

Scrutiny Committee's Chairs' reports

Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee

Before the start of the new municipal year, the committee last met on Thursday 19th March and received further updates on the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan 2040 and Town Deal and Future High Street Funds Update.

In a very short meeting, the Committee agreed to all of the recommendations that were set out in both reports.

Cllr Andrew Parker

Chair

The Committee met on Thursday 18th June 2026,

Extensive updates were received on the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Local Plan 2040 and the Town Deal and Future High Street Funds Update as individual reports against each project.

Members discussed and raised questions on both borough and town reports and the officers responded accordingly. The Committee will receive further updates when we meet on 24th September 2026 meeting and all recommendations were agreed as set out in the reports.

The committee also received the upcoming Work Programme and Members did not wish to add anything to it other than items discussed within the meeting.

The Committee will meet again on Thursday 24th September.

Cllr Martyn Ashworth

Chair

Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee

The Health Wellbeing and Environment Committee met on 9th March. Members received a report on the activities to the County and District Healthy Scrutiny committees including an update from our affiliated County Councillor.

The Committee then heard an update on the activities at Walleys Quarry and posed questions to officers. An update on the Council's Sustainable Environment Strategy and Delivery Plan was received and accepted by members.

The Committee received a report and the Civic Pride activities of 2025.

The future work programme was discussed and dated if next meeting set for 25th June.

The Chair thanked all those who had served on the committee in the past 4 years.

Cllr Rupert Adcock
Chair

The Committee met on Thursday 11th. June, 2026

The main item covered was the forthcoming "work plan". Members were in agreement with the initial subjects for discussion and a further number of subjects were agreed upon to be added to the list.

These included an update on a homeless shelter run by Brighter Future. This triggered a discussion on the provision for "homeless veterans" and the Armed Forces Covenant".

Other topics raised were "Civic Pride", grass cutting strategy and MMF updates. The subject of policing was raised and it was agreed that this agenda topic was of high importance to the committee.

A question sent from a member of the Public (which was the same query raised by a committee member) asked about whether there was a need for discussion and scrutiny of the newly adopted strategy of scrapping certain "net zero" policies introduced by the previous administration.

The question was answered with the assurance that these issues are discussed and available for scrutiny.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be the 17th. September 2026.

Cllr Scott Stevenson
Chair

Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee

The Committee met on 26 March for the final time during the 2022-26 civic cycle. An update report was received on the Town Deals and Future High Streets Fund projects, and members scrutinised the financial and performance review report for the third quarter of 2025/26.

Cllr Mark Holland
Chair

The Committee met on 2nd July 2026.

The Finance and Performance Review report for the Fourth Quarter was presented by the Section 151 Officer, Craig Turner, followed by questions from the Councillors present. The Committee was happy to note the contents of the report and appendices.

With regards to the Work Programme the Chair asked that the following items be added to the work programme:

- 1/** A review of Council reserves, earmarked funds and risk exposure.
- 2/** A review of procurement and contract management.
- 3/** A review of the costs associated with Net Zero.

The committee will meet again on the 17th September 2026.