

Amendment to Motion: Protection of Council-Owned Green Spaces

This Council notes that:

1. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council is committed to protecting parks, open spaces and playing fields as vital community assets supporting health, recreation, sport and play.
2. Under the leadership of the previous Conservative-led administration, 227 hectares of Green Belt land was included in the Local Plan, including 28 hectares of council-owned land.
3. The Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspector in December 2024, and the Planning Inspector issued her final report on 19 May 2026, the final day of the previous Conservative-led administration.
4. This Reform UK-led administration is opposed to being forced by Government to produce a further new Local Plan which would require over 2,000 additional homes across the Borough and place further pressure on green fields, green spaces and Green Belt land.

This Council recognises that:

1. Accessible green space delivers significant public benefits, including improved physical and mental health and wildlife habitats.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Reaffirm its commitment to protecting public access to green spaces throughout the Borough.
2. Ensure that Council-owned parks, open spaces, playing fields and recreational land continue to be valued as important community assets for residents.
3. Continue to use appropriate safeguards to protect valued green spaces and public access to them, with decisions taken in the long-term interests of residents.
4. Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the three Labour Members of Parliament whose constituencies cover parts of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough, asking them to publicly back the Council in opposing the Labour Government's demand for a new Local Plan, which would force over 2,000 additional homes onto the Borough and put further Green Belt and greenfield land at risk of development.