout of mental health support services in schools and we also have a briefing planned on Family Hubs. I gave an update on the activity of our committee at the July meeting and will do so again on 10 Nov. County Cllr Adam Griffiths was appointed representative on our Borough Scrutiny Committee and will be attending and briefing our meetings on County activity.

Next meeting date:
10 Nov 2025

Actions arising from the Meeting:

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: **Madeley Alms Houses Trustees**

Submitted by: **Cllr Jill Whitmore**

Update:

The meeting took place on Monday 3rd November at 5.00pm.

We discussed the need to slightly increase the rental for these properties. There is a long waiting list for these properties at the moment.

We also discussed the amendments to the tenant's handbook.

Next meeting date:

The next meeting will be in 2026 as the committee do not hold the meetings monthly.

Actions arising from the Meeting:

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: **Staffordshire Playing Fields Association**

Submitted by: **Cllr Craig Skelding**

Update:

There have been no meetings in the last six months.

Next meeting date:

TBC

Actions arising from the Meeting:

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: **Acton Composting Facility**

Submitted by: **Amy Bryan**

Update:

The body has not met in the last year.

Next meeting date: tbc

Actions arising from the Meeting:

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: Newcastle-under-Lyme Almshouse Charity

Submitted by: Cllr John Williams

Update:

Almshouse Trust Trustee. Chairman of Trust that operates in managing five bungalows. Met 3rd November 2025. Discussion about welfare of the residents. Rent Increase in line with inflation. Kitchen improvements, radiator thermostats and the general maintenance of the properties.

Next meeting date: Meeting to be arranged

Actions arising from the Meeting: Prices for improvements to Bungalows by
Maintenance Officers

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: **Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire Theatre Trust Ltd (New Vic Theatre)**

Submitted by: **Mark Holland**

Update:

For the benefit of Members unfamiliar, the New Vic Theatre is run by the Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire Theatre Trust Ltd. The Trust's board includes directors nominated by three local authorities (the Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council, and Stoke-on-Trent City Council), reflecting its origins which included the councils as partner organisations. The New Vic is a professional producing theatre, a registered charity, and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. The main auditorium was Europe's first purpose-built theatre-in-the-round.

The Trust reported the following impact statistics in its most recent annual statement:

Our Organisational Impact 2024-25

- *184,468 people visited the New Vic for performances, projects, and activities.*
- *Dynamic Theatre Making – 93,696 people experienced live performance across 337 shows.*
- *Active Participation – 32,971 people took part in creative programmes with our Education and Borderlines teams.*
- *Community Hub – 28,060 people used our space to meet, socialise and visit our exhibitions*
- *Youth Engagement – 23,944 under-26s attended performances.*
- *Inclusive Reach – 20% of theatregoers came from some of UK's most deprived areas.*
- *Access for Schools – 19,508 pupils from 143 schools experienced live performance, many for the first time.*
- *Regional Impact – 20% of audiences are from outside Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.*

During the past six months, the Theatre has continued to deliver an artistic programme that attracts national acclaim and is of an internationally high standard.

Artistic Director Theresa Heskins and Associate Director Vicki Amedume were shortlisted in September in the Best Director category at the UK Theatre Awards, for 'The Company of Wolves'. In addition to achieving national recognition, that show was an example of the New Vic's continued partnership with co-producers Upswing Aerial, which initially arose from the very successful programme of work celebrating the Newcastle-born founder of the modern circus, Philip Astley.

Locally produced programming during the past six months has included:

- 'Whatever Happened to Phoebe Salt', the premiere of the final work of Stoke-on-Trent playwright and artist Arthur Berry, as part of his centenary celebrations.
- 'Big Big Sky', by Tom Wells
- 'The Grand Babylon Hotel', adapted from the novel by Arnold Bennett and produced in association with local company Claybody Theatre
- 'The Little Mermaid', adapted by Theresa Heskins from the story by Hans Christian Andersen, began its run on 14 November.

In addition to the Theatre's main-stage output, the Trust's community and education teams deliver programmes of work with some of the most disadvantaged and marginalised among our community, particularly young people. Borderlines and New Vic Education have received funding from local and national government, the NHS, and corporate philanthropy, to undertake a wide range of projects.

Over the summer holiday, the Education team produced an interactive performance for children 4+, themed on 'Dr Doolittle' which toured libraries in Staffordshire, including Kidsgrove Library, as part of the Summer Reading Challenge. Education workshops were also hosted at the New Vic for young people in age categories 6-9 and 10-15.

Last month, New Vic Borderlines launched Chapter 2, a new project to support mental wellbeing in teenagers, funded by North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust. Recent projects delivered also include 'Fab Food and Financial Folktales', a touring event focused on families and addressing holiday hunger, and 'Yes, Let's', a workshop hosted at the New Vic for families with SEND children built around creativity and sensory engagement to help young people develop social skills and confidence.

The work of the Education and Borderlines teams is more extensive than is generally known and of wider impact than is measurable in any isolated six-month period. It does, however, align closely with the Council's corporate priorities of 'healthy, active, and safe communities', and 'a successful and sustainable growing borough'. Feedback sought on individual projects has demonstrated that these strands of work are also helping to foster pride in local communities, a key aim of the Council.

The Trust is also the accountable body for Appetite, the Creative People and Places project whose consortium members include a number of the Borough Council's strategic partners, among them the Newcastle-under-Lyme BID, Go Kidsgrove and Keele University.

On 20 October, Appetite was successful in bidding for a further £1m in lottery funding to extend the programme, which includes projects and events in Newcastle and Kidsgrove, through to 2029. Members of the Council will be aware of the many successful elements of the Appetite programme, which have delivered (in addition to its headline aim of raising participation locally in arts and culture) meaningful support for the Council's strategic priority 'Town centres for all'. Events produced over the

past six months include the 'ArtSlam' competition in June, in the bowels of Astley Place.

I remain impressed by the excellent creative output of the New Vic, the professionalism and deserved success of its executive leadership. The Theatre continues to be a cultural and economic asset to the Borough and worthy of the Council's sustained financial and practical support.

Next meeting date:

The Trust Board has met on two occasions over the past six months and will meet again on 26 November.

MEMBER BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Outside Body: **Go Kidsgrove**

Submitted by: **Cllr Craig Skelding**

Update:

Meeting on 22nd July:-

- Shine on Kidsgrove Lantern parade - 29th November
- Heritage trails and walks – to be discussed further at the next meeting
- Town Deal (Cllr Waring)
- Totally Locality (a voluntary group) - decided not to pursue further
- Flowers and planters – to set up a a voluntary group in the New Year – to be discussed further at the next meeting.

The October meeting was cancelled.

Next meeting date:

Tbc in February

Actions arising from the Meeting: