



Stone

Town Council

Town Clerk

Les Trigg

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15 Station Road

STONE

ST15 8JP

29 June 2026

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** will be held in the **Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone**, on **TUESDAY 7 JULY 2026 at 7:05pm**, or on the rising of the Council meeting, if later.

The agenda is set out below and I trust you will be able to attend.

Les Trigg
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence, and to consider the approval of any reasons given for absence under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

2. Declarations of Interest

3. Requests for Dispensations Received

4. To receive a report from County Councillors representing Stone Town

- County Councillor J. Hood
- County Councillor A. Mynors

5. To receive a report from Borough Councillors representing Stone Town

6. **Representations from Members of the Public**

To consider representations from members of the public on items to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with the Council's scheme of public participation.

7. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

- a) To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 19 May 2026, Minute Numbers GP27/001 – GP27/019 (attached).

8. **Minutes of Sub-Committees**

- a) Environment Sub-Committee held on 2 June 2026, Minute Numbers ENV27/001 – ENV27/009 (attached)
 - i. To consider the draft minutes
- b) Town Mayor's Charity Sub-Committee held on 2 June 2026, Minute Numbers MC27/001 – MC27/006 (attached)
 - i. To consider the draft minutes

9. **Grants to Local Organisations**

To consider the following requests for grants from local organisations which meet the criteria within the Council's grants policy:

- a. **Organisation: 1st Oulton BP Scouts**
Amount Requested: £500
Reason: To purchase tents and equipment for camping trips.
- b. **Organisation: Man Time**
Amount Requested: £500
Reason: To expand Man Time's outreach and early support activity in Stone.
- c. **Organisation: Stone Traders Group**
Amount Requested: £500
Reason: To support a Halloween Family Day which will provide free activities for children and families.

To consider the following requests for grants from local organisations which do not meet the criteria within the Council's grants policy:

NOTE: These applications do not meet the Council's approved grants criteria, so will not be considered unless a motion is moved and seconded for each application individually that the criteria is waived, and the application approved:

- d. **Organisation: Stafford & District Bereavement & Loss Support**
Amount Requested: £500
Reason: To purchase essential equipment and resources for the effective operation and development of the charity. This will include a new printer and consumables for the printing of information packs counselling resources, referral forms and other documentation that supports the service to clients.
 - i. Level of reserves

- e. **Organisation: Stone Scout & Guide Band**
Amount Requested: £500
Reason: Refurbishment of drum line and purchase of new light weight smaller cymbals
 - i. Level of reserves

- f. **Organisation: 1st Yarnfield Scout Group**
Amount Requested: £500
Reason: To purchase outdoor equipment for camping trips.
 - i. Not predominantly Stone based

- g. **Organisation: Stone Common Plot**
Amount Requested: £500
Reason: To purchase tools to undertake project work on a pond.
 - i. Level of reserves

- h. **Organisation: Stone Choral Society**
Amount Requested: £500
Reason: To support the costs of: hall hire for rehearsals, music score sheets, booklets and use of professionals (director and accompanist, musicians and singers)
 - i. Level of reserves

- i. **Organisation: U3A Stone & District**
Amount Requested: £500
Reason: To support the costs of venue hire which have soared since charges were introduced for use of the community room at Stone Fire Station.
 - i. Level of reserves

10. **Payment of Mileage Allowances**

To consider the report of the Town Clerk (attached).

11. **Stafford Borough Council Local Plan 2025-2045**

To consider a Stafford Borough Council consultation on its new Local Plan 2025-2045.

The consultation seeks views on what to include in a spatial strategy for the area, key issues and the approach to consultation across Stafford Borough over the next 20 years through the following documents:

- Scoping the issues and Early Participation
- Communication and Engagement Strategy
- Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environment Assessment Scoping Report

Other information about the Local Plan is available from Stafford Borough Council's website here: [New Local Plan 2025 to 2045 | Stafford Borough Council](#).

Responses should be submitted via the consultation form at <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/local-plan-2025-2045-scoping-consultation> or by sending an email to strategicplanningconsultations@staffordbc.gov.uk

The consultation documents detailed above are attached to the agenda along with a summary document, an email from Stafford Borough Council and the list of questions contained in the consultation form.

The Committee is asked to consider its response to the local plan consultation for submission to Stafford Borough Council.

12. **Town Council Payments**

To receive a list of payments made by the Council during the period 1 to 31 May 2026 (attached).

13. **Update from Working Groups:**

To receive updates from Working Group co-ordinators:

- a) Stone Heritage Centre Steering Group (Chairman: R. Kenney)

14. **To receive reports from Town Councillors on attendance at meetings as a representative of the Town Council**

Stone Area Parish Liaison Group – Cllr J. Davies

Stone ATC – Town Mayor & one Cllr – Cllrs: A. Best and J. Davies

Age Concern Stone & District – Cllrs: J. Davies and C. Thornicroft

Stafford & Stone Access Group – Cllr T. Kelt

Stone Common Plot Trustees – Cllrs: A. Burgess, J. Hood, T. Kelt, C. Thornicroft and R. Townsend

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group – Cllrs: J. Battrick, J. Hood and R. Townsend

SPCA Executive Committee – Cllr T. Kelt

West Midlands Railway and other rail matters – Cllr T. Kelt

15. **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

To resolve, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting whilst the next items of business are discussed on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the debate.

16. **Confidential Minutes**

To confirm as a correct record the Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 19 May 2026, Minute Numbers GP27/001, GP27/018 and GP27/019 (attached).

Members of the public are welcome to attend the General Purposes Committee meeting as observers and/or to make representations to the committee in accordance with the Council's scheme of public participation. Details of the scheme are displayed in the Council's notice boards and website.

Please access the Council Chamber from the rear of the building.

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 19 May 2026

PRESENT: Councillor R. Kenney in the Chair, and
Councillors: J. Battrick, A. Best, I. Fordham, J. Hood, B. Kenney, J. Metters,
J. Powell, C. Thornicroft and R. Townsend

Officers: L. Trigg, R. Edwards and T. Williams

ABSENT: Councillors: A. Burgess, J. Davies, L. Davies, K. Dawson, T. Kelt, P. Leason.
A. Mottershead and N. Powell

GP27/001 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: J. Davies, L. Davies, K. Dawson, T. Kelt,
P. Leason and N. Powell

Where a reason for absence is given, this reason was approved for the purposes of
Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

GP27/002 **Declarations of Interest and Declarations**

None made

GP27/003 **Requests for Dispensations**

None received

GP27/004 **To receive the report of the County Councillors**

The Chairman invited County Councillors to address the Committee:

County Councillor Jill Hood

Councillor Hood advised the Committee that the Council had not met for some
weeks while the local elections were taking place. She said there had been a lot of
enquiries made about potholes with replies suggesting they were not a priority.

Councillor Hood forewarned Town Councillors that a number of roadworks would
be in operation in Stone during July and August.

County Councillor A. Mynors

Councillor Mynors was not in attendance at the meeting.

GP27/005 **To receive the report of Borough Councillors**

The Chairman invited Borough Councillors to address the Committee but there
were no reports on this occasion.

* Items marked with an asterisk refer to reports or papers circulated with the agenda or distributed at the meeting. They are attached as an appendix to the signed copy of the Council minutes.

GP27/006 Representations from Members of the Public

None

GP27/007 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7 April 2026 (Minute Numbers GP26/137 – GP26/156), be approved as a correct record.

GP27/008 Minutes of Sub-Committees

There were no Sub-Committee draft minutes.

GP27/009 Sub-Committee Terms of Reference

The Committee considered the terms of reference* for the Council's Sub Committees, Steering Groups and Working Groups (which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting).

The Town Clerk advised the Council that after review he was not proposing any changes other than the dates and inclusion of the new Heritage Centre Steering Group and Community Hub Liaison Group terms of reference that had previously been agreed by the General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Terms of Reference for the Council's Sub-Committees, Steering Groups and Working Groups be accepted.

GP27/010 Dissolution of Estates Sub-Committee

The Committee considered the report* of the Town Clerk (which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting) with a proposal for dissolution of the Estates Sub-Committee after a review of the consequences.

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that after cancellation of a number of Estates Sub-Committee meetings questions had been raised about whether the Sub-Committee was needed and whether its work could be absorbed into the General Purposes Committee.

He said that dissolution of the Estates Sub-Committee would also offer an opportunity to streamline the Council's meetings schedule, potentially reduce the number of programmed meeting nights for 2026-27 from 17 to 13.

The Committee supported the proposal and welcomed simplification of the system.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agrees that:

- a. The Estates Sub-Committee be dissolved with immediate effect.

* Items marked with an asterisk refer to reports or papers circulated with the agenda or distributed at the meeting. They are attached as an appendix to the signed copy of the Council minutes.

- b. All current responsibilities of the Estates Sub-Committee should be absorbed into the General Purposes Committee.
- c. The revised programme of meetings enclosed with the Town Clerk's report should be adopted for the remainder of the 2026-27 civic year.

GP27/011 Appointment of Members, Chairmen and Vice Chairmen to the following Sub-Committees

RESOLVED: To appoint the following Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and Members to the Sub Committees for the municipal year 2026-27:

Tourism & Town Promotion

Chairman: Councillor J. Hood

Vice Chairman: Councillor A. Mottershead

Members: Councillors: J. Battrick, J. Davies, L. Davies, K. Dawson, B. Kenney, P. Leason, J. Metters and J. Powell

Co-opted Member: J. Cook

Environment

Chairman: Councillor R. Townsend

Vice Chairman: Councillor T. Kelt

Members: Councillors: A. Burgess, I. Fordham, J. Hood, J. Metters, J. Powell, N. Powell and C. Thornicroft

Mayor's Charity

Chairman: Councillor A. Best

Vice Chairman: Councillor R. Townsend

Members: Councillors: J. Davies, L. Davies, I. Fordham, T. Kelt, R. Kenney, P. Leason, J. Metters and J. Powell

In addition, the Town Mayor and the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee are ex-officio voting members of all committees and sub-committees where they are not members in their own right, as set out in Standing Orders.

GP27/012 Appointment to Steering/Working Group

RESOLVED: To make the following appointments to Town Council Steering and Working Groups for the municipal year 2026-27:

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

All Councillor were appointed to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. It was agreed that a co-ordinator would be appointed at the first meeting.

Stone Heritage Centre Steering Group

Councillor Members: R. Kenney (Co-ordinator), P. Leason (Vice Co-ordinator), J. Davies and J. Hood

GP27/013 Appointment to Outside Bodies

RESOLVED: To make the following appointments of Council representatives on outside bodies:

Stone ATC (Town Mayor plus 1 member)

* Items marked with an asterisk refer to reports or papers circulated with the agenda or distributed at the meeting. They are attached as an appendix to the signed copy of the Council minutes.

Councillors: Town Mayor and J. Davies

Age Concern Stone & District (2 members)

Councillors: J. Davies and C. Thornicroft

Stafford & Stone Access Group (1 member)

Councillor T. Kelt

Trustees of the Town Hall Charity (all members)

All Councillors

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group (3 members)

Councillors: J. Battrick, J. Hood and R. Townsend

Stone Area Parish Liaison Group (1 member)

Councillor J. Davies

NOTE: Current membership of the following bodies will continue until the stated dates, or until retirement by an individual member, even if the members cease to be members of the Council

Stone Common Plot Trustees (5 Members for a four-year term)

Councillor C. Thornicroft (term runs to May 2030) and Councillors:

A. Burgess, J. Hood, T. Kelt and R. Townsend (terms run to May 2027)

Richard Vernon Trust (3 members for a four-year term)

Councillors: J. Davies, P. Leason and J. Powell (all members' terms run to May 2027)

SPCA Executive Committee (1 member for a two-year term)

Councillor: T. Kelt (to December 2027)

West Midlands Railway and other rail matters

Councillor T. Kelt

GP27/014 Town Council Payments

RESOLVED: To note the list* of Town Council payments made during the period 1 March to 30 April 2026.

GP27/015 Update from Working Groups:

Stone Heritage Centre Steering Group

The Chairman advised the Committee about a meeting that had taken place last week. Talks were in progress with various schools about having a photographic display and to use the facility more for their history walks and talks throughout town. Various art exhibitions were programmed and the Heritage Centre Manager was continuing to work on the Story of Stone. The Steering Group was dealing with some new signage.

* Items marked with an asterisk refer to reports or papers circulated with the agenda or distributed at the meeting. They are attached as an appendix to the signed copy of the Council minutes.

GP27/016 **To receive reports from Town Councillors on attendance at meetings of local organisations and outside bodies as a representative of the Town Council**

Stone Area Parish Liaison Group

Councillor J. Davies was not available to give a report.

Stone ATC

Councillor Metters advised the Committee that no meeting had taken place.

Age Concern Stone & District

Councillor Thornicroft advised the Committee that no meeting had taken place.

Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor Kelt was not available to give a report.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

Councillor Townsend advised the Committee that no meeting had taken place since the Annual General Meeting.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

Councillor Townsend gave a report on a meeting today (19 May). A number of items were discussed. One of their staff members was leaving and the Manager had advertised for a replacement (20 hours a week). They were also looking for a volunteer minute taker at board meetings. He said that some interesting data had been shared on the number of clients they were servicing and new initiatives started six months ago.

SPCA Executive Committee

Councillor Kelt was not available to give his report.

West Midlands Railway and other Rail Matters

Councillor Kelt was not available to give his report.

The meeting was temporarily suspended and then reconvened after the Planning Consultative Committee meeting had taken place.

GP27/017 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

To resolve, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting whilst the next items of business are discussed on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the debate.

GP27/018 **Markets**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk on the Town's Market provision which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting.

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report for a new trial market to take place in the town.

* Items marked with an asterisk refer to reports or papers circulated with the agenda or distributed at the meeting. They are attached as an appendix to the signed copy of the Council minutes.

GP27/019 **Information Technology**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Committee accepts the recommendations in the Town Clerk's report to implement a new and updated information technology system.

CHAIRMAN

Stone Town Council – Environment Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 2 June 2026

PRESENT: Councillor R. Townsend in the Chair and
Councillors: A. Best, I. Fordham, J. Hood, T. Kelt, R. Kenney, J. Powell and
N. Powell

Officers: L. Trigg, R. Edwards and T. Williams

By Chairman's Invitation: None

ABSENT: Councillors: A. Burgess, J. Metters and C. Thornicroft

ENV27/001 Apologies

Councillors: J. Metters and C. Thornicroft

ENV27/002 Declarations of Interest

None made.

ENV27/003 Request for Dispensations

None received.

ENV27/004 Representations from Members of the Public

None received.

ENV27/005 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Environment Sub-Committee meeting held on 17 March 2026 (Minute Numbers ENV26/035 – ENV26/042), were approved as a correct record.

ENV27/006 Environmental Sub-Committee Works Update

The Chairman referred the Sub-Committee to the Grounds Maintenance Works Update, which had been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting.

The Chairman highlighted the following points:

- Allotments and removal of asbestos – The Deputy Town Clerk will be undertaking a survey of all the plots to identify the remaining asbestos in accordance with the report on file. Removal of the asbestos was

expected to take place after the growing season had ended in October 2026. The plot with the larger quantity of asbestos would be dealt with as a separate project.

- Town Borders – the Grounds Maintenance Contractor had: removed ivy from the identified trees, trimmed low branches, removed dead Rowan from lower Christchurch Way beds and other locations. Lavender plants had been purchased for planting, Workhouse Bridge borders had been cleared and the M&S border had been trimmed near to the sunken garden.
- Grounds maintenance (installation of lock gate on Walton Roundabout) – the Deputy Town Clerk reported that the contact for the lock gate had not been contactable recently.
- Environmental initiatives (improvements to alleviate flooding) – The Grounds Maintenance Contractor had not been able to start work on this project because the ground conditions were not sufficiently dry. It was hoped the work would be done before the winter season.
- Boundary Fence at Mount Road allotments – It was confirmed that the Grounds Maintenance Contractor had completed the fencing work which was a really good job.

ENV27/007 Crown Meadow

The Chairman provided the Sub-Committee with updates on the following items:

Development Plan

The Chairman was hoping to begin consultations with various authorities (including Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Stafford Borough Council, Dr David Emley, plus one other) with a view to formulating a long term plan for Crown Meadow. He was aiming to be in a position to present the Plan to the Council in good time for it to be implemented in the New Year.

He suggested it might be beneficial to form a Development Plan Working Group when information started to come through for consideration.

Himalayan Balsam

The Chairman said that the pulling of Himalayan balsam last year had proven successful as there was very little left in these areas this year, and other species were starting to come through and thrive.

Three sessions had been held so far and as the plants were easy to pull, quite a lot of work could get done. He was hoping to expand the pulling sessions in the future.

Pulling the Himalayan Balsam up by the roots was considered the best way of removing it. There was discussion about the use of strimming which although effective in preventing the plant from going to seed, it was also aggressive on other vegetation.

Swans

The Chairman reported that the swans nesting on Crown Meadow had successfully hatched their eggs and it was good to see them come back to the scrape after the work undertaken in the autumn of 2025. He said he would include a reference to this news in an upcoming article in the Stone & Eccleshall Gazette.

Allotments

The Chairman reported that he had made a first visit to the allotment sites accompanied by Dr Emley, with a view to making a record of the species that were there. Dr Emley was pleased to note a significant range of flora and fauna and would be keeping records and considering how to use them.

Crown Meadow

Reference was made to fencing that had been erected on an adjoining farmer's field which prevented cows from wandering across the river when the water level was low.

ENV27/008 Memberships of Working Groups

RESOLVED: To make the following appointments to the Environment Sub-Committee Working Group for the municipal year 2025-26:

Environment Working Group

All Members of the Environment Sub-Committee
Co-ordinator: Councillor R. Townend

ENV27/009 Reports of Working Groups

Environmental Working Group

The Chairman reported that the working group had no report other than the work on Himalayan Balsam which had been given earlier in the meeting.

Councillor Kelt provided the Sub-Committee with information on a Stafford Borough Panel meeting held on 18 May 2026 (which he had been unable to attend). He advised the Sub-Committee that the main part of the meeting involved a presentation on the biodiversity strategy, given by the Borough Council's Biodiversity and Ecology Officer. The discussion was borough level but would be taken forward to an action plan and short term targets on the next agenda in two months' time.

The strategy document hadn't formally been issued but was available should anyone want to view it.

Councillor Kelt said that a workshop about looking after ancient trees in the borough had been cancelled, but hopefully would be rearranged.

Chairman

Stone Town Council – Mayor’s Charity Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 2 June 2026

PRESENT: Councillor A. Best in the Chair and
Councillors: I. Fordham, T. Kelt, R. Kenney, J. Powell and R. Townsend

Officers: L. Trigg, R. Edwards and T. Williams

ABSENT: Councillor: J. Davies, L. Davies, P. Leason and J. Metters

MC27/001 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: J. Davies, L. Davies, P. Leason and J. Metters

MC27/002 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None received.

MC27/003 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None received.

MC27/004 **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the Mayor’s Charity Sub-Committee meeting held on 15 July 2025, Minute Numbers MC26/001 – MC26/006 were approved as a correct record.

MC27/005 **Mayor 2025-26 – Report of final amounts donated to the Mayor’s Charities**

In the absence of Councillor Jason Metters, Town Mayor 2025-26, the Town Clerk provided a verbal report on the final value that was collected for his Charities.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that the Town Mayor had collected £3,220.80 during his Mayoral year 2025-26, and had asked that the total be shared equally between the three charities.

RESOLVED: That the total sum collected on behalf of the Mayor’s charities for the year 2025-26 be apportioned equally between Stone Community First Responders Stone Alzheimer’s Club and Stone Stroke Club.

MC27/006 **Mayor 2026-27 – To confirm the charities for the year**

The Town Mayor, Councillor Andrew Best, proposed that his chosen Mayor’s charities for the year 2026-27 would be:

- Stone Alzheimer’s Club
- Stone Scout & Guide Band

- Man Time

RESOLVED: To support the Town Mayor's choice of proposed charities.

Application for Grant Aid



Name of organisation:

1st Oulton BP SCOUTS

Purpose of organisation:

Teaching children life skills in a fun way.

Amount of grant requested:

£ 500

Total cost of project (if appropriate):

£150 per tent

Reason for grant request:

We have recently started BPSA and don't have a lot in the way of equipment. Some of our volunteers have bought the smaller items with their own money but we need tents to take the children camping.

Benefits to Stone residents:

Children/young people in Stone will benefit as having tents can provide more opportunities -
Stops children being on the streets.
Teaches community value

Environmental Impact of proposals:

This will enable the children to camp and can help to look after community with (interlocking etc)

Other sources of funding secured or being explored (with amounts where known):

N/A

Is this an "exceptional" request (see notes)? If so, please explain why the Council should treat it as an exception:

N/A

Grants awarded by the Council in the last two years, and the uses made of the funding:

None as we're a new group.

Statement of support from Council appointed representative (if applicable):

Please Ensure that your Latest Accounts are Included with your Application

1st Oulton Scouts Group

No accounts are available due to the organisation being a new startup.

Copies of bank statements have been supplied to the Council.

Application for Grant Aid



Name of organisation:

Man Time

Purpose of organisation:

Man Time is a volunteer-led men's mental health group based in Stone, providing a safe, informal and inclusive space for anyone who identifies as a man, including trans men, to talk, connect and support one another. Our purpose is to reduce isolation, improve wellbeing and encourage earlier help-seeking by making support visible, accessible and stigma-free. We do this through weekly peer support sessions, outreach campaigns, local partnerships and community engagement across Stone.

Amount of grant requested:

£500

Total cost of project (if appropriate):

£6,000 over 24 months

Reason for grant request:

We are requesting grant aid to help expand Man Time's outreach and early support activity in Stone. Many men still find it difficult to speak openly about their mental health; research suggests around 4 in 10 men in the UK have never spoken to anyone about it. Man Time offers a free, informal, no-sign-up space in Stone where men can connect without pressure or stigma. Demand has led us to move from fortnightly one-hour sessions to weekly 90-minute sessions and to increase our visibility through community outreach. The funding would contribute towards posters, flyers and other locally targeted awareness materials to help more men find support earlier. This includes supporting our upcoming "Flip the Mat" awareness campaign, building on the successful distribution of 3,500 beer mats in local pubs signposting Man Time and local support services. It will also strengthen our partnership-led approach with local venues and community groups, including Headspace FC CIC, helping us reach men in familiar, everyday settings. Alongside our weekly sessions, we would like to work with trusted local partners to help men access informal activities where they can connect, talk openly and support their wellbeing. The project is focused on Stone residents and will help reduce isolation, improve wellbeing and build stronger community connections.

Benefits to Stone residents:

Stone residents will benefit from a free, local and accessible source of peer support focused on men's mental health and wellbeing. By making support more visible and approachable, the project encourages earlier conversations before problems escalate.

Reducing isolation and improving mental wellbeing also has wider benefits for families, friendships, workplaces and the local community.
Our outreach through pubs, surgeries, gyms, barbers, tattoo parlours, garages, markets and community events helps ensure Stone residents can find support in places they already use.

Environmental Impact of proposals:

The proposal has a low environmental impact and focuses mainly on local, small-scale community outreach within Stone.
We will aim to minimise waste by ordering print materials proportionately, reusing banners where possible and using digital promotion alongside printed items.
Where practical, we will use local suppliers and community venues to reduce travel and support the local economy.

Other sources of funding secured or being explored (with amounts where known):

We are exploring and receiving community fundraising support alongside this request.
The Stone Town Mayor has named Man Time as one of the chosen charities for the current year, and our Wetherspoon meeting venue is also fundraising for us.
We have also partnered with Headspace FC CIC, which recently donated £1,000 to Man Time following a charity football match at the Bet365 Stadium, alongside income from collection tins, community groups and, in time, a small merchandise offer.

Is this an “exceptional” request (see notes)? If so, please explain why the Council should treat it as an exception:

No. This application is for £500 and is within the Council’s normal annual grant limit.

Grants awarded by the Council in the last two years, and the uses made of the funding:

No grants have been awarded to Man Time by Stone Town Council in the last two years.

Statement of support from Council appointed representative (if applicable):

Please Ensure that your Latest Accounts are Included with your Application

Man Time was formally constituted as an unincorporated organisation in October 2025. As a newly formalised community group, the attached income and expenditure records (Man Time Ledgers Oct25-Mar26 & Apr26-Mar27) represent the most up-to-date accounts available at the date of this application.

Spending guidance

Please refer to the current version of our Man_Time_Financial_Controls_Policy for guidance on spending.

Ledger recording principles

- Record all monies received and spent promptly and in full.
- Include the date, payee or payer, a clear description, category, type, and amount.
- Keep receipts or other supporting evidence where appropriate, especially for larger purchases or where extra assurance is needed.
- Keep descriptions specific enough to show the purpose and benefit to Man Time.
- Maintain a clear audit trail for receipts, payments, reimbursements, and any related comments.

			Balance carried over		£405.36		
Date	Payee	Description	Category	Type	Amount	Balance	Any additional comments
22/10/2025	The Wren	Refreshments - for trustees at trustee meeting	Trustee meeting expenses	Expenditure	(£19.50)	£385.86	
14/11/2025	Hearts Cross Medical	Reimbursement (lan) - Man Time branded (printed logo) t-shirts (School's In) for volunteers/group	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£150.00)	£235.86	
19/11/2025	The Wren	Refreshments - for trustees/volunteers facilitating Man Time support meeting	Support meeting expenses	Expenditure	(£27.50)	£208.36	
20/11/2025	Hearts Cross Medical	Reimbursement () - refreshments for new members	Support meeting expenses	Expenditure	(£25.00)	£183.36	
21/12/2025	Man Time	Donation () - Headspace FC CIC - football subs	Donation	Receipt	£100.00	£283.36	
13/02/2026		Reimbursement () - Public liability & trustee indemnity insurance (WRS Insurance Brokers)	Insurance	Expenditure	(£150.00)	£133.36	
25/02/2026		Reimbursement () - 1000 Man Time beer mats (BIZAY.com)	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£52.92)	£80.44	
28/02/2026	Hearts Cross Medical	Reimbursement () - 1 x Man Time banner (PRINTDESIGNS)	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£40.00)	£40.44	
09/03/2026	Man Time	Donation () - Headspace FC CIC - football subs	Donation	Receipt	£200.00	£240.44	
13/03/2026	Man Time	Donation () - Headspace FC CIC - football subs	Donation	Receipt	£350.00	£590.44	
20/03/2026	Hearts Cross Medical	Reimbursement (lan) - QR code	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£39.00)	£551.44	
26/03/2026	Printdesigns	2 x Man Time Banners (PRINTDESIGNS)	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£112.50)	£438.94	
26/03/2026	Hearts Cross Medical	Reimbursement (lan) - Man Time branded (printed logo) t-shirts for volunteers/group members	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£100.00)	£338.94	

Spending guidance

Please refer to the current version of our Man_Time_Financial_Controls_Policy for guidance on spending.

Ledger recording principles

- Record all monies received and spent promptly and in full.
- Include the date, payee or payer, a clear description, category, type, and amount.
- Keep receipts or other supporting evidence where appropriate, especially for larger purchases or where extra assurance is needed.
- Keep descriptions specific enough to show the purpose and benefit to Man Time.
- Maintain a clear audit trail for receipts, payments, reimbursements, and any related comments.

Date	Payee	Description	Category	Type	Balance carried over	Amount	Balance	Any additional comments
07/04/2026	Man Time	Donation () - Line Dancing charity fundraiser for men's Mental Health at The Sanctuary	Donation	Receipt	£150.30		£489.24	
17/04/2026	Hearts Cross Medical	Reimbursement () - QR code	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£39.00)		£450.24	Subscription cancelled, no longer
20/04/2026	School's In	Man Time branded clothing (shell jackets) for trustees	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£92.85)		£357.39	
24/04/2026	Kix FC	Refreshments - Trustees promoting Man Time at Headspace FC CIC social night at Kix FC	Refreshments	Expenditure	(£16.40)		£340.99	
30/04/2026	Hearts Cross Medical	2 x Man Time Banners (PRINTDESIGNS)	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£90.00)		£250.99	
07/05/2026		Reimbursement - 2500 Man Time beer mats (BIZAY.com)	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£128.00)		£122.99	
13/05/2026	The Wren	Refreshments - for trustees at trustee meeting	Trustee meeting expenses	Expenditure	(£11.50)		£111.49	
14/05/2026	Hearts Cross Medical	Reimbursement (lan) - 4 x collection tins	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£22.00)		£89.49	
14/05/2026	TG Jones Stone	A4 printer paper (to make the wrap for the collection tins)	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£12.00)		£77.49	
15/05/2026	Hearts Cross Medical	Reimbursement (lan) - 1 x Man Time banner (PRINTDESIGNS)	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£39.00)		£38.49	
24/05/2026	Hearts Cross Medical	Refreshments - Trustees promoting Man Time at Wetherspoons "Meet the Brewer" event, and meeting with Wetherspoons	Trustee meeting expenses	Expenditure	(£30.00)		£8.49	
30/05/2026	Man Time	Donation () - Headspace FC CIC - Bet 365 Charity Football Match	Donation	Receipt	£1,000.00		£1,008.49	
04/06/2026	Hearts Cross Medical	Reimbursement () - Filament for 3D printing our Man Time keyrings	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£28.98)		£979.51	
05/06/2026		Reimbursement () - 300 Keyrings & Filament for 3D printing our Man Time keyrings	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£30.00)		£949.51	
05/06/2026		Reimbursement () - Man Time banner (advertising our new Monday sessions at Wetherspoons)	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£47.40)		£902.11	
05/06/2026		Reimbursement () - PandaPress - 200 A4 flyers (advertising our new Monday sessions at Wetherspoons)	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£59.00)		£843.11	
07/06/2026	Hearts Cross Medical	Reimbursement () - 4 x Man Time branded mugs (White) from Adored Bespoke Creations (ABC)	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£16.00)		£827.11	
08/06/2026		Reimbursement () - 10,000 Man Time beer mats (BIZAY.com) for "FLIP THE MAT" campaign	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£306.00)		£521.11	
08/06/2026		Reimbursement (S) - 4 x Man Time Embroidered trustee shirts (School's In)	Promotion / Publicity	Expenditure	(£131.40)		£389.71	
09/06/2026	Hearts Cross Medical	Reimbursement () - Refreshments - for trustees at strategy meeting (Bod)	Trustee meeting expenses	Expenditure	(£30.00)		£359.71	

Application for Grant Aid



Name of organisation:
Stone Traders Group Ltd

Purpose of organisation:

Stone Traders Group brings together businesses in Stone Town Centre to promote the town as a welcoming place to visit, shop and enjoy. Members pay a small annual subscription, which mainly supports the 'Stone is Where the Heart Is' social media page to promote the town and its businesses. In the face of the wider decline of UK High Streets, STG helps Stone remain vibrant. As a small town, Stone benefits greatly from the strong community spirit created by its independent businesses and their owners.

We also organise town centre events to increase footfall and support the local economy.

STG currently delivers Stone Street Food events, the Halloween Festival, Emergency Services Day and two Christmas markets each year, with support from STC but at no cost to the taxpayer. These events are usually self-funded and run by volunteers.

Amount of grant requested:

£500.00

Total cost of project (if appropriate):

Reason for grant request:

In our proposal to Stone Town Council for the 2026 Stone Traders Group events, we explained that our Halloween Family Day was a great success in 2024 and 2025. In previous years, the event received partial funding through a SBC grant, which helped us provide free children's activities during the day, including Code Red Entertainment Company craft activities where the children made things and took them home with them, plus a Punch and Judy show, which ran throughout the day.

As these grants are no longer available, we are keen to retain the free children's activities as part of the event. Without additional support, STG would be unable to fund them and would have to deliver a reduced version of the event instead.

We therefore apply for the grant of £500 which would be spent on providing free activities for children/families at the event. If available, we would approach Code Red Entertainment and Nicci Jo to provide the entertainment as they were both so popular.

For transparency, in 2024 Code Red Entertainment cost was £400 and Nicci Jo Punch & Judy was £200

When we submitted the proposal, the Town Clerk advised that direct funding for the Halloween Family Event on Saturday 31 October 2026 could not be approved, but suggested that we apply for the required amount through this grant process.

Although not a stipulation, we would be happy to thank STC and mention their support in related social media and any other promotional material if successful.

Benefits to Stone residents:

This event will provide free Halloween family activities, bringing together families, local businesses and the wider community. Many businesses have already expressed support and want to help make it a memorable day on the High Street.

Environmental Impact of proposals:

None

Other sources of funding secured or being explored (with amounts where known):

Previous SBC grants are no longer available, and sponsorship is not a suitable option for this element of the event.

Is this an “exceptional” request (see notes)? If so, please explain why the Council should treat it as an exception:

Stone Traders Group delivers a number of well-attended community events in the town each year. We have a strong track record of delivering successful events at no cost to the public. This grant would help us continue that work by providing a high-quality Halloween Family Event.

Grants awarded by the Council in the last two years, and the uses made of the funding:

No grants have been applied for in the past two years.

Statement of support from Council appointed representative (if applicable):

Please Ensure that your Latest Accounts are Included with your Application

Company registration number: **11143466**

Stone Traders Group Limited
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Stone Traders Group Limited

Unaudited Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

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Stone Traders Group Limited

Officers and Professional Advisers

Year ended 31 March 2025

Director

Mr Edward Stant

Registered office

[REDACTED]
Stone
Staffordshire
ST15 [REDACTED]
United Kingdom

Accountant

The Accountsmith Accountants Limited
Suite 2 8 The Westbury Centre
Westbury Park
Newcastle Under Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 4LY
United Kingdom

Stone Traders Group Limited

Director's Report

Year ended 31 March 2025

The director presents the report and the unaudited financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

DIRECTORS

The director who served the company during the year was as follows:

Mr Edward Stant

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 27 December 2025 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Mr Edward Stant

Director

Stone Traders Group Limited

Report to the director on the preparation of the unaudited statutory financial statements of Stone Traders Group Limited

Year ended 31 March 2025

As described on the statement of financial position, the Board of Directors of Stone Traders Group Limited are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the income statement and statement of financial position.

You consider that the company is exempt from an audit under the Companies Act 2006.

In accordance with your instructions I have compiled these unaudited financial statements in order to assist you to fulfil your statutory responsibilities, from the accounting records and from information and explanations supplied to me.

The Accountsmith Accountants Limited

Suite 2 8 The Westbury Centre
Westbury Park
Newcastle Under Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 4LY
United Kingdom

Date: 27 December 2025

Stone Traders Group Limited

Income Statement

Year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Turnover	6,195	3,049
Other income	3,050	-
	<u>9,245</u>	<u>3,049</u>
Cost of raw materials and consumables	(1,918)	(201)
Other charges	(6,928)	(3,284)
Profit/(loss)	<u>399</u>	<u>(436)</u>

Stone Traders Group Limited

Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Current assets	1,081	432
Prepayments and accrued income	-	250
Net current assets	1,081	682
Accruals and deferred income	(1,000)	(1,000)
Net assets/(liabilities)	81	(318)
Capital and reserves	81	(318)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 General information

The company is a private company limited by shares and is registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is [REDACTED], Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 [REDACTED] United Kingdom.

2 Average number of employees

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year was nil (2024: nil).

For the year ending 31 March 2025, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Director's responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The director acknowledges their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions.

Stone Traders Group Limited

Statement of Financial Position (continued)

31 March 2025

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 27 December 2025, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Mr Edward Stant
Director

Company registration number: 11143466

Stone Traders Group Limited

Detailed Income Statement

Year ended 31 March 2025

TURNOVER

	2025	2024
	£	£
Sales	6,195	3,049

OTHER INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Government grant released to the income statement	3,050	-

9,245	3,049
-------	-------

COST OF RAW MATERIALS AND CONSUMABLES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other direct costs	1,918	201

OTHER CHARGES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Marketing	2,450	2,458
Advertising	4,040	920
Printing, postage and stationery	-	(370)
Computer costs	10	-
Accountancy fees	250	250
Bank charges	80	13
Subscriptions	34	13
Sundry expenses	64	-
6,928	3,284	

Stone Traders Group Limited

Detailed Income Statement (continued)

Year ended 31 March 2025

Profit/(loss)

399	(436)
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Application for Grant Aid



Name of organisation: Stafford & District Bereavement & Loss Support Service	
Purpose of organisation: The mission of SDBLSS is to provide a quality, caring and confidential bereavement support service to the local community. The service is provided free of charge by volunteers who are specially trained to be skilled in listening and providing emotional support to those experiencing bereavement or loss.	
Amount of grant requested: £500	Total cost of project (if appropriate):
Reason for grant request: We are seeking £500 to purchase essential equipment and resources that will support the effective operation and development of our bereavement and loss support charity. The funding will be used to purchase a new printer and consumables to enable the production of information packs, counselling resources, referral forms and other materials required to support our clients. It will also fund the printing of leaflets and promotional materials to raise awareness of our services within the local community and help ensure that individuals experiencing bereavement can access support when they need it. In addition, the grant will enable us to purchase a GDPR compliant shredder for the secure disposal of confidential documents, helping us maintain high standards of data protection and safeguarding. Personal safety alarms will also be provided for volunteers who work for the charity, enhancing their safety and wellbeing while carrying out their roles. These items are essential to the efficient, safe and professional delivery of our services and will strengthen our ability to reach and support more people affected by bereavement and loss.	

Benefits to Stone residents:

The grant will benefit Stone residents by helping us continue to provide accessible bereavement support and counselling services to individuals and families affected by loss. Bereavement can have a significant impact on mental health and emotional wellbeing, often leading to feelings of isolation, anxiety, depression and reduced confidence.

Our counselling and support services provide a safe, compassionate environment where people can explore their grief, develop coping strategies and build resilience. This support helps improve emotional wellbeing, reduces loneliness and promotes positive mental health outcomes.

The funding will also help us raise awareness of the support available, ensuring that more local residents know where to turn during difficult times. By strengthening our capacity to deliver services safely and effectively, the grant will contribute to the wellbeing of individuals and families across the community and help create a more supportive environment for those experiencing bereavement and loss.

Environmental Impact of proposals:

The proposal will have minimal environmental impact. We will use digital communications where appropriate, minimise unnecessary printing, recycle paper and printer cartridges where possible, and seek to purchase environmentally responsible consumables. The project is focused on improving community support services rather than activities with significant environmental effects.

Other sources of funding secured or being explored (with amounts where known):

The charity is purely funded by donations and fundraising. Planned events include a golf day and a "Yoga on the Lawn" event.

Is this an "exceptional" request (see notes)? If so, please explain why the Council should treat it as an exception:

No.

Grants awarded by the Council in the last two years, and the uses made of the funding:

No grants awarded previously.

Statement of support from Council appointed representative (if applicable):

Please Ensure that your Latest Accounts are Included with your Application

Totals

Balance Carried from Previous Year		£	25,455.73
Quarter 1	Income	£	3,013.07
Start Date: 01/04/2025	Expenditure	£	2,961.30
End Date: 30/06/2025	Balance Carried Forward	£	25,507.50
Quarter 2	Income	£	8,235.10
Start Date: 01/07/2025	Expenditure	£	6,377.14
End Date: 30/09/2025	Balance Carried Forward	£	27,365.46
Quarter 3	Income	£	1,834.91
Start Date: 01/10/2025	Expenditure	£	3,668.73
End Date: 31/12/2025	Balance Carried Forward	£	25,531.64
Quarter 4	Income	£	2,384.01
Start Date: 01/01/2026	Expenditure	£	3,583.47
End Date: 31/03/2026	Balance Carried Forward	£	24,332.18

Yearly Totals:	Income	£	15,467.09
	Expenditure	£	16,590.64

Current Account Balance:	£24,332.18
Income Yet To Be Banked:	£0.00

Version 21.4

Contact: joe.barnes@outlook.com

Application for Grant Aid



Name of organisation:
Stone Scout and Guide Band

Purpose of organisation:
Stone Scout and Guide Band has been a permanent fixture in Stone for 40 years. We provide opportunities to young people to learn how to play an instrument, learn discipline and work as part of a team.
We do not charge a fees as we believe that every child should have these opportunities irrespective of their background or income.

Amount of grant requested:
£500

Total cost of project (if appropriate):
£2,500

Reason for grant request:

We are refurbishing our drum line and also wish to purchase a new pair of light weight smaller cymbals so any funding will be put towards this project.

Benefits to Stone residents:

Stone Scout and Guide Band can regularly be found at the head of local parades both in Stone and indeed across Staffordshire. We provide entertainment to local residents. Upgrading our instruments and investing in some new instruments would help us to extend our range and repertoire and we can provide more entertainment to more people. Our membership is currently growing so refurbishing our instruments would allow us to provide more opportunities for young people.

Playing and indeed listening to music is great for the mental health of residents. This would be a positive impact.

Environmental Impact of proposals:

Other sources of funding secured or being explored (with amounts where known):

We will look to see if any other funding is available, but we will be doing some fundraising too so we should be able to match fund.

Is this an “exceptional” request (see notes)? If so, please explain why the Council should treat it as an exception:

No

Grants awarded by the Council in the last two years, and the uses made of the funding:

We had a grant of £600 from Staffordshire County Council in 2024. The money was used towards purchasing Band Jacket s

We also had a grant of £500 from Stone Town Council which we used for Band Development and purchasing additional uniform..

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Statement of support from Council appointed representative (if applicable):

Please Ensure that your Latest Accounts are Included with your Application

Stone Scout and Guide Band Financial Statement 2024/2025

	Expenditure	Income
	£	£
Cash at Bank 31 st March 2024		5179.22
Transactions		
Tamworth District Scouts		200.00
Endon Carnival		200.00
Leek Carnival		150.00
Stone Town Council - Grant		500.00
Stone Town Council – Civic Parade		100.00
Brown Edge Carnival		250.00
Bakewell Carnival		200.00
Staffs County Council		600.00
Stone Town Council – Remembrance Day		100.00
Donation – Arnold Clark		100.00
The Puppet Tree		150.00
Subscriptions		13.24
Stafford Brigades – Instruments	350.00	
On line Youth Manager	18.00	
Uniform	1182.07	
Drum Refurbishment	575.50	
Insurance	312.20	
TYMBA	40.00	
British Youth Band	15.00	
AGM Refreshments	56.39	
Nathan Pointon – Brass Tuition	430.00	
Barlaston & Tittensor Hall Hire	360.00	
TOTAL	3339.16	2563.24
Cash at the Bank 31.3. 2025	4403.30	
	7742.46	7742.46

I confirm that this financial statement is an accurate representation of the Stone Scout and Guide Band accounts as at 31 March 2025, taken from the records and explanations given to me.



7/1/2026

Application for Grant Aid



Name of organisation:	
Purpose of organisation:	
Amount of grant requested:	Total cost of project (if appropriate):
Reason for grant request:	

Benefits to Stone residents:

Environmental Impact of proposals:

Other sources of funding secured or being explored (with amounts where known):

Is this an “exceptional” request (see notes)? If so, please explain why the Council should treat it as an exception:

Grants awarded by the Council in the last two years, and the uses made of the funding:

Statement of support from Council appointed representative (if applicable):

Please Ensure that your Latest Accounts are Included with your Application



1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Receipts [In]	This Year	Last Year
Beavers Gift Aid Subs	£960.00	£860.00
Cubs Gift Aid Subs	£750.00	£460.00
Scouts Gift Aid Subs	£910.00	£810.00
Beavers Non Gift Aid Subs	£550.00	£460.00
Cubs Non Gift Aid Subs	£810.00	£760.00
Scouts Non Gift Aid Subs	£60.00	£0.00
Camps / Outings / Events	£852.50	£691.20
Neckers	£195.00	£160.00
New Account Opening	£500.00	£94.49
Gift Aid	£0.00	£720.89
Interest	£59.82	£41.92
Donations	£25.00	£250.00
Totals	£5,672.32	£5,308.50
Payments [Out]		
Capitation	£2,415.00	£2,632.00
Camps / Outings / Events	£852.50	£637.91
Materials	£319.88	£204.89
Badges	£693.07	£273.40
Neckers	£195.30	£130.00
Training	£0.00	£0.00
Village Hall Rent	£306.00	£285.00
Uniform	£0.00	£0.00
New Account Opening	£500.00	£0.00
Equipment	£0.00	£0.00
Insurance	£149.64	£129.51
Fees	£0.00	£30.83
Totals	£5,431.39	£4,323.54
Surplus or deficit for the year	£240.93	£984.96
Balances brought forward		
Bank	£1,279.04	£415.72
Revolut	£57.75	£3.05
Cash	£0.00	-£66.94
	£1,336.79	£351.83
Balances in hand at year-end		
Bank	£1,442.37	£1,279.04
Revolut	£135.35	£57.75
Cash	£0.00	£0.00
	£1,577.72	£1,336.79
Bank Surplus or deficit for the year	£240.93	£984.96

Prepared by _____

Reviewer's Certificate: The above statements agree with the records

for the financial year ended

31 March 2026

Independent Reviewer

Application for Grant Aid



Name of organisation:

The Trustees of Stone Common Plot

Purpose of organisation:

To maintain the Common Plot for the benefit of the people of Stone and district as Grazing land and a woodland area with widespread public access and Rights of Way and to do so in a manner that also benefits the wildlife of the land.

Amount of grant requested:

£500

Total cost of project (if appropriate):

668.91

Reason for grant request:

At the top of the Plot is a seasonal pond, part of which is very long-standing and part was dug out by the Trustees about 20 years ago. This pond is surrounded by hedges and a gate entry, fed, we believe, by a land drain from higher ground, Known as 'The Mudleys' and with a drainage ditch to the West side. Since the extension was excavated the pond has been largely left to its own devices and is now somewhat overgrown and the original part heavily silted up. (The drainage ditch is also blocked and will require attention in a subsequent phase of work.) We have had the site examined by a member of the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust staff who felt that it was already an important wildlife habitat but would be even more so if the edges were cleared and the excess pond vegetation removed to provide more clear water.

We are proposing, in this first phase of work, to use a mini digger for a day to rejoin the two halves of the pond and remove some of the silt from the original pond. This will be stacked at the edge of the pond to allow wildlife to return to the pond and then used in the construction of a low bund at the South side of the area to reduce water run-off into the adjacent field and encourage more to remain in the pond area, extending the 'season' of the water further into the summer months. We are then intending to involve volunteers from the local community in further clearing away scrub and excess vegetation from around the pond and from the pond itself. We are very keen that local people should have increasing involvement in the management and development and are very aware of the amount of goodwill that exists towards the Common Plot.

The tools that we already had for the use of volunteers are now worn out or unusable and need to be replaced. All voluntary work parties will be supervised either by our volunteer land manager or by a member of the Trustees themselves (normally one of the Officers).

The sums involved are: Day's Hire of Mini Digger	£432
3 Long Loppers @ £19.99	£59.97
2 Secateurs @ £12	£24
4 Garden rakes @£8.99	£28.97
2 Spades @ £30	£60
2 Forks @ 11.99	£23.98
Wheelbarrow @£39.99	£39.99
Total	£668.91

Benefits to Stone residents:

Before the pond became overgrown we had educational visits from local childrens' organisations eg Scouts and Guides, and are keen for these to restart. The rejuvenated pond should also attract more wildlife for visitors to enjoy and we also intend to reduce the hedge height in a couple of places to provide viewing points to further increase the amenity value to local people.

By involving volunteers we aim to increase the sense of 'ownership' in the land amongst local people and feelings of local pride in the community asset that is the Common Plot. And, of course, there are health benefits from the physical activity of the work parties and the availability of an area for physical recreation – walking, jogging etc.

Environmental Impact of proposals:

Ponds are a threatened form of habitat and by managing this pond better we aim to provide a healthier and more varied ecosystem. The environmental impact should, therefore, be extremely positive.

Other sources of funding secured or being explored (with amounts where known):

None other for this phase of the work

Is this an "exceptional" request (see notes)? If so, please explain why the Council should treat it as an exception:

Grants awarded by the Council in the last two years, and the uses made of the funding:

None

Statement of support from Council appointed representative (if applicable):

We have five members of Stone Town Council on our committee of Trustees and they have been involved in the decision to go ahead with this project.

Please Ensure that your Latest Accounts are Included with your Application

Common Plot Income and Expenditure from March 31st 2025 to March 31st 2026

	2026	2025		2026	2025
Income	£	£	Expenditure	£	£
Cattle Grazing	3,850.00		Council Tax	1,994.48	1,901.81
SBC Play plot rent	700.00	375.00	Water House Barn part year	763.64	1,409.21
Rural Payments Agency	1,326.85	2,764.27	Cattle troughs	704.39	551.25
Higher Level Stewardship	6,551.20	4,662.60	Insurance	1,747.60	1,693.06
Grants Donations	1,520.00	3,220.00	Advertising ,web domain	20.53	19.19
(path,trees and benches)			Repairs and renewals	891.51	690.74
			Plot House Repairs	990.08	5,430.00
			Hedges and fencing	648.00	976.00
			Equipment and machinery		
			Treework	780.00	1,570.00
			Woodland Path Scheme		3,939.79
			Bench Materials	642.37	411.52
			Legal services	1,207.13	
	<u>13,948.05</u>	<u>11,021.87</u>		<u>10,389.73</u>	<u>18,592.57</u>
			Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	3,558.32	(7,570.70)
			Virgin Bank Interest	393.43	193.65
			Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	<u>3,951.75</u>	<u>(7,377.05)</u>

Balance sheet March 31st 2025 to March 31st 2026

	2026	2025		2026	2025
Assets	£	£	Reserves	£	£
Petty Cash			Brought Forward	40,497.30	47,874.35
Co.operative Bank	12,942.12	9,383.80	Surplus /(Deficit) current yr	3,951.75	7,377.05
Virgin Money	31,506.93	31,113.50			
Total Assets	<u>44,449.05</u>	<u>40,497.30</u>	Total Reserves	<u>44,449.05</u>	<u>40,497.30</u>

Application for Grant Aid



Name of organisation: Stone Choral Society	
Purpose of organisation: To encourage members of the public to enjoy each others company through the shared Jove of singing and the health benefits of Singing.	
Amount of grant requested: £500	Total cost of project (if appropriate): Ongoing.
Reason for grant request: The Choral Society has gives the public (Mainly from the Stone area) three major Concerts each year, it also gives workshops encouraging people to sing. Running a major Choral Society has overheads such as:- <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Hall hire for rehearsals.2) Music Score sheets and booklets.3) The use of professionals (director and accompanist)4) Profession musicians and singers for productions.	

Benefits to Stone residents:

There are countless benefits :-

- 1) Social interactions.
- 2) Entertaining at a professional level in Stone and surrounding areas.
- 3) Entertaining in the Homes for people in care.
- 4) Involving local Schools in singing and music.
- 5) Encouraging people in need to join a group.

Environmental Impact of proposals:

Environmental Impact:

- 1) There is no impact on the World in which we live.
- 2) Impact is pride in our Town.

Other sources of funding secured or being explored (with amounts where known):

The Choral Society gets funding:-

- 1) Choir membership fee.
- 2) Social Events.
- 3) Donations.

Ticket sales at Concerts.

Is this an "exceptional" request (see notes)? If so, please explain why the Council should treat it as an exception:

Stone Choral Society brings music of a professional level to the folks of Stone.

Grants awarded by the Council in the last two years, and the uses made of the funding:

In gaining a grant we are able to continue to give to the people of Stone Music and all its forms.

Pleasure to all ages and involvement.

Last year we were able to do to funding use Stones Crown Theatre and to include professionals within our ranks.

Statement of support from Council appointed representative (if applicable):

Please Ensure that your Latest Accounts are Included with your Application



STONE CHORAL SOCIETY

Statement of Income and Expenditure September 2024 - August 2025

BANK BALANCE	1.9.2024	Surplus/deficit	31.8.2025
Operating account	£15,494.50	-£1,995.75	£13,498.75

Operating Account summary

INCOME	This year	EXPENDITURE	This year
Subscriptions	£8,796.00	Professional fees	£9,128.00
Gift aid	£1,559.51	Music	£2,438.70
Raffles	£1,080.82	Practice room hire	£2,810.00
		Subs, fees, Web site	£414.00
200 Club	£708.00	200 Club	£95.00
Fund raising events	£1,735.50	Fund raising events	£282.36
Music sales	£384.00	Via account	£1,719.50
Via naccount	£1,772.46	Miscellaneous	£550.37
Miscellaneous	£311.16		
Concerts	£6,874.54	Concerts	£9,095.43
Workshops	£1,100.00	Workshops	£934.38
Grants	£1,150.00		
TOTAL	<u>£25,471.99</u>	TOTAL	<u>£27,467.74</u>
This year's Surplus or Deficit		<u>-£1,995.75</u>	

Declaration of assets

Stone Choral Society holds no significant material assets.

Stone Choral Society's cash assets are all held in the Operating Account as detailed above



STONE CHORAL SOCIETY

Statement of Income and Expenditure September 2025 - August 2026

BANK BALANCE	1.9.2025	Surplus/deficit	Present to 31.8.2026
Operating account	£13,498.75	-£1,374.58	£12,124.17

Operating Account summary

INCOME	This year	EXPENDITURE	This year
Subscriptions	£8,293.00	Professional fees	£9,665.00
Gift aid	£1,622.21	Music	£446.15
Raffles	£1,020.50	Practice room hire	£2,157.50
200 Club	£1,100.00	Subs, fees, Web site	£614.98
Fund raising events	£678.00	200 Club	£360.00
Via naccount	£1,320.00	Fund raising events	£90.38
Miscellaneous	£555.50	Via account	£1,356.36
Concerts	£5,414.16	Miscellaneous	£160.00
Workshops	£1,059.65	Concerts	£6,873.83
Grants	£0.00	Workshops	£713.40
TOTAL	<u>£21,063.02</u>	TOTAL	<u>£22,437.60</u>
This year's Surplus or Deficit		<u>-£1,374.58</u>	

Declaration of assets

Stone Choral Society holds no significant material assets.

Stone Choral Society's cash assets are all held in the Operating Account as detailed above

Application for Grant Aid



Name of organisation:	
Purpose of organisation:	
Amount of grant requested:	Total cost of project (if appropriate):
Reason for grant request:	

Benefits to Stone residents:

Environmental Impact of proposals:

Other sources of funding secured or being explored (with amounts where known):

Is this an “exceptional” request (see notes)? If so, please explain why the Council should treat it as an exception:

Grants awarded by the Council in the last two years, and the uses made of the funding:

Statement of support from Council appointed representative (if applicable):

Please Ensure that your Latest Accounts are Included with your Application

STONE (Staffs) & DISTRICT U3A

Income & Expenditure 1 Nov 2025 to 31 Oct 2026

15 JUNE 2026

	2025 - 2026		2024 - 2025	
	IN	OUT	IN	OUT
	£	£	£	£
Membership	1,600.00		32,742.00	
National U3A Capitation		2,588.00		2,552.00
Financial Examiner's fee				150.00
Beacon Licence		651.00		643.00
Committee Meetings		321.02		723.80
Consumables				
Donations	70.00		45.90	
Grants			433.00	
Bank Interest	155.15		408.73	
Facility Hire	75.00	24,632.70	79.00	30,095.60
Group Equipment	425.00	113.84	190.00	493.55
Miscellaneous	60.00	82.00	264.69	224.37
Pay Pal Commission				
Publicity		78.69		514.60
Linked U3A receipts	238.00		533.00	
Storage				
Third Age Magazine	12.00	79.80		85.76
Speaker Events	332.50	410.00	238.00	454.73
Zoom				50.00
<hr/>				
TOTAL FOR YEAR	2,967.65	28,957.05	34,934.32	35,987.41
BALANCE		-25,989.40		-1,053.09
 BROUGHT FORWARD	 45,414.65		 46,467.74	
<hr/>				
BALANCE	19,425.25		45,414.65	

LIABILITIES to 31 Oct 26

Venue Bookings	12,600.00
Other Agreed	1,268.00
 Membership Renewals	 33,000.00
	est

Introduction

1. The Deputy Mayor and Council officers are entitled to claim a mileage allowance if they use their own vehicles on Council business. The Mayor and other Councillors can only claim such allowances subject to prior approval.
2. This report proposes an update to the rate of allowance paid in the above circumstances, and a set of principles with respect to the payment of such allowances.

Background

3. Council officers and the Deputy Mayor rarely claim mileage allowances, even when they do use their own vehicles for Council business. In fact, there have not been any claims made in recent years. The Council does, however, need to have an agreed process to meet such claims should they arise.
4. His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publishes an approved rate for the use of private cars and vans for business purposes, above which claimants are deemed to have made a profit and some income tax is due on the payment. This rate has been 45p per mile for the first 10,000 miles travelled for business purposes and 25p per mile thereafter since 2011, but the 45p figure above has been increased to 55p with effect from 6th April 2026. There is also a lower rate of 24p per mile for the use of a motorcycle for business purposes, regardless of the number of miles travelled.
5. In the current absence of a specific Council policy, any claims for mileage payments would have been made at these HMRC rates. As this rate has now increased it seems appropriate to consider a number of principles for the payment of any mileage claims at the same time as seeking approval for payment at the new HMRC mileage rate.

Proposals

6. This report suggests the formal adoption by the Council of the HMRC Rate for any future mileage payments to Councillors and officers in accordance with the following principles:
 - a. All valid mileage claims to be paid in accordance with the HMRC mileage rate applicable at the time of the journey
 - b. Mileage should be calculated as the lower of the number of miles between the Council Offices and the destination or between the Councillor/officer's home and the destination. Where the journey takes place in the working day and a Councillor/officer

is already at the Council Offices or is ending the journey at the Council Offices, the actual number of miles should be used subtracting any miles that would have been travelled anyway between home and office.

- c. For longer journeys, where travel by public transport is both feasible and reasonable, the cost of public transport should be paid if lower than the mileage cost whether or not the Councillor/officer actually used their private vehicle.
- d. Vehicles should only be used for Council business where the vehicle is appropriately insured for that use.

Financial Implications

- 7. As stated above, Council officers and the Deputy Mayor rarely claim mileage allowances, even when they do use their own vehicles for Council business, and there have not been any claims made in recent years.
- 8. There is therefore unlikely to be any significant financial implications from accepting the increase in the HMRC rate from 45p to 55p per mile along with the other proposals in this report.

Conclusions

- 9. The Council does not currently have a specific policy for the payment of mileage allowances to Councillors and officers. This report has suggested the adoption of a set of principles which should be followed for mileage claims that may be received in the future.

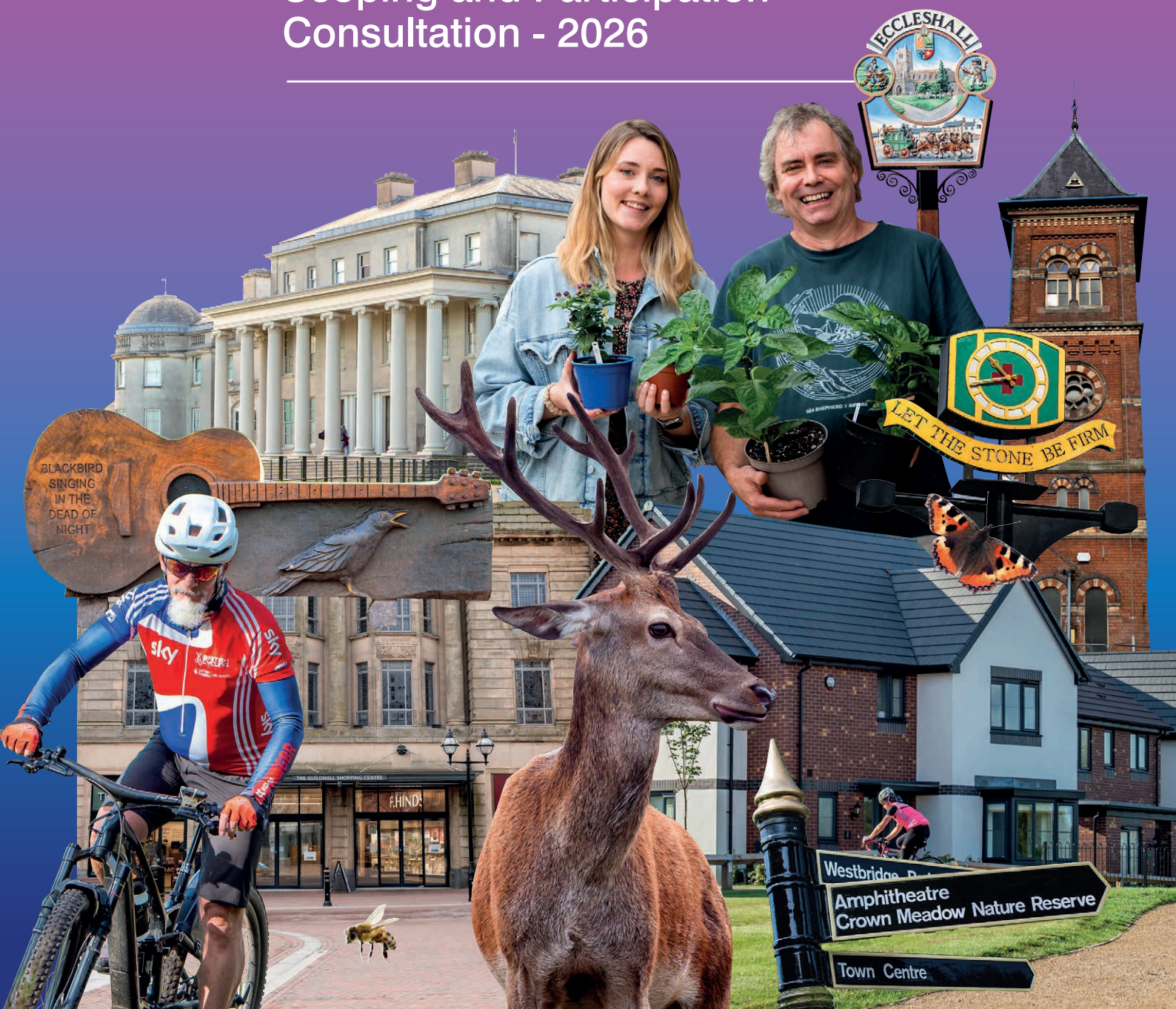
Recommendations

- 10. The Committee is recommended to agree the principles set out in this report as follows:
 - a. All valid mileage claims should be paid in accordance with the HMRC mileage rate applicable at the time of the journey
 - b. Mileage should be calculated as the lower of the number of miles between the Council Offices and the destination or between the Councillor/officer's home and the destination. Where the journey takes place in the working day and a Councillor/officer is already at the Council Offices or is ending the journey at the Council Offices, the actual number of miles should be used subtracting any miles that would have been travelled anyway between home and office.
 - c. For longer journeys, where travel by public transport is both feasible and reasonable, the cost of public transport should be paid if lower than the mileage cost whether or not the Councillor/officer actually used their private vehicle.
 - d. Vehicles should only be used for Council business where the vehicle is appropriately insured for that use.

Stafford Borough is changing... help us shape it.

New Local Plan 2025 - 2045

Scoping and Participation
Consultation - 2026





Stafford Borough New Local Plan 2025 - 2045

Scoping the Issues and Early Participation

Stafford Borough is changing - help us shape it.

We are at the early stages of creating this new Local Plan, and it's very important to us that you're part of the process from the beginning. This is a great opportunity to help make sure we're going in the right direction from the start.

We're currently trying to understand the main issues facing our Borough and how we might be able to use the Local Plan to address them - you're the best people to help us understand this.

The new Stafford Borough Local Plan will replace the Plan for Stafford Borough 2011-2031 adopted in June 2014 and Part 2 of the Plan for Stafford Borough adopted in January 2017. The new Local Plan will guide where new development takes place across the Borough area over the Plan period 2025-2045 by describing what change will occur and identify how places will be shaped in the future.

Preparation of the New Local Plan must follow the statutory stages set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, including defined gateway stages, as reflected in the Council's Local Development Scheme. This document forms part of the early participation and engagement stage of plan preparation under the new plan making system. This is to ensure that local people and other stakeholders are fully engaged in the process, which is summarised below. Whilst the Council will aim to meet this timetable due to the complex nature of the work the programme will be kept under regular review.

How things are now

Addressing the Climate Emergency

The Council has a Net Zero Carbon goal by 2035, a Climate Change Strategy, and a Corporate Plan that identifies "Climate Change, Nature Recovery and the Environment" as one of the four major priorities.

All Staffordshire District / Borough authorities have jointly committed to fully explore climate responsive policy development, subject to Member approval, feasibility and viability considerations

Our commitment remains that we will do all we can through the Local Plan to ensure we mitigate and adapt to Climate Change through reducing carbon emissions, increasing biodiversity and managing flood risks.

Protecting our unique places and landscapes

The Borough's rich heritage, spanning prehistoric origins through Roman, medieval, and industrial eras, forms a vital part of our identity and daily experience. The natural landscape of the borough is characterised by flat, low-lying land between the rivers Trent, Penk and Sow. Much of the area is intensively farmed agricultural land (including stock farming), interspersed with ancient and semi-natural woodland and grasslands. The upland landscape in the south-east of the borough is nationally recognised through its designation as part of the Cannock Chase National Landscape (formerly known as the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).

The borough contains Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance designated under The Convention on Wetlands, known as the Ramsar Convention, an intergovernmental environmental treaty which came into force in 1975) at Aqualate Mere, Chartley Moss and Cop Mere, 15 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and 4 Special Area of Conservation (SAC) at Cannock Chase, Motte Meadows, Chartley Moss and Pasturefields.

There are two areas of Green Belt in the borough. Extensive parts of the north of the borough lie within the North Staffordshire Green Belt while part of the south-eastern area of the borough is designated as part of the West Midlands Green Belt.

Quality of life and affordability

We're an area in demand for housing. Median house prices and affordability ratios in the borough are below national averages, but above those for the West Midlands. The median housing affordability ratio for workplace-based earnings in 2021 was 7.71, compared to 9.05 for England and 7.50 for the West Midlands.

Traffic and Transport

The borough has excellent transport links, including the M6, West Coast Mainline rail and in future including access to the strategic rail network, with proposed High Speed 2 (HS2). Although the borough is relatively self-contained, there are important economic linkages with both the West Midlands and North Staffordshire conurbations.

Many of our local roads are reaching or have reached their capacity to accommodate cars. This causes congestion and air quality issues on some of our main transport corridors and neighbourhoods. We have some great opportunities to improve our accessibility to public transport, cycling and walking but they need the right investment to be realised. We are also a rural place, so whilst its right to expand our reliance on more sustainable, low carbon methods of travel we must accept that it won't be an answer for all of us.

Securing Economic Prosperity

We are home to some really important sources of employment - Newcastle and Stafford Group College, Staffordshire University, Stafford Hospital, General Electrics. These are important sources of employment for local people and attract other forms of investment to the borough. They need to be supported so that they can continue to be successful in the future. We also need to make sure that we support businesses through challenging and volatile economic times to make sure that the borough is economically prosperous.

Stafford Borough has a relatively strong economy. Unemployment rates have been consistently lower than the national average. Stafford Borough has a relatively high skills level, with 40.9% of residents have Level 1, 2 or 3 qualifications, 50.6% having an apprenticeship, and 35.1% having level 4 qualifications and above. The average earnings of borough residents are higher than the West Midlands and England averages. But the average earnings for jobs in the borough are below the averages for the West Midlands and England.

Development and Infrastructure

This plan needs to make sure there is a more diverse offering of development opportunities in the borough, both in terms of location, size, type and tenure. It will also be important that new infrastructure is delivered alongside new development, to reduce pressures on existing facilities. This must include public transport, education, sewerage treatment facilities, health care and open space.

Local Plan Vision

As part of the new Local Plan, we need to develop a land use planning (spatial) vision for the future of the borough. To help inform the spatial vision we would like to know your thoughts.

- (1) What would you like this borough to be like in the future?
- (2) What do you think we should change and how?
- (3) What would you change in your local neighbourhood or area to make it a better place to live?

What should we be considering?

We would also like to know what you think are the things we really need to be considering in developing our evidence base. We would like to know your thoughts on:

- (1) What matters or issues should be looked at by the new Local Plan?
- (2) Why are these matters or issues important?

Please feel free to refer to climate change, the economy, housing, heritage, the environment, infrastructure, transport, community facilities and health in your response.

Key Themes (proposed)

The Local Plan will cover lots of themes and we'd like to know your thoughts on the following questions.

Theme 1: Addressing Climate Emergency

What do we need to do in response to climate change and the climate emergency?

Theme 2: Design, Healthy Lifestyles and Safe Communities

How can we make our communities healthier, provide better facilities and support high quality design in new development?

Theme 3: Nature Recovery and Biodiversity

What is required to protect our high-quality environments and help to deliver nature recovery?

Theme 4: Protecting Landscapes, Townscapes and Heritage

How can we protect our unique heritage, natural and town landscapes?

What aspects of the borough's heritage matter most to you, how it can be protected, and how it should shape sustainable development into the future?

Theme 5: Transport and Connectivity

Do you find it easy to move around freely and get to where you want to go?

Theme 6: Right Infrastructure in the Right Places

What new infrastructure, services and facilities do we need to plan for and where?

Theme 7: Meeting our Housing Needs and Delivering the Right Types of Housing

What type of homes do need and where do we need them?

Do you think it is better to deliver housing in one go or phased, so that new facilities and infrastructure can be provided? Should we have smaller sites so the new housing can be accommodated within the existing community?

Theme 8: Securing Economic Prosperity

How do we attract more investment and jobs into the Borough?

Engagement

Are there any community groups or local groups you think we should be talking to? If so, please provide details.

How can I have my say on this consultation document?

This consultation is an early engagement exercise intended to inform the scope, evidence base and strategic direction of the Local Plan. It does not constitute publication of a draft plan for the purposes of submission, examination or adoption.

Consultation on the new Local Plan 2025-2045: Scoping the Issues and Early Participation will take place between 8 June and 28 July 2026. Please provide any responses by 12 noon on Tuesday 28 July 2026.

We strongly encourage responses to be made using the pro-forma available on the Council's website at www.staffordbc.gov.uk/Strategic-Planning-and-Placemaking-consultations and emailing completed forms to strategicplanningconsultations@staffordbc.gov.uk

Alternatively, if you choose to use e-mail please identify the question, section or page number to which your comments refer.

How will my comments be used?

We will acknowledge receipt of your comments and fully consider responses for the next stage of the plan-making process, although the Council will not engage through individual correspondence. All comments received will be published on the Council's website in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data will be processed on the lawful basis that it is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest and in the exercise of official authority.

Protecting Your Privacy

We believe you should always know what data we collect from you and how we use it, and that you should have meaningful control over both. As part of our ongoing commitment to transparency, and in relation to the General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, we have updated our Privacy Policy.

We will only use your personal information to send you information on the Local Plan and associated planning policy matters. You can find information about how we handle your personal data by visiting www.staffordbc.gov.uk/privacynotices and if you have any queries or would like to unsubscribe from receiving information please contact the Strategic Planning and Placemaking team using the details above.

Stafford Borough is changing... help us shape it.

New Local Plan 2025 - 2045

Communication and Engagement
Strategy Consultation - 2026



Stafford Borough New Local Plan 2025 – 2045 Communication and Engagement Strategy

Introduction

The Communication and Engagement Strategy (CES) sets out how the Council will involve the community and other stakeholders in the main planning functions of preparing a local plan (or other planning policy document). Consultation and engagement concerning planning applications and the decision-making process is covered by other processes. For plan-making this document sets out:

- What will be consulted upon;
- Who we will consult;
- When the Council will consult; and
- How the Council will consult (methods used to consult).

The CES will also provide information about:

- The role of elected councillors, parish and town councils, and voluntary and community groups in planning matters;
- Who you can contact for assistance in local planning matters, and
- What will be expected of you when you make comments and how those comments will be presented.

Legal Requirements

There is a clear emphasis throughout national policy on encouraging early and consistent community involvement. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the online Planning Practice Guidance encourages front-loading engagement and co-operation with the community so that local plans reflect a collective vision and agreed set of priorities. They also highlight the importance of early community engagement before planning and other applications are submitted.

Specifically for plan making, the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 sets out the steps to produce local plans and supplementary planning documents. It sets out who is to be included at each consultation and which documents are available at each stage of the process.

Vision and Our Commitment to You

Our Vision

The Borough Council believes that local community participation and involvement is central to the delivery of sustainable development and helps to provide effective planning for the future.

Our vision is “to provide a platform for people to express their views on planning matters and share their local knowledge in an interactive and inclusive manner, to help inform plan making decisions and create effective strategies.”

To achieve our vision we will,

- create and prepare planning policy documents in a user-friendly manner
- ensure our methods and approach are transparent and accessible to help people understand the plan making process better
- record and consider views to help inform Planning Policy Documents
- seek to work with groups and individuals who do not normally engage with plan making
- encourage developers to engage with local communities on their proposals as soon as practicable.

The Planning System

The Planning System plays a key role in shaping the use of land and development to provide attractive, vibrant and well-designed places to live and work. Whilst it seeks to conserve and protect the environment, it also aims to provide new development that meets the needs for new housing, employment, and other facilities. This inevitably involves making some challenging decisions. The role of the Local Planning Authority is to make balanced decisions after considering consultation responses and other material planning matters.

Plan Making

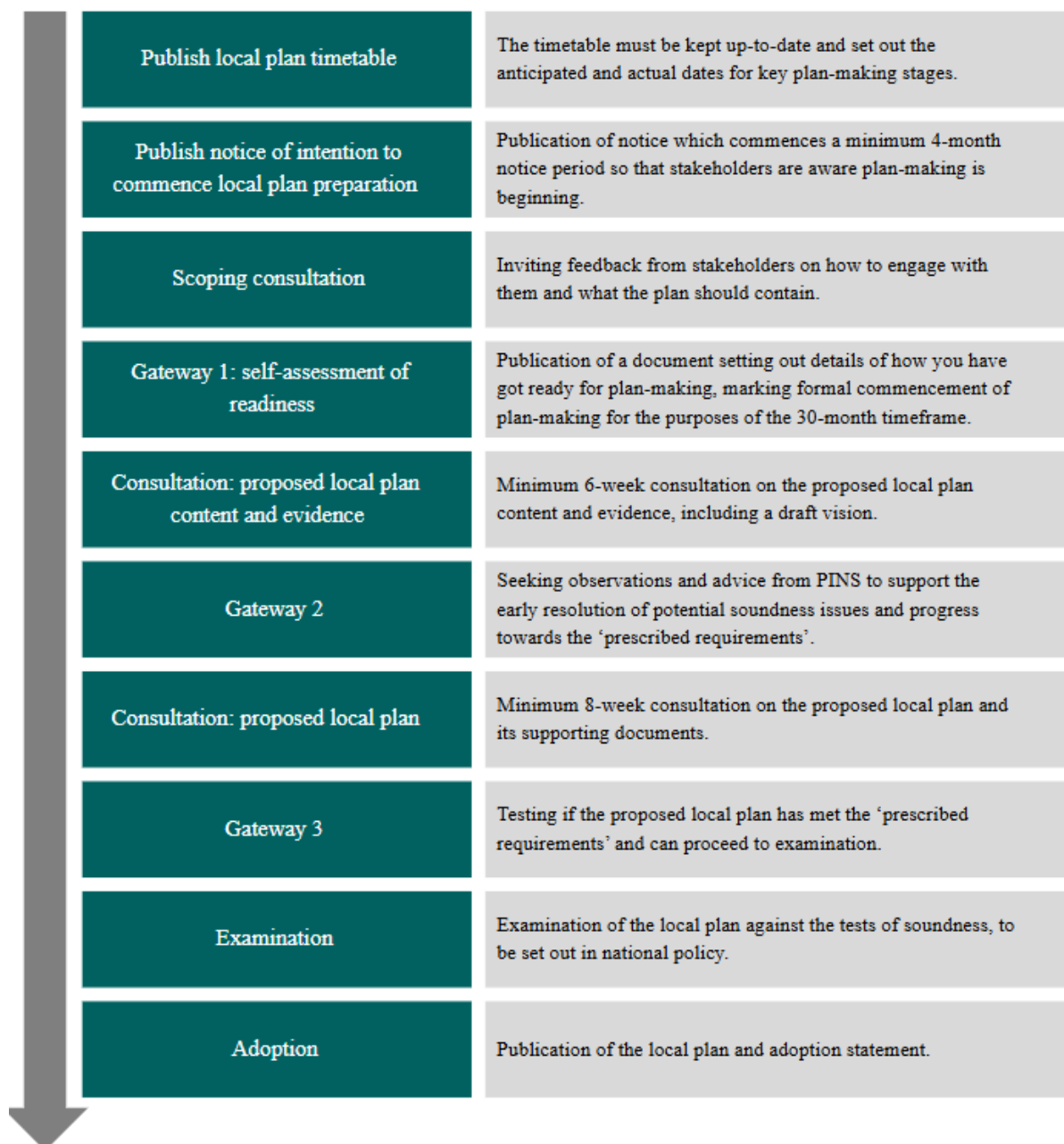
Plan Making is referred to as planning policy or spatial planning. Plan Making requires Local Planning Authorities to produce a Local Plan for the area which sets out how the area will develop over a period of time. The Local Plan policies will be used to guide future development and provide the framework for decisions on planning applications.

The process of creating a Local Plan requires Local Planning Authorities to identify and engage, at an early stage, with all those that may be interested in the development or content of the Local Plan, and with groups who may be affected by proposals. With the help of the local community and the collation of an evidence base, the Local Planning Authority will identify options for addressing local development needs, to inform a preferred approach for future development. This requires carrying out a robust community consultation with local communities, businesses and other interested parties.

The Local Plan

The Local Plan is prepared through a process of engagement and community involvement, with a timetable setting out details of all the Local Plan documents (including supporting documents) and those that we are or will be progressing. The preparation of each of these documents will provide important opportunities for communities to get involved in shaping the places in which they live.

The process of producing the Local Plan and associated documents involves several stages as set out in the image below:



Access to background local plan documents and evidence base

The documents prepared as part of the Local Plan are prepared on the basis of a sound and up-to-date evidence base. All relevant evidence base studies, assessments or strategies will be made available on the Council website. Paper copies of these documents can be made available upon request subject to the relevant fees and charges.

The adopted Local Plan is made up of the Plan for Stafford Borough 2011-2031 and Part 2 which is now being replaced with work started on a New Local Plan (2025-2045) including evidence based studies, establishing a Brownfield Land Register and initial consultation exercises. Future work on all of these aspects will need to meet the requirements set out in this document, when finalised following this consultation.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Local Plan documents are subject to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process. The SEA assess the preparation of the Local Plan's policies and proposals as these are development against social, environmental and economic objectives to ensure the best approach is delivered. A key element of the SEA process is the baseline information established through survey data. A series of SEA reports produced through the preparation of the Local Plan are consulted upon alongside the policies and proposals.

Supplementary Plans

Supplementary Plans are complementary documents that provide further details and guidance to policies contained in the Local Plan, and are used as material considerations in reaching planning decisions.

Supplementary Plans take many forms, ranging from a master plan or development brief, to design guides and general additional guidance produced by the Council.

Engage in the Local Plan

This section explains how and when you can be involved in influencing and informing the production of the development plan and other planning policy documents for the Stafford Borough. Legislation sets out which documents need to be in place, the processes to produce those documents and the minimum requirements for involvement in their production.

How we involve you in the Local Plan

Advertising and notification of forthcoming opportunities to be involved is essential. To improve efficiency, the council will make use of electronic communication tools and build upon existing communication channels wherever possible. The council will engage, involve and consult on planning matters in line with the latest regulations and guidance as appropriate and relevant.

An assessment under the equalities regulations may be appropriate and a requirement for some planning policy documents. Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA) may be undertaken as a tool for ensuring that equality, social inclusion and community cohesion issues are considered when drawing up policies.

The Town and Country Planning (Local planning) (England) Regulations 2012 define the 'specific consultation bodies' we must consult with (list below). The Regulations define 'general consultation bodies' as voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit any part of the authority's area and other bodies who represent, in the authority's area, the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups; different religious groups; disabled persons; and, business interests.

Your involvement in the Local Plan

To ensure that your involvement is effective you will be expected to:

- Make your representation/comments within the specified time period;
- Provide comments in a clear and succinct format, ensuring that representations relate to the issues and documents being consulted upon;
- Be aware that your comments with your name attached (for local plan and planning policy consultations) will be made publicly available with personal and sensitive information redacted in line with the Council's privacy notices;
- Be understanding and respectful of alternative views. We have a zero tolerance of abusive language etc. All comments are moderated and any that are considered to fall short of these requirements will be rejected; and
- If you are replying on behalf of a group or organisation, consider and explain how members of the group have been involved in formulating the representation.

Role of elected councilors

The role of locally elected councilors in representing the views and concerns of residents in the planning process is very important. However, your views can only be formally considered when you make them in writing (traditional or email) to the Council within the specified time for a particular consultation.

Parish Councils

Parish and town councils play a vital role in community involvement in the planning system and the production of neighbourhood plans. Parish and town councillors can comment on the preparation of policy documents that may affect their area as well as the Borough. Parish and town councils have an important role when identifying priorities in their areas and provide a valuable means of sharing information about the planning process to their local community. This is particularly important for when parish and town councils produce a neighbourhood plan.

Role of voluntary and community groups

We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to be actively involved in decisions that affect them and their community. Voluntary and community groups are encouraged to be involved in planning matters and can represent their members. Please see the following sections for how to register to be involved in planning policy documents.

Less well-represented groups

We are aware that some people and groups are less well-represented or thought to be 'hard to reach'. We also understand that particular groups may have specific areas of interest or a limited capacity for involvement. Every opportunity will be taken to add to our awareness of such groups; to increase engagement and to identify issues and policies that are likely to be of particular concern and we welcome proactive suggestions to increase such engagement. Documents and information will be made available in alternative formats upon request.

Please note: News updates can only be sent to those that sign up to and remain on the Local Plan consultation list.

The Local Plan Process

The preparation of the Local Plan represents the most resource intensive strand of Local Plan preparation, particularly in relation to community involvement.

To prepare the policies and proposals for the Development Plan, the Borough Council will consult with the community and statutory organisations listed in Appendix 1 and 2, and establish the main issues for the document to address as part of developing policy options and key matters.

Scoping, Early Participation and Evidence Gathering

This stage of the Local Plan is intended to be wide ranging and informal. It will invite discussion on the objectives of the relevant plan making document and the options available for achieving those objectives. The Council will not put forward any specific proposals at this stage.

The council will also at this stage be collecting information on a range of socio-economic. Furthermore, survey information will be sought on key elements of the Local Plan, including a Call for Sites exercise alongside key housing and employment statistics. Additionally, each year the Brownfield Land Register will be reviewed to identify new development sites, which will include potential sites through the Permission In Principle approach.

The local community and stakeholders are encouraged to provide their details via a consultation database so that they can be kept informed throughout the following stages.

Representations at this stage should be on the questions raised. You will be able to comment online, email or via letter.

If you are requesting the allocation of a specific site for development, then it is highly desirable that you engage with the Council at this early stage so that community involvement is maximised and appraisal work can be undertaken on the proposed site through the plan preparation process. Development proposals can be more robustly assessed if the site and its proposed use are clearly defined. You can submit your land via the **Call for Sites** webpage.

Vision and Strategy

The Council will use the responses and information gathered during the Scoping the Issues and Early Participation stage to develop:

- Draft vision and proposed aims and objectives
- Proposed spatial strategy
- Initial draft policies
- Summary of evidence gathered and evidence still to gather

This stage will set out the Council's preferred approach to delivering the objectives identified as part of Scoping the Issues and Early Participation stage through the Proposed Local Plan content and evidence.

The community and stakeholders, including statutory organisations, will be encouraged to participate in the on-going policy development process and a range of consultation / engagement methods will be used to help achieve this. Following on from the early engagement on key matters, the Council will consult on the Proposed Local Plan content and evidence for a minimum period of 6 weeks.

This stage provides an opportunity for representations which suggest alternative options for delivery of the Local Plan objectives. You will be able to comment on this stage either online or via email or by letter.

If you are requesting the allocation of a site for development you will be expected to clearly define the site, the uses proposed for the site, describe any community involvement already undertaken and why you think that the proposed site is a more sustainable option than those put forward by the Council.

Publication and submission

Following preparation of the Proposed Local Plan the Borough Council will publish a final version and invite comments on the document from the community, statutory organisations and other interested parties as part of an 8 week consultation stage.

This is effectively the final stage to submit formal representations to the Borough Council on the Proposed Local Plan. The Borough Council will then submit the Proposed Local Plan, the Sustainability Appraisal and the entire evidence base, including the representations made, to the Secretary of State for an Examination in Public.

Examination

An independent Inspector is appointed to undertake an Examination in Public (EiP), to test the legal compliance and soundness of the Proposed Local Plan whilst considering all representations made at the Publication stage.

Prior to the EiP, the Borough Council must publish an advert notifying the public, including any interested parties, about details of the Examination.

Anybody who submitted representations at the Publication stage will have the opportunity to present their case to the Inspector.

The Planning Inspector will decide on how to best proceed with the EiP, identifying issues which should be debated. Generally the EiP includes a series of formal hearing which are chaired by the Planning Inspector.

A Programme Officer will be appointed from outside of the Planning Department and will be responsible for managing all the arrangements of the Examination process, including collating all documents, where appropriate, organising site visits and dealing with all correspondence. The Programme Officer reports to the Planning Inspector and will be the main point of contact for members of the public through the EiP.

During the Examination in Public stage the Council may propose Main Modifications to the document, if these are needed to make it “sound”. If this is the case further consultation on the proposed changes will be carried out.

Adoption of the Local Plan

Following the conclusion of the EiP the Inspector will produce a report setting out any changes the Borough Council must make to the document before it can be adopted. The Inspectors Report and its recommendations are binding on the Council (i.e. the Council must accept these changes should it take forward the Local Plan to adoption).

Should the Council seek to adopt the Local Plan, the modifications suggested by the Inspector must be undertaken and then a formal decision must be made by Council Members to adopt the Local Plan for planning purposes.

Following a Member decision to adopt, the Council must notify all consultees registered on the Planning Policy Consultation Database of their intention to adopt the document for planning purposes. A notice of adoption will be placed in all relevant newspaper press and will include information on the statutory rights of appeal.

Supplementary Plans

Supplementary Plans (SPs) relate to specific sites or specific planning issues and have the same weight as a local plan for the purpose of decision-making. This would also include Infrastructure Levy regimes to apply at the local level for securing developer contributions in the future.

There is a three-stage process for the preparation of Supplementary Plans, this includes:

- Evidence Gathering
- The Preparation and Consultation of a Draft Supplementary Plan
- The Adoption of the SPs by Stafford Borough Council

The key principles for community involvement which are applied to the preparation of Local Plans equally applies to the preparation of Supplementary Plans.

The approach to community involvement will remain to engage as many people who are interested in the issue / area as possible although it should be recognised that there is little value in engaging groups whose interests may lie outside both the geographical scope and the subject scope of the document consultation. Any community involvement on SPs should be relevant, proportionate and efficient.

The Borough Council will arrange for an independent Inspector to examine the Supplementary Plan. Prior to the Examination, the Borough Council must publish an advert notifying the public, including any interested parties, about details of the Examination.

The procedure for the examination of supplementary plans is set out in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 Section 15DB.

Neighbourhood Plans

Designation of Neighbourhood Plan Area

A Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum can submit an application to the Borough Council requesting for a Neighbourhood Plan Area to be designated.

The Borough Council will publicise the Neighbourhood Plan Area Application and carry out a statutory consultation for a period of 4 weeks before it is considered for designation as a Neighbourhood Plan Area. The Borough Council will then publish details of its decision, including a map of the designated area.

Preparation of Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum will prepare their Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, and the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017. This involves collecting evidence, engagement and consultation with the local community on issues and options, and developing draft planning policies for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Borough Council will provide assistance and advice to the Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum throughout the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan in a timely manner when requested. Prior to the draft Neighbourhood Plan being subject to consultation, the Borough Council will prepare a Screening Report to assess the environmental implications. The Screening Report will be subject to a six-week consultation exercise with the statutory environmental agencies. Submission and Publication.

The Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum are required to submit the Neighbourhood Plan to the Borough Council who will then publish the proposed Neighbourhood Plan for a six-week period of consultation. The Borough Council will notify all relevant stakeholders and invite comments during the consultation stage.

Examination

The Borough Council will arrange for an independent Inspector to examine the Neighbourhood Plan. Prior to the Examination, the Borough Council must publish an advert notifying the public, including any interested parties, about details of the Examination.

Adoption of Neighbourhood Plan

Following receipt of the Inspector's Report, this recommends any changes required and whether the Neighbourhood Plan can proceed to a referendum (vote).

The Council will publish the Inspector's Report and arrange a referendum. If the Neighbourhood Plan is successful at referendum (achieved more than a 50% yes vote) the Borough Council will then adopt the Neighbourhood Plan and it will be used in the determination of Planning Applications in the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Note: The Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum preparing a Neighbourhood Plan is responsible for undertaking community engagement and consultation before the proposed Plan is submitted. Consulting with the wider community in the early plan making process could increase the likelihood of the Neighbourhood Plan being successful at the referendum stage.

Planning Policy Consultations

Who we will consult

In the preparation of Planning Policy Documents, a wide range of individuals, groups, representatives and organisations will be consulted.

In line with statutory obligations, the Borough Council is required to provide a 'specific consultation' list of statutory organisations who must be consulted (please see Appendix 1) and a 'general consultation' list of those who may wish to be consulted (please see Appendix 2) on Planning Policy Documents. These lists of bodies are not definitive and the Borough Council may need to consult with other organisations at the appropriate time.

Stafford Borough Council wants to ensure that all stakeholders have every opportunity to be involved with the preparation of Planning Policy Documents and no groups/organisations and individuals, including hard to reach groups, are excluded.

Stafford Borough Council maintains a database of over 3,000 consultees, which largely consists of those who have expressed an interest in being involved in the preparation of Planning Policy Documents. These are identified as key stakeholders and are shown in the table below.

Table 1: Key Stakeholders

Local Interest Groups	Residents	Businesses	Individuals
Neighbouring Local Authorities	Statutory Organisations	Land Owners	Councillors and MPs
Voluntary and Community Groups	Parish Councils	Developers	Hard to Reach Groups

Any resident, business or interested party can be included in this database by contacting the Borough Council’s Strategic Planning and Placemaking team on 01785 619000. The Borough Council will comply with the General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 to ensure personal information is kept confidential and secure.

Duty to Cooperate / Statement of Common Ground

The Council has previously been required, under Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011, to engage with neighbouring authorities and other statutory organisations to satisfy the ‘Duty to Cooperate’ legal requirement, including where appropriate through Statements of Common Ground. This was to ensure that neighbouring authorities and relevant organisations work together to meet development requirements and address any strategic cross boundary issues.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 removed the need for Duty to Cooperate to streamline the plan-making process. Nevertheless authorities still need to collaborate across their boundaries, including on unmet development needs from neighbouring areas in line with National Planning Policy Framework policies which stipulate ‘maintaining effective cooperation.’

Stafford Borough Council has worked closely with all relevant Duty to Cooperate organisations throughout the production of the adopted Plan for Stafford Borough. The Borough Council remains committed to effective cross-boundary collaboration in the preparation of future Planning Policy Documents.

How we will consult

Stafford Borough Council will use a range of methods to involve local people and strengthen community involvement. The table below describes the various methods used for consulting on Planning Policy Documents.

Table 2: Methods for consulting on planning policy documents

Letters and Emails	Letters and emails sent out to notify relevant stakeholders about a consultation on Planning Policy Documents
Parish Forum Meetings	Attendance at Parish Forum meetings to provide Parish Councils with information on Planning Policy Documents
Display boards	Display boards are set up in the reception of Council Offices to raise awareness of consultation on Planning Policy Documents and how people can get involved
Public Exhibitions and Workshops	Exhibitions are set up in various locations across the Borough to provide information on Planning Policy Documents. Workshops are organised to gather information and feedback from members of the public and other stakeholders to help inform Planning Policy Documents
Press Release / Notice	Press releases / notices are issued to the local newspapers and local radio stations to raise awareness about consultation on Planning Policy Documents
Libraries	Hard copies of Planning Policy Documents, with response forms, are distributed to local Libraries for people to view and make comments
Council website www.staffordbc.gov.uk	Details of Planning Policy Documents are published on the website for the public to view, including details of the consultation and how to respond

What we will do with your comments

All representations will receive an automatic acknowledgement of the representation if received by email. The Borough Council will also accept comments by letter and will process them in the same manner as other representations.

All representations will be electronically recorded and then published on the Borough Council's website, or through the Neighbourhood Planning Bodies website as relevant, for the public to view. They will be considered and used to help inform the production of Planning Policy Documents

Monitoring and Review

Stafford Borough Council is committed to strengthening local community participation and stakeholder involvement in the planning process.

Each year the Council monitors and reviews the progress and effectiveness of the Local Plan in an annual Authority Monitoring Report. In addition, and where appropriate, the Council will carry out a periodic review of the Local Plan.

In accordance with the Authority Monitoring Report, the Council will also review consultation activities that have been carried out in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement. This is to ensure the methods and techniques used to engage with all stakeholders of the community are effective and robust.

The Council will use the following indicators to measure outcomes.

- Number of people participating in consultation
- Number of people using the Council's online website to make representations

If significant changes are required to meet new circumstances or legislation changes, a review of the Communications and Engagement Strategy will be undertaken.

Engagement tools

	Development Plan Documents						Supplementary Plans			Neighbourhood Plans				Community Infrastructure Levy			
Method	Evidence Gathering and Early Engagement – where relevant Brownfield Land	Brownfield Land Register - Call for Sites	Development of Policy Options	Publication and Submission	Examination in Public	Adoption	Publication of Draft SP	Examination in Public	Adoption	Designate Neighbourhood Plan	Submission and Publication	Examination	Adoption	Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule	Draft Charging Schedule	Examination in Public	Adoption
Letters and Emails	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Parish Forum Meeting			X														
Display boards			X														
Public exhibition and workshop			X														
Press Release/Notice		X	X		X	X	X	X	X								
Libraries		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X		X
Council website	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Online Q and A Session			X	X			X										

How can I have my say on this consultation document?

Consultation on the new Local Plan 2025-2045: Engagement and Communication Strategy will take place between 8 June and 28 July 2026. Please provide any responses by 12 noon on Tuesday 28 July 2026.

We strongly encourage responses to be made using the pro-forma available on the Council's website at www.staffordbc.gov.uk/strategic-planning-and-placemaking-consultations and emailing completed forms to strategicplanningconsultations@staffordbc.gov.uk

Alternatively, if you choose to use email please identify the question, section or page number to which your comments refer.

How will my comments be used?

We will acknowledge receipt of your comments and fully consider responses for the next stage of the plan-making process, although the Council will not engage through individual correspondence. All comments received will be published on the Council's website in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Protecting Your Privacy

We believe you should always know what data we collect from you and how we use it, and that you should have meaningful control over both. As part of our ongoing commitment to transparency, and in relation to the General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, we have updated our Privacy Policy.

We will only use your personal information to send you information on the Local Plan and associated planning policy matters. You can find information about how we handle your personal data by visiting www.staffordbc.gov.uk/privacynotices and if you have any queries or would like to unsubscribe from receiving information please contact the Strategic Planning and Placemaking team using the details above.

Appendix 1: Specific Organisation Bodies for Plan Making

Active Travel England

Local telecommunication providers

Canal and River Trust

Civil Aviation Authority

Coal Authority

Sport England

Environment Agency

Forestry England

National Highways

Historic England

Homes England

NHS Property Services

University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust

Public Health Commissioning Leads and Strategic Delivery Managers at
Staffordshire County Council

Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB

Local gas and electricity providers

Local sewerage and water providers

Marine Management Organisation

Natural England

Neighbourhood Planning Bodies (Parish Councils / Neighbourhood Forums)

Network Rail Infrastructure Limited

Transport for West Midlands

Office for Nuclear Regulation

Office of Rail and Road

Adjoining Local Planning Authorities

Town and Parish Councils within Stafford Borough as well as those adjoining the Borough

Staffordshire County Council (including Highways Authority, Lead Education Authority, Lead Local Flooding Authority and Local Nature Recovery Strategy)

Staffordshire Police, Fire and Rescue and Crime Commissioner

Appendix 2: General Consultation Bodies for Plan Making

Airport Operators' Association

Amenity groups

Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Charities

Civic Societies

Community groups and residents' associations

Countryside / conservation groups

Culture, Recreation and Faith groups

Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Disability groups

Ethnic minority groups

Members of the General Public

Health groups

Home Builders Federation

Housing interest groups and housing associations

Inland Waterways Association

Landowners and Developers

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups

Local business groups

Local Councillors and MPs

Local Canal Societies

Local interest groups

Local media

Local Public Transport Providers

National Association of Gypsy and Traveller Officers, The National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups, and the Gypsy Council

Older groups

Railway Infrastructure Managers including HS2

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

Transport for London

Voluntary and Community Infrastructure Organisation (VAST)

Woodland Trust

Young Persons group

Ministry of Defence

Support Staffordshire

Stafford Borough is changing... help us shape it.

New Local Plan 2025 - 2045

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping
Report Consultation - 2026



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1. Non-technical summary

This non-technical summary introduces the Development Plan, Sustainability Appraisal including Strategic Environmental Assessment, and highlights the main outcomes of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

The purpose of this Scoping Report is to provide the context for, and determine the scope of, the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Stafford Borough New Local Plan 2025-2045, and to set out the framework for assessing the sustainability of the new Development Plan.

It will incorporate the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the new Local Plan. For the purposes of this report, we refer to the SA of the Stafford Borough New Local Plan, which should be taken as incorporating SEA.

SA is an assessment process designed to consider and report upon the significant sustainability issues and effects of emerging plans and policies, including their reasonable alternatives.

2. The Plan Area

Stafford Borough Council adopted the Plan for Stafford Borough 2011-2031 on the 19 June 2014. The adopted Local Plan sets out the Council's vision and strategy for Stafford Borough up to 2031. It sets out policies and allocates land for specific uses including housing, employment and retail development. It also sets out the criteria for determining planning applications and guides the decision-making process.

The Council is required to review the Local Plan within five years of its adoption. In July 2017 the Council carried out its Local Plan Review when a consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report took place. Subsequently the Local Plan 2020-2040 Issues and Options consultation took place in February to April 2020 followed by the Preferred Options (Regulation 18) consultation which occurred between October 2022 to December 2022. However, following the new requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in December 2024 Cabinet took the decision on 6 March 2025, to stop work on the Local Plan 2020-2040 and begin investigation of and to develop a new Local Plan 2025 to 2045 through the new plan-making process.

The new Local Plan 2025-2045 will replace the existing Local Plan documents. The Local Plan will be a borough-wide plan that will coordinate the development and growth requirements of the Borough over a period of 20 years. The Council is at an early stage in the development of the new Local Plan.

3. Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Local Plans to be subject to an SA. The SA is designed to ensure that the plan preparation process maximises the contribution that a plan makes to sustainable development and minimises any potential adverse impacts. The SA process involves appraising the likely environmental, social and economic effects of the policies and proposals within a plan from the outset of its development.

The SEA is also a statutory assessment process, originally required under the European SEA Directive, transposed in the UK by the SEA Regulations and amended by the Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232). No substantive changes were made by this instrument to the way the SEA regime currently operates. Therefore, the SEA Regulations remain in force, and it is a legal requirement for the Stafford Borough Local Plan to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.

Whilst the SEA and SA are separate processes both have similar aims and objectives. Simply put, SEA focuses on the likely environmental effects of a plan whilst SA focuses on the social and economic effects of a plan, in addition to the environment.

The Government's Planning Practice Guidance shows how it is possible to satisfy both requirements by undertaking a joint SA and SEA process, and to present an SA Report that incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations.

The SA process comprises of five stages, with scoping being Stage A as shown below:

- **Stage A:** Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope.
- **Stage B:** Developing and refining options and assessing effects.
- **Stage C:** Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
- **Stage D:** Consulting on the Local Plan and the SA Report.
- **Stage E:** Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan.

Through the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, the Government secured powers to bring forward a new domestic framework to replace the current Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and SEA environmental assessment regimes.

Environmental Outcomes Reports (EORs) is a new environmental assessment method that is currently being developed and will replace SAs, SEAs and EIAs. Guidance issued to date states that until a new system is implemented, current legislation on environmental assessment and its supporting guidance continues to apply. Any changes to the legal framework for carrying out SA/SEA will be addressed appropriately as the Local Plan is prepared, and documented as required in either subsequent SA Reports or Environmental Outcomes Reports.

Approach to scoping

The main tasks associated with the scoping stage of the SA (Stage A) are as follows:

- **Stage A1:** Setting out the policy context for the SA of the Local Plan, i.e. key policies and strategies that influence what the Local Plan and the SA need to consider.
- **Stage A2:** Setting out the baseline for the SA of the Local Plan, i.e. the current and environmental, social, and economic conditions in Stafford Borough and their likely evolution in the absence of the new Local Plan.
- **Stage A3:** Drawing on A1 and A2, identify the sustainability problems and/or opportunities ('issues') that the Local Plan and SA should address.
- **Stage A4:** Drawing on A1, A2 and A3, develop a framework of SA objectives and assessment criteria against which to appraise the constituent parts of the Local Plan in isolation and in combination.
- **Stage A5:** Consulting on the intended scope and level of detail of the SA.

This Scoping Report sets out the intended scope and level of detail of the SA of the Local Plan for consultation with the relevant environmental authorities. It fulfils the requirements set out above and provides the foundations for appraisal of the likely effects of constituent parts of the Local Plan, as plan-making progresses. In accordance with the Government's Planning Practice Guidance on SA/SEA, the Scoping Report is proportionate and relevant to the Local Plan, focusing on what is needed to assess likely significant effects. It also takes account of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the emphasis it places on achieving sustainable development.

Structure of the Scoping Report

Table 1 below signposts the relevant sections of the Scoping Report that are considered to meet the SEA Regulations requirements (the remainder will be met during subsequent stages of the SA of the Stafford Borough Local Plan).

Table 1 Meeting the requirements of the SEA Regulations

SEA Regulations requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
Environmental report	
<p>Where an environmental assessment is required by any provision of Part 2 of these Regulations, the responsible authority shall prepare, or secure the preparation of, an environmental report in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of this regulation. The report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementing the plan or programme; and • reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme. (Regulation 12(1) and (2) and Schedule 2). 	<p>The full SA Report produced to accompany the Stafford Borough New Local Plan 2025-2045 will constitute the 'environmental report' and will be produced at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.</p>	<p>These requirements are addressed in relation to each topic covered in Chapters 4 to 6 of this SA Scoping Report and subsequent SA reports.</p>
<p>The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.</p>	
<p>The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.</p>	
<p>Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive.</p>	

SEA Regulations requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	
<p>The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) biodiversity; (b) population; (c) human health; (d) fauna; (e) flora; (f) soil; (g) water; (h) air; (i) climatic factors; (j) material assets; (k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; (l) landscape; and (m) the interrelationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l). 	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process. Chapters 6 to 8 of this SA Scoping Report describes the method by which significant effects will be identified.
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.	
A non-technical summary of the information is provided.	

SEA Regulations requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
<p>The report shall include such of the information referred to in Schedule 2 to these Regulations as may reasonably be required, taking account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current knowledge and methods of assessment; • the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme; the stage of the plan or programme in the decision-making process; and • the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment. (Regulation 12 (3)) 	<p>This SA Scoping Report and the 'environmental report' will adhere to this requirement.</p>
Consultation	
<p>When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies. (Regulation 12(5))</p>	<p>This SA Scoping Report will be published for consultation with the three statutory bodies (the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England).</p>
<p>Every draft plan or programme for which an environmental report has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 12 and its accompanying report (“the relevant documents”) shall be made available for the purposes of consultation in accordance with the following provisions of this regulation. As soon as reasonably practical after the preparation of the relevant documents, the responsible authority shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • send a copy of those documents to each consultation body; • take such steps as it considers appropriate to bring the preparation of the relevant documents to the attention of the persons who, in the authority’s opinion, are affected or likely to be affected by, or have an interest in the decisions involved in the assessment and adoption of the plan or programme concerned, required under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Directive (“the public consultees”); 	<p>Public consultation on the Stafford Borough New Local Plan and accompanying SA Reports will take place as the Local Plan develops.</p>

SEA Regulations requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> inform the public consultees of the address (which may include a website) at which a copy of the relevant documents may be viewed, and the period within which, opinions must be sent. The period referred to in paragraph (2) (d) must be of such length as will ensure that the consultation bodies and the public consultees are given an effective opportunity to express their opinion on the relevant documents. (Regulation 13 (1), (2), and (3)) 	
<p>Where a responsible authority, other than the Secretary of State, is of the opinion that a plan or programme for which it is the responsible authority is likely to have significant effects on the environment of another Member State, it shall, as soon as reasonably practicable after forming that opinion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> notify the Secretary of State of its opinion and of the reasons for it; and supply the Secretary of State with a copy of the plan or programme concerned, and of the accompanying environmental report. (Regulation 14 (1)) 	<p>Unlikely to be relevant to the Stafford Borough Local Plan, as there will be no effects beyond the UK.</p>
<p>Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (relevant extracts of Regulation 16)</p>	
<p>As soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan or programme for which an environmental assessment has been carried out under these Regulations, the responsible authority shall: make a copy of the plan or programme and its accompanying environmental report available at its principal office for inspection by the public at all reasonable times and free of charge. (Regulation 16(1))</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>The responsible authority shall inform (i) the consultation bodies; (ii) the persons who, in relation to the plan or programme, were public consultees for the purposes of regulation 13; and (iii) where the responsible authority is not the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that the plan or programme has been adopted, and a statement containing the following particulars: 	

SEA Regulations requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme; • how the environmental report has been taken into account; • how opinions expressed in response to: (i) the invitation in regulation 13(2)(d); (ii) action taken by the responsible authority in accordance with regulation 13(4), have been taken into account; • how the results of any consultations entered into under regulation 14(4) have been taken into account; • the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and • the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme. 	
Monitoring	
<p>The responsible authority shall monitor the significant effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action. (Regulation 17(1))</p>	<p>Requirement will be met after adoption of the Stafford Borough New Local Plan 2025-2045.</p>

4. Stafford Borough Local Plan preparation process

Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires the SA Report to provide

"An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes."

The current Local Plan was adopted 19 June 2014 and comprises of

- The Plan for Stafford Borough
- The Plan for Stafford Borough - Part 2 (adopted 31 January 2017)
- Made/Adopted Neighbourhood Development Plans

In July 2017 the Council carried out its Local Plan Review when a consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report took place. This was then followed by consultations:

- New Local Plan - Scoping the Issues July 2018 and New Local Plan - Settlement Assessment documents.
- New Local Plan - Issues and Options February to April 2020.
- New Local Plan - Preferred Options October 2022 to December 2022

Following the new requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) December 2024, Cabinet took the decision on 6 March 2025 to stop work on the Local Plan 2020-2040 and begin investigation of and to develop a new Local Plan 2025 to 2045 through the new plan-making process.

The new Local Plan 2025-2045 will replace the existing Local Plan documents. The Local Plan will be a borough-wide plan that will coordinate the development and growth requirements of the Borough over a period of 20 years. The Council is at an early stage in the development of the new Local Plan.

Future plan-making will need to consider changes occurring due to Local Government Reorganisation. The devolution framework sets out that there will be three types of Strategic Authorities (these are all combined authorities):

- **Foundation Strategic Authorities** - non-mayoral Combined Authorities (CA), Level 2 County Combined Authorities (CCA), or any local authorities designated as a Strategic Authority without a mayor.
- **Mayoral Strategic Authorities** - Greater London Authority, Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCA) and Mayoral Combined County Authorities (MCCA).
- **Established Mayoral Strategic Authorities** - any Mayoral Strategic Authorities that meet specific criteria, in particular having had a directly elected mayor for at least 18 months. Initially these will be North East, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, West Midlands, Greater Manchester and Liverpool City Region Strategic Authorities.

The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill white paper restates the Government's ambition that all areas will ultimately have a Mayoral Strategic Authority. In two-tier areas, Government will only establish CCAs for an interim period. Councils in all 21 two-tier areas will be expected to reorganise over this Parliament and the next.

All areas, regardless of whether they have a Strategic Authority in place, will have to produce a Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) through the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025.

An SDS is a statutory land-use planning document. It will set out an investment framework for building and development across a Strategic Authority's area.

Strategic planning will play a vital role in delivering sustainable growth and addressing key spatial issues – including meeting housing needs, delivering strategic infrastructure, growing the economy, and improving climate resilience. Strategic planning will also be important in the delivery of Local Growth Plans and Local Nature Recovery Strategies. It is the Government's intention to move to a model of universal strategic planning covering functional economic areas within the next five years.

5. Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Objectives

A Development Plan is not prepared in isolation, being greatly influenced by other plans, policies and programmes and by broader sustainability objectives. It needs to be consistent with international, national guidance and strategic planning policies. It should contribute to the goals of a wide range of other programmes and strategies, such as those relating to social policy, culture and heritage. It must also conform to environmental protection legislation and the sustainability objectives established at an international, national and local level.

A review has been undertaken of the other plans, policies and programmes that are relevant to identify the environmental protection, social and economic objectives, established at international, national and local level, which are relevant to the plan or programme. The review of relevant plans, policies and programmes can be seen in full in the Technical Appendices. The key plans, policies and programmes are summarised below.

At the international level, Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive') and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats Directive') are particularly significant as they require Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to be undertaken.

There are a wide range of other EU Directives relating to issues such as water quality, waste and air quality, most of which have been transposed into UK law through national-level policy. However the international directives have been included in Technical Appendix for completeness.

In accordance with the UK official SEA guidance (ODPM, 2005), and supported by the UK SA and SEA guidance (updated 2020) which provides an overview of the level of detail required, no list of plans or programmes can be definitive. As a result, this report describes only the key plans, programmes and policies that may influence the Stafford Borough New Local Plan. International, national, regional and local policies, plans and programmes have been reviewed through this sustainability process, as outlined below.

Plans, programmes and policies

The relevant international, national, regional and local plans relevant to Stafford Borough Local Plan and the SA are listed in the Technical Appendix. A description of why they are relevant and how they need to be considered throughout plan development is also provided.

The key environmental, social and economic themes identified by this review, including relevant planning policies outlined within Government’s planning policy for England (the NPPF), are shown below:

SA Topic	Key Themes
Environment	
Landscape character	Protection of sensitive landscape assets (including Special Landscape Areas (SLA) and National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB))); promotion of the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and amenity of important landscapes, including inland waters; definition and protection of regional and local landscape character; and the provision and enhancement of natural beauty and amenity of important landscapes, including inland waters; and the provision and enhancement of green infrastructure to benefit people and the environment.

SA Topic	Key Themes
Biodiversity and nature conservation	Protection of international and national designated sites and their qualifying features; preservation and enhancement of notable habitats and species, particularly those noted for their conservation value or under threat; protection and enhancement of valued sites of biodiversity and geodiversity value; identification of the roles and responsibilities of organisations including local authorities to protect and enhance biodiversity including the creation of local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats and species and promotion of BAP species; provision of new / restored habitat to enable species to adapt to the future impacts of climate change; recognising the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services; and minimising impacts with provision of net gains through development.
Water environment	Promotion of the sustainable use of water resources to meet future growth in demand and impacts of climate change; better regulation and management of the water environment to benefit water resources and flood risk, and the reduction of water pollution; avoidance and redirection of inappropriate development in areas at medium and high risks of flooding; minimise risk to people and property and reduce the impacts of flooding where possible; and promotion of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).
Land use	Long term protection, improvement and sustainable management of soil quality and quantity, including the preservation of best and most versatile land (Grades 1, 2, and 3a); maximum use of brownfield land as is feasible; optimisation of land to meet housing need; consideration of suitability of ground conditions for development; and the management and remediation of contaminated land to reduce the risk to human health and the environment, particularly soils and water quality.

SA Topic	Key Themes
Historic environment	Protection and enhancement of nationally and locally important heritage assets and historic landscapes; better integration of heritage protection within the planning process; consideration of wider benefits of conservation of the historic environment; and provision of better access to heritage sites including their promotion as an economic asset.
Air Quality	Protection of air quality through enhanced management of polluting emissions; prevention of new and existing development contributing to, being put at risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of air pollution; and implementation of relevant limit values for pollutants such as air quality management areas (AQMAs) and clean air zones.
Climate	Requirements to reduce future greenhouse gas emissions across all socio-economic sectors to limit the impacts of climate change on people and the environment; provision of measures to enable future adaptation to the impacts of climate change and increased resilience; proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change; and consideration of identification of suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources and supportive infrastructure where this would help secure their development.
Social	
Population and Human Health	Protection and improvement of human health, wellbeing and living standards; greater integration of socio-economic and environmental objectives to deliver sustainable development; promotion of prosperous, sustainable and coherent communities; provision of better public transport and access; reduction of flood risk; enhancement of/minimising loss of recreation and amenity resources to benefit health and wellbeing; protection and enhancement of public rights of way and access; identifying housing requirement; and development and provision of measures to enable adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

SA Topic	Key Themes
Economic	
Local economy	Encourage sustainable economic growth; maximise economic value and the benefits of innovation; encourage economic development through the delivery of sufficient land and tourism development; encourage enterprise, including the creation of new businesses and aiding the growth and development of small businesses; release local growth potential; enable sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas; development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based businesses; tackle worklessness and deprivation; promote links with neighbouring economies to allow the full potential of regional strengths to be recognised.
Material assets	Improvement and better management of material assets including highways and utilities infrastructure; encourage use of sustainable materials including secondary or recycled materials before extraction or primary materials; source materials indigenously; greater provision and enhancement of green infrastructure to delivery benefits to people and the environment; and provision of better public services to deliver socio economic benefits.
Waste and minerals	Sustainable use of mineral resources and improvement in the effects on the environment of their extraction.

Neighbourhood Plans

Neighbourhood Plans, once made/adopted, form part of the development plan for a local authority area. There are six 'made' (adopted) Neighbourhood Plans within Stafford Borough:

- Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan
- Colwich Neighbourhood Plan
- Eccleshall Neighbourhood Plan
- Gnosall Neighbourhood Plan

- Hixon Neighbourhood Plan
- Stone Town Neighbourhood Plan

Key national plans, policies and programmes

Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023

The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act (LURA) 2023 supports the Government's manifesto commitment to level up the United Kingdom. The Government's objective is to reduce geographical disparities between different parts of the United Kingdom by spreading opportunity more equally.

To support the change needed, the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act has four overarching objectives:

- (a) To place a duty on the Government to set, and report annually on progress towards achieving, levelling up missions to reduce geographical disparities across the United Kingdom;
- (b) To create a framework to support the devolution of powers through the creation of a new model of combined county authorities to support delivery of the Government's levelling up mission that 'by 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement' 2 ;
- (c) To deliver new powers for local authorities to regenerate their towns through high street rental auctions and reforms to compulsory purchase to support delivery of the Government's levelling up mission that 'by 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing'; and
- (d) To create a planning system which delivers more beautiful and greener homes, with the associated infrastructure and democratic support for neighbourhoods.

The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025

The primary aim of the Planning and Infrastructure Act (PIA) 2025 is to reform the planning system, removing delays and blockages in planning processes.

Key provisions of the Act are:

- (a) **Development Consent Orders (DCOs):** The Act streamlines the DCO process, reducing pre-application requirements and speeding up examination and approval stages.
- (b) **Housing and Infrastructure Delivery:** It facilitates the construction of up to 1.5 million new homes, accelerates major transport projects, and supports clean energy initiatives.
- (c) **Environmental and Land Measures:** Provisions include compulsory land purchase, environmental outcomes reporting, and powers to modify consents for electricity networks and generating stations.
- (d) **Delegation and Planning Committees:** The Act allows the government to introduce a national scheme of delegation, determining which planning applications are handled by committees versus officers, with mandatory training for committee members to ensure compliance with planning law.
- (e) **Energy and Utilities:** It prioritizes grid connections for clean power projects, supports long-duration electricity storage, and provides benefits for homes near transmission projects.
- (f) **Economic Impact:** The reforms are projected to inject up to £7.5 billion into the UK economy over the next decade, creating jobs, reducing congestion, and improving energy security.

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2026

These regulations replace the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012. These regulations implement the new, faster local plan-making system designed to speed up housing delivery. There is a transitional period during 2026 which allows Councils to use either old or new regulations, with the final deadline for old-style plan submissions being 31 December 2026.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is the overarching planning framework which provides national planning policy and principles for the planning system in England. The NPPF was originally published in March 2012, and has been revised several times, the latest being December 2024. A further revision is anticipated in the Summer 2026 following the most recent NPPF consultation.

NPPF states that plans should *“be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development”* The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be ‘aspirational but realistic’. This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified to achieve net gains in terms of sustainable social, environmental and economic development; however significant adverse impacts in any of those areas should not be allowed to occur.

The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:

- the homes and jobs needed in the area;
- the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
- the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
- climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.

In addition, Local Plans should:

- plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of the Framework;
- be drawn up over an appropriate time scale, preferably a 15-year time horizon, take account of longer term requirements, and be kept up to date;
- be based on co-operation with neighbouring authorities, public, voluntary and private sector organisations;

- indicate broad locations for strategic development on a key diagram and land-use designations on a proposals map;
- allocate sites to promote development and flexible use of land, bringing forward new land where necessary, and provide detail on form, scale, access and quantum of development where appropriate;
- identify areas where it may be necessary to limit freedom to change the uses of buildings, and support such restrictions with a clear explanation;
- identify land where development would be inappropriate, for instance because of its environmental or historic significance; and
- contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, and supporting Nature Improvement Areas where they have been identified.

The overarching nature of the NPPF means that its implications for the SA relate to multiple topics which this report seeks to address. Considering the importance of the NPPF to the English planning system, the relevance of the Framework and its implications for the plan making process and the SA is provided in more detail below. Sustainability topics are separated into environmental, social and economic below, but consideration of issues often cuts across topics.

There are a wide range of plans and programmes that are specific to Stafford Borough. These plans and programmes relate to issues such as housing, transport, renewable energy and green infrastructure, and developer contributions. A review of these documents can be found in the Technical Appendix.

6. Baseline Information

Stafford Borough Council has collected significant data about the current state of the environment, economy and society to assess the effects of implementing the Development Plan from the sustainability perspective.

The following tables provides a selection of baseline data which will be used as the basis for prediction and monitoring of environmental and other sustainability effects to monitor how the sustainability position is improving or deteriorating in relation to the Development Plan. This approach will help to identify issues and alternative ways of dealing with such issues in the future.

The last Census 2021 took place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which was a period of unparalleled and rapid change. The national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the labour market and travel to work topic. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) have advised care should be applied when using this data for planning and policy purposes.

Social, health and wellbeing

Between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021), the population of Stafford Borough increased by 4.6%, from just under 130,900 in 2011 to around 136,900 in 2021. The population here increased by a smaller percentage than the overall population of the West Midlands (6.2%), and by a smaller percentage than the overall population of England (up 6.6% since the 2011 Census). Most of the population of the Borough live within Stafford or Stone, with the remaining percentage of the population living within the rural areas. As of 2021, Stafford Borough is the eighth least densely populated of the West Midlands' 20 local authority areas.¹

Housing

The total population in households in Stafford Borough that the time of the 2021 Census was 134,656, a total of 60,047 households.

39.1% of households in the Borough are owner-occupiers without a mortgage, compared to 34.4% in the region and 32.5% nationally. The proportion of owner-occupiers with a mortgage in Stafford Borough (31.7%) is also higher than both the regional (31.4%) and national average (28.8%).

In Stafford Borough the proportion of households in Shared Ownership accommodation (at 0.8%) is the same as the regional figure but lower than the national equivalent (1.0%). Some 13.6% of households in Stafford Borough are resident in the Social Rented sector, lower than the figure for the West Midlands (18.2%) and England (17.1%). Finally, some 15.5% of households in Stafford Borough live in private rented accommodation, compared to 18.1% in the West Midlands and 20.6% in England.

¹ Office for National Statistics (2025). How the population changed in Stafford: Census 2021 [Stafford population change, Census 2021 – ONS](#)

Gypsy and Travellers

The 2011 Census identified a total of 50 households in Stafford Borough where the Household Reference Person had a 'White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller' ethnicity. Of these, 26 lived in a caravan and 24 in bricks and mortar housing.

Gypsy and Traveller provision includes one council site (9 pitches), seven private authorised sites (94 pitches) and one unauthorised site (5 pitches).

There are no Travelling Showperson's yards in the borough. Private sites tend to be occupied by extended family groups. This means the ability of non-family members to move onto private sites is limited. The bi-annual DCLG Traveller caravan count (Jan 2016 to Jan 2020) reported an average of 84 caravans on Gypsy and Traveller sites and none on Travelling Showperson's yards.

Aging Population

Between the last two Censuses, there has been an increase of 24.6% in people aged 65 years and over, a decrease of 1.7% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 4.9% in children aged under 15 years. The average (median) age of Stafford Borough increased by two years, from 43 to 45 years of age. This area had a higher average (median) age than the West Midlands as a whole in 2021 (40 years) and a higher average (median) age than England (40 years). The number of people aged 75 to 84 years rose by around 3,100 (an increase of 38.9%), while the number of residents between 35 and 49 years fell by just under 3,300 (11.6% decrease).

Health

In 2021, 48.5% of Stafford Borough residents described their health as "very good", increasing from 46.3% in 2011. Those describing their health as "good" fell from 35.5% to 34.5%. These are age-standardised proportions.

The proportion of Stafford Borough residents describing their health as "very bad" was 1.0% (similar to 2011), while those describing their health as "bad" fell from 3.9% to 3.5%.

Census 2021 was conducted during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This may have influenced how people perceived and rated their health, and therefore may have affected how people chose to respond.

Indicators

Social, Health and Wellbeing Baseline Data

Indicator	Quantified data (for Stafford Borough unless stated)	Comparators and Targets	Assessment / Trend	Issues Identified?	Action / Issues for Plan / SA
Ageing population (percentage aged 65 and over)²	2025 (estimate) 23.2%	2025 (estimate) West Midlands: 18.9% England: 18.7%	Stafford Borough has a relatively high number of residents aged 65 and over compared to the regional and national average	Ageing population	Consider actions which can be taken to cater for an ageing population.
Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)	2025 5.3% of people in the most deprived quartile	West Midlands: 29.9% of people in the most deprived quartile	Stafford Borough has a relatively low percentage of people in the most deprived quartile	Favourable situation against regional and national rankings	Focus on reducing deprivation within communities across the Borough
Statutory homelessness ³ (homelessness acceptances per 1000 households)	April 2024 to March 2025 6.1 %	England: 7.5%	Performing well in comparison to the regional and national figures	Favourable position	Focus on reducing homelessness in the Borough

² [Local area data | Staffordshire County Council](#)

³ [Tables on homelessness - GOV.UK](#)

Social, Health and Wellbeing Baseline Data

Affordable housing completions ¹²	2024 / 2025: 199	Since 2014, Stafford Borough has delivered 2,167 affordable homes. Annual average 2011-2025: 171	Performing well against the Borough's target	Favourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the Borough
Housing Affordability Ratio (ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile earnings) ⁴	2025 Ratio: 7.46 5 year average: 7.45	England and Wales ratio: 7.55 5 year average: 8.19 Regional average: 6.80	Similar to the national ratio	Neither favourable or unfavourable position	Provide a housing mix to ensure a range of housing
Total recorded crime excl. fraud (rate per 1000) ¹⁵	2025: 64.2	West Midlands: 89.8 England: 88.6	Performing well in comparison to the regional and national figures	Favourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the Borough
Lone pensioner households ¹⁵	2025: 13.9%	West Midlands: 13.1% England: 12.8%	Performing slightly worse than the regional and national average	Slightly unfavourable position	Improve the current position across the Borough

⁴ [Housing affordability in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#) (local authority housing affordability analysis)

Social, Health and Wellbeing Baseline Data

Physical activity in adults (percentage) ¹⁵	2022/23: 68.4%	West Midlands: 64.0% England: 67.1%	Performing well in comparison to the regional and national figures	Favourable position	Continue to promote physical activity in Stafford Borough
Adults who are overweight or obese ¹⁵	2022-23: 63.5%	West Midlands: 67% England: 64.0%	Performing well in comparison to the regional and national figures	Favourable position	Continue to promote physical activity in Stafford Borough
Limiting long-term illness (percentage) ¹⁵	2011: 18.2%	West Midlands: 19.0% England: 17.6%	Performing slightly better than the regional average and slightly worse than the national average	Neither favourable or unfavourable condition	Maintain and improve the current position across the Borough
Mortality from causes considered preventable (ASR per 100,000) ¹⁵	2021-2023: 158	Stafford: 136.4 (558) Staffordshire: 152.4 (3,913) West Midlands: 176.8 (27,458) England: 163.7 (243,060)	Performing well against the regional and national average	Favourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the Borough

Social, Health and Wellbeing Baseline Data

Buildings 'at risk' ⁵	8 buildings were on the 2025 buildings at risk register equating to around 1% of listed buildings in the Borough	Staffordshire: 42 West Midlands : 402	Performing well against the regional average	Favourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the Borough
Homes with a Housing Health and Safety Rating (HHSRS) hazard	2011: 16% average (Stafford Borough is performing particularly poorly in the excess cold monitor).	England: 15% average	Performing slightly worse than the England average	Slightly unfavourable condition	Need to improve the quality of the Borough's existing and new housing stock
Occupancy rating (bedrooms) ⁶	2021: Occupancy rating of bedrooms -2 or less: 90	2021 West Midlands: 4.59 %	Performing well against the regional and national average	Favourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the Borough

⁵ Historic England – Annual Heritage at Risk Registers and Maps (2025) [Annual Heritage at Risk Registers and Maps | Historic England](#)

⁶ Office for National Statistics Census 2021 [Occupancy rating for bedrooms - Office for National Statistics](#)

Social, Health and Wellbeing Baseline Data					
Percentage of long term empty homes ⁷	2021: Vacant dwellings: 2,495 Second homes: 115 (4.1%)	West Midlands Vacant dwellings: 117,030 Second homes: 5,600 (4.8%)	Performing relatively poorly against the regional average.	Unfavourable condition	Need to improve the current position
Depression prevalence (ages 18+) ¹⁵	2022/23: 13.5%	Staffordshire: 14.2% West Midlands: 14% England: 13.2%	The figures are slightly lower than the regional average	Neither favourable or unfavourable position	Continue to work with partners to support mental health across the Borough
Neighbourhood Development Plans ¹²	Since 2011: 13 areas designated 6 with 'made' plans	No comparators	No trends	Neither favourable or unfavourable position	Continue to support community groups creating Neighbourhood Development Plans

⁷ Office for National Statistics Census 2021 [Number of vacant dwellings and second homes \(with no usual residents\) - Office for National Statistics](#)

Social, Health and Wellbeing Baseline Data

Number of voluntary organisations registered with Support Staffordshire which deliver in Stafford Borough ⁸	April 2017: 161	No comparators available	No trends available	Neither favourable or unfavourable position	Maintain/improve current performance
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⁸ Support Staffordshire State of the Sector 2023 [State-of-the-Sector-2023-Digital-v1.4.pdf](#)

Economic Baseline Data

Stafford Borough is a major economic hub and has seen significant investment and growth over the last decade with major investors and businesses attracted to the area due to the availability of sites, infrastructure, affordability, and quality of life. The Borough is home to over 5,000 businesses, employing around 70,000 people and is Staffordshire's largest and most populous borough covering around 230 square miles and with a population of 138,670. Stafford town is the borough's principal town and main provider of services, facilities, employment and transport links. Stone is an important market town and second principal town and main provider of services, facilities, employment and transport links.

The Stafford Borough Economic Growth Strategy 2020-2025 is to be refreshed during 2026-2027.

In 2021 the percentage of people aged 16 years and over in Stafford Borough who were employed (excluding full-time students) decreased from 57.4% in 2011 to 56.4% in 2021. During the same period, the percentage in nearby South Staffordshire decreased from 57.5% to 53.3%.

The percentage of people aged 16 years and over who were unemployed (excluding full-time students) in Stafford Borough fell from 2.8% to 2.0%, while the percentage of people aged 16 years and over who were retired (economically inactive) increased from 24.7% to 27.2%.

Work patterns changed during the pandemic with 25.2% of Staffordshire residents said that they worked mainly at or from home, lower than national (31.5%) but slightly higher than the overall former Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area (23.1%). This is likely impacted by more people working in sectors where home working was not possible, for example retail and construction.

Indicators

Economic Baseline Data					
Indicator	Quantified data (for Stafford Borough unless stated)	Comparators and Targets	Assessment/Trend	Issues Identified?	Action / Issues for Plan / SA
Qualifications NVQ Level 4 or above (percentage) ⁹	2025 NVQ 21.9% <i>No qualifications:</i> 19.3%	NVQ : West Midlands: 29.4% Great Britain: 33.9% <i>No qualifications:</i> West Midlands: 21.1% Great Britain: 18.1%	Performing well against the regional and national average	Favourable position	Maintain good performance
Number of enterprises ¹⁰	2025 5,370	West Midlands: 216,145	Performing below the national and regional average	Favourable / Unfavourable position	Improve upon current position

⁹ Staffordshire Observatory - [Local area data | Staffordshire County Council](#)

¹⁰ UK Business Counts 2025 [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

Economic Baseline Data					
Number of enterprises local units ¹¹	2025 6,350	West Midlands: 252,320			
Completion of land employment provision ¹²	Hectares (ha) completed 2024/25: 0.7 ha Annual average between 2011-2025: 8.1 ha	The Plan for Stafford Borough 2011-2031 set an annual target of 8 ha	Employment land completions have been below the annual target per year (apart from 2022/23)	Unfavourable position	Need to deliver more employment land across the Borough
Percentage of vacant retail units (Stafford Town Centre) ¹³	Dec 2016 Stafford Town Centre: 14%	England: 11%	Performing poorly against the national average	Unfavourable position	Deliver ways to reduce vacant units in town centre
Percentage of retail, leisure and office developments which have been in the Town Centres ¹²	2023/24: 30% 2024/25: 0% As of 2024/25 only 8% of commitments (sites with permission but not yet built) are within town centres	Target: Maximise developments in the town centres	Performing poorly	Unfavourable position	Deliver ways to reduce vacant units in town centre

¹¹ UK Business Counts 2025 [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

¹² Stafford Borough Authority Monitoring Report 2025 [Authority Monitoring Report 2025](#)

¹³ Stafford Borough Council data / Local Data Company

Economic Baseline Data					
Job Seekers Allowance (percentage) ¹⁴	Feb 2026 2.5%	West Midlands: 5.3% England: 1.9%	Stafford Borough is performing well compared to the regional and national average	Favourable position	Maintain strong performance
Dependency ratio of older people per 100 working age population ¹⁵	2025: 38.6%	West Midlands: 30.6% England: 29.7%	Stafford Borough has a higher ratio of dependent older people than the regional and national average	Unfavourable position	Improve current position
Youth unemployment (185-24 claimant counts) ¹⁵	December 2024: 4.8%	Staffordshire: 4.8% West Midlands: 7.4%	Stafford Borough is performing well compared to the regional and national average	Slightly favourable position	Maintain strong performance

¹⁴ Nomis - [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

¹⁵ Staffordshire Observatory – Stafford: Locality Profile

Environmental Baseline Data

A desk study was performed to identify the key baseline environmental, social, and economic characteristics of Stafford Borough. This includes details of the status and condition of notable environmental features; current and future predicted trends in evolution of the environment, social and economic aspects; and issues and problems currently affecting the environment and population.

The information obtained is set out in the following topic-specific sections, many of which are interlinked. The information used to characterise the baseline environment is broadly strategic in nature and reflects the high-level nature of the Local Plan. It has been obtained from a broad range of sources and no new investigations or surveys have been undertaken as part of the scoping process. The baseline information will be required throughout the SA process and may require updating as the Local Plan is developed and further and new information becomes available.

Landscape

Landscape character

There are 4 National Character Areas (NCA) within the Borough described by Natural England¹⁶ below:

¹⁶ Natural England – National Character Area Profiles (2026) [Natural England - National Character Area Profiles - National Character Area Profiles](#)

National Character Area	Summary	Key Characteristics
<p>NCA 61 Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain</p>	<p>An expanse of flat or gently undulating, lush, pastoral farmland, which is bounded by the Mersey Valley NCA in the north, with its urban and industrial development, and extending to the rural Shropshire Hills NCA in the south. To the west, it is bounded by the hills of the Welsh borders and to the east and south-east by the urban areas within the Potteries and Churnet Valley, Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands, and Cannock Chase and Cank Wood NCAs.</p>	<p>Extensive, gently undulating plain, dominated by thick glacial till from the late Pleistocene Period, producing productive, clay soils and exemplifying characteristic glacial landforms including eskers, glacial fans, kettle holes, moraines and a landscape of meres and mosses.</p> <p>Prominent discontinuous sandstone ridges of Triassic age, characterised by steep sides and freely draining, generally infertile soil that supports broadleaved and mixed woodland.</p> <p>Few woodlands, confined to the area around Northwich and to estates, cloughs and deciduous and mixed woods on the steeper slopes of the wind-swept sandstone ridges. Locally extensive tracts of coniferous woodland and locally distinctive orchards scattered throughout.</p> <p>Strong field patterns with generally well-maintained boundaries, predominantly hedgerows, with dense, mature hedgerow trees. Sandstone walls occur on the ridges and estate walls and Cheshire-style (curved topped) metal railing fences occur locally on estates in Cheshire.</p> <p>Dairy farming dominates on the plain, with patches of mixed farming and arable in the north and large areas in the south-east.</p> <p>Diversity of wetland habitats includes internationally important meres and mosses comprising lowland raised bog, fen, wet woodland, reedbed and standing water, supporting populations of a host of rare wildlife, including some species of national and international importance.</p> <p>Extensive peat flood plains where flood plain grazing marsh habitats support regionally important populations of breeding waders in areas such as Baggy Moor, Weald Moor and Doxey Marshes.</p>

National Character Area	Summary	Key Characteristics
		<p>Many main rivers and their flood plains lie in this area, including the Dee, Dane, Severn, Penk and Sow. Significant areas of grazing marsh, alluvial flood meadows and hay meadows associated with the rivers Dee, Sow, Gowy and Severn. The area has the highest density of field ponds in western Europe.</p> <p>Rich archaeological evidence of iron-age hill forts concentrated on the sandstone ridges and the Weald Moors. Remnant ridge and furrow and moated houses are features of the plain. The Roman road, Watling Street, crosses the plain linking London to Wales via Wroxeter. Chester was an important Roman settlement.</p> <p>Regularly spaced, large farmsteads, dispersed hamlets, market towns and many other settlements including Macclesfield and Telford. Timber-frame buildings are a distinctive feature of the plain, often highly decorated in Cheshire, for example, the moated Little Moreton Hall. The historic towns including Stafford, Shrewsbury and the city of Chester have a wealth of 17th- and 18th-century half-timber, brick and red sandstone buildings.</p> <p>Parklands and gardens associated with estates such as Chillington, Trentham, Tatton and Attingham; country houses such as Gawsworth Hall, Arley Hall and Adlington Hall; and fortified manor houses and castles such as at Shrewsbury, Stafford, Beeston, Acton Burnell and Cholmondeley.</p> <p>Nationally important reserves of silica sand and salt. Active extraction of salt has developed a locally distinctive landscape of subsidence flashes, particularly around the area of Sandbach. Adjacent to these saline flashes are areas of salt marsh rarely found at inland sites.</p>

National Character Area	Summary	Key Characteristics
		<p>The numerous canals are important for recreation as well as habitat. Several National Cycle Routes and nearly 5,000 km of public rights of way cross the plain. Six National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are scattered throughout, close to large population centres and well used for recreation.</p>
<p>NCA 64 Potteries and Churnet Valley</p>	<p>A strong contrast between the industrialised landscape of the Potteries and the pastoral, strongly dissected hills and small plateaux that flank the Churnet and Dove valleys. Natural resources associated with the Coal Measures enabled industrial development leading to the settlement patterns of the Potteries, which form a large conurbation. There is a rich industrial heritage associated with manufacturing, particularly of pottery and the mining of coal, clay, minerals and metal ores,</p>	<p>Dissected hills and small plateaux, cut by river valleys and steep ravines, contrast with the industrial and densely settled conurbation of the Potteries.</p> <p>Sandstones from the Millstone Grit Group and Coal Measures produce prominent, roughly north–south ridges. Softer mudstones with poorly drained and seasonally waterlogged soils and peaty soils form the intervening moorland plateaux, and mudstones and siltstones from the Triassic Mercia Mudstone Group underlie the generally lower-lying ground on the margins of the Needwood Basin.</p> <p>The well-wooded character throughout the Churnet Valley contrasts strongly with the urban, sparsely wooded landscapes of the Potteries. Many of the woodlands in the south consist of conifer plantations managed for commercial forestry.</p> <p>Deep, fast-flowing rivers Churnet, Trent, Dove and their tributaries drain the area. Riffles, scour ponds, subsidence pools and numerous small ponds provide ecological connectivity.</p> <p>Hedgerow banks with hedgerow oaks confine small pastures in the Churnet Valley; in the north, hedgerows are gappy and hedgerow trees are few. At higher elevations, drystone walls replace hedgerows and fields are larger and rectilinear.</p>

National Character Area	Summary	Key Characteristics
	<p>which contributes strongly to the sense of place.</p>	<p>Agriculture is predominantly permanent pasture for grazing and stock rearing with some dairying; flatter areas are used for silage production and some arable cropping in the south, mainly cereals.</p> <p>Ancient semi-natural woodland occurs predominantly in the valleys with grasslands and grazing marsh within valley bottoms, especially the lower reaches of the Churnet and in the Dove Valley; there is heathland on higher ground and significant areas of open mosaic habitat on restored industrial land within urban areas.</p> <p>There is a rich heritage associated with iron production, coal mining, silk production and, most notably, pottery; the area is characterised by industrial and residential development in the Potteries and waterpowered flint mills and foundries in the Churnet Valley, linked by historic trade routes.</p> <p>Historic heathland habitats remain with their smallholdings – rare surviving examples of rural–industrial landscapes.</p> <p>Historic parklands are characterised by woodland belts enclosing grassland with parkland trees and avenues with vistas. Some ancient wood pastures and squatter enclosures occur – once a common feature of the landscape, they provided shelter, pasture and fodder for livestock.</p> <p>Red brick manufactured from the local Etruria Marl and sandstone from the Coal Measures are predominantly used as building materials in lowland areas; Millstone Grit is used in upland areas in farmhouses and drystone walls. Plain clay and large numbers of Staffordshire blue tiles or Welsh slate are used for roofing.</p>

National Character Area	Summary	Key Characteristics
		<p>There is a contrast between the settlement pattern of valley-bottom villages with scattered farmsteads and hamlets on the valley slopes in the east and the sprawling conurbation of the Potteries in the west.</p> <p>Major transport infrastructure includes several A roads (A34, A50 and A52) and the Stoke-on-Trent to London railway. The Caldon Canal and Trent and Mersey Canal link the conurbation with the Churnet Valley.</p> <p>The Sabrina Way, a section of the National Cycle Network and the Staffordshire Way pass through the area. Alton Towers is the most popular tourist destination in the NCA, together with a number of parks and gardens and pottery visitor centres.</p>
<p>NCA 67 Cannock Chase and Cank Wood</p>	<p>A varied landscape ranging from the open heathlands and plantations of Cannock Chase including the Special Area of Conservation (SAC), through towns, reclaimed mining sites and new developments, to dense urban areas. Extensive coniferous plantations, woodlands and historic parklands occur across the NCA, even within the urban areas where they</p>	<p>A varied landscape ranging from the open heathlands and plantations of Cannock Chase, through towns, reclaimed mining sites and new developments, to dense urban areas.</p> <p>The dominant rounded central plateau is mainly formed of the Coal Measures of the South Staffordshire Coalfield, with other prominent hills in the south at Wren's Nest, Castle Hill, Rowley Hills and Barr Beacon.</p> <p>Extensive coniferous plantations, woodlands and historic parklands occur across the NCA, even within the urban areas where they are predominantly small and include lots of young plantations.</p> <p>Away from the unenclosed landscape of Cannock Chase, fields generally have a regular pattern and are frequently enclosed by mature hedgerows with some hedgerow trees. Here farming is generally mixed with arable cultivation in large fields. Livery is concentrated around the flanks of the Chase.</p>

National Character Area	Summary	Key Characteristics
	<p>are predominantly small and include lots of young plantations.</p>	<p>Heathland and associated acid grassland were once much more extensive, although significant tracts still remain. Post-industrial sites and remnant countryside within the urban areas provide a mosaic of additional valuable habitats.</p> <p>The major rivers of the Trent and Tame lie adjacent to the NCA, both of which lie in broad flood plains. Streams and small rivers such as the Sow and the Penk drain radially from the higher ground into these rivers.</p> <p>The canal network is a notable feature and contributes significantly to the drainage of the urban areas.</p> <p>Industrial archaeology from the industrial revolution is a characteristic feature.</p> <p>The predominant building material of the 19th- and early 20th century buildings is red brick, with more modern structures within the urban areas.</p> <p>The settlement pattern is complex and contrasting, with some areas densely populated and others relatively sparse. The conurbation includes a mosaic of urban areas, former industrial land and patches of farmland, with an extensive urban fringe.</p> <p>The extensive networks of canals and railways reflect the industrial history of the area. Major roads include the M6, the M6 Toll and the A5.</p>

National Character Area	Summary	Key Characteristics
<p>NCA 68 Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands</p>	<p>Predominately a rolling plateau that slopes from the southern edge of the Peak District to the valley of the River Trent in the south-west. Also in the south are frequent plantations and ancient woodlands of the former Forest of Needwood. Elsewhere, the extensively hedged and pastoral landscape is dominated by mixed farming and features a dispersed pattern of villages and other settlements. Hedgerow trees also contribute to the wooded character of this NCA. Internationally important wetland habitats that include Chartley Moss and Pasturefields Saltmarsh nature reserves occur in</p>	<p>The area, which is dissected by the river systems of the Trent, the Blithe and the Dove, forms a rolling glacial till plateau that slopes south-eastwards from the southern edge of the Peak District to the valley of the River Trent. There is a distinctive scarp to the south of the Dove, whose broad flood plain divides the Staffordshire and Derbyshire elements.</p> <p>The south is dominated by heavy, seasonally waterlogged soils derived from glacial till. In the north, red and pink soils underlain by Mercia Mudstones and Sherwood Sandstone are more amenable to cultivation.</p> <p>A predominantly pastoral landscape of rolling countryside that is still largely rural and relatively tranquil, featuring distinctive field boundary patterns and characteristic hedgerows with hedgerow trees. Grassland for livestock is the dominant land use although dairy and cereal farming are also important. The majority of the farms are small to medium-sized dairying and livestock holdings. Arable cultivation occurs on the better land north and south of the Dove and in the river flood plains.</p> <p>An overall wooded character derived from scattered ancient and seminatural woods, parkland and boundary trees. Some large woodland blocks are prominent in Needwood Forest; however, much consists of smaller, fragmented remnants. There is new woodland creation within The National Forest.</p> <p>Predominantly hedgerow bounded, the field pattern varies from small to medium-sized fields to the north of the Dove; mostly large-scale and rectilinear on the broad river flood plains; strongly rectilinear in Needwood Forest; and smaller and more irregular to the west.</p>

National Character Area	Summary	Key Characteristics
	<p>the west of the area. Part of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and The National Forest are situated on the eastern side of the NCA. To the north and west respectively are found small parts of the Peak District National Park and Cannock Chase National Landscape (former Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).</p>	<p>A wide range of habitats associated predominantly with pasture, varying from damp lowland grassland and marshland to drier neutral grassland. There are good surviving examples of water meadows featured along the three main river valleys. Areas of open water such as Blithfield Reservoir and the major rivers are important for birds. Chartley Moss (a basin mire) and Pasturefields (an inland salt marsh) are internationally important examples of rare habitats.</p> <p>Wood pasture and designed parklands, often with veteran trees, are found throughout the area. They are generally associated with landscape parks and country houses, such as Sandon, Sudbury and Kedleston. Tutbury Castle and the internationally important Derwent Valley Mills, together with a variety of features such as moated sites and medieval settlements and the Trent and Mersey Canal, add to the historical richness of this landscape. Extensive earthworks relating to ridge and furrow and water meadow systems survive, particularly around the Dove.</p> <p>A dispersed historical settlement pattern, particularly in the higher pastoral farmlands that fringe the Peak District to the north, with the older villages generally sited along the valleys or valley sides, and more recent crossroad settlements on the higher ground. Buildings are usually of red brick and clay tile roofs, and local sandstone. Timber frame buildings are rare with notable examples at Somersal Hall and the village of Abbots Bromley. There are market towns at Ashbourne, Stone, Tutbury and Uttoxeter, and the more significant urban areas of Burton-upon-Trent and the City of Derby extend into the eastern boundary of the NCA.</p>

National Character Area	Summary	Key Characteristics
		The Trent and Dove valleys are major transport corridors. The Trent Valley includes the Trent and Mersey Canal, the West Coast Main Line railway and the A51 road, while the Dove Valley features the Derby to Stoke railway line and the A50 road. The A52 links Derby and Ashbourne.

Landscape designations and biodiversity

Landscape designations

There are two areas of designated Green Belt within the Borough. Less than a quarter of the Borough area is identified as Green Belt designation, located to the south east of Stafford as part of the West Midlands Green Belt Area (1,810 ha) and to the north of Stone forming part of the North Staffordshire Green Belt Area (9,266 ha).

The Green Belt area to the north of Stafford Borough acts as a buffer to prevent unrestricted growth of the North Staffordshire conurbation, and to assist in focusing urban regeneration within the conurbation through encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

The Green Belt area to the south east of Stafford Borough supports national objectives by assisting in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment. In terms of the national objectives, the Green Belt area to the south and east of Stafford Borough also provides opportunities for access to the open countryside for the urban population, retains and enhances attractive landscapes near to where people live and secures nature conservation interests.

Historic Parks and Gardens

A register of historic parks and gardens is kept by English Heritage. Currently four within Stafford Borough are on the Statutory Register;

- Shugborough (Grade I)
- Trentham Gardens(Grade II*)
- Sandon Park(Grade II); and
- German Military Cemetery on Cannock Chase (Grade II*).

Biodiversity

Within Stafford Borough, approximately 296 ha of land is designated as Ramsar sites and 1,001 ha has Special Area of Conservation (SAC) status, including on Cannock Chase. The Borough has one designated landscape. Cannock Chase was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1958 because of its beautiful landscape, its wildlife and its history. From November 2023 it has been renamed as a National Landscape.

Cannock Chase is the largest surviving area of lowland heathland in the Midlands. Lowland heath is an internationally scarce and threatened wildlife habitat. The National Landscape also has extensive areas of forest and woodland along with areas of designed parkland, sand and gravel quarrying and mixed agriculture. A large northern section of the Natural Landscape lies within the Stafford Borough boundary.

Stafford Borough Council along with Natural England and four other local authorities (Cannock Chase Council, Lichfield District Council, South Staffordshire Council and Staffordshire County Council) fund and support the work of the Cannock Chase Natural Landscape Unit and implementation of the Cannock Chase National Landscape Management Plan through the Joint Committee and Officer Working Group. Additional work on specific projects is carried out by a range of National Landscape partners.

Stafford Borough is also a member of the Cannock Chase SAC Partnership comprising Local Authorities, landowners including Staffordshire County Council and advisory bodies such as Natural England and the NL team to develop and deliver a mitigation strategy for the impacts of recreation on the SAC.

The Borough has diverse ecological assets including:

- 16 sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs);
- 3 Ramsar sites (Chartley Moss, Aqualate Mere, and Motte Meadows) which is an international designation of wetlands designated by UNESCO;
- 4 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs);
- 2 National Nature Reserves; and
- 173 sites identified locally as Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs).

Indicators

Indicator	Quantified data (for Stafford Borough unless stated)	Comparators and Targets	Assessment/Trend	Issues Identified?	Action / Issues for Plan / SA
Housing completions on Previously Developed Land (PDL) (percentage) ¹⁷	2024/25: 24%	Average 2011/12 to 2024/25: 39%	Decreasing percentage of housing completions on PDL	Unfavourable condition	Continue to maximise Housing completions on PDL
Woodland access % of population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m ¹⁸	2022: 13.59%	England 16%	Performing poorly against regional average.	Unfavourable condition	Need to provide more woodland access

¹⁷ Stafford Borough Council Land for New Homes (2025) [Land for New Homes](#)

¹⁸ Office for National Statistics Census 2021 [Woodland natural capital accounts, UK - Office for National Statistics](#)

Indicator	Quantified data (for Stafford Borough unless stated)	Comparators and Targets	Assessment/Trend	Issues Identified?	Action / Issues for Plan / SA
Travel to work ¹⁹	2022 Car / Van: 35,046 Bicycle: 1300 On foot: 4851	Staffordshire: Car / Van: 240,040 Bicycle: 5,617 On foot: 27,741 West Midlands: Car/Van: 1,396,152 Bicycle: 38,436 On foot: 185,913	Performing well against the County average	Favourable position	Continue to promote more sustainable modes of travel
Percentage of household waste ²⁰	2016 52.4%	England: 43%	Performing well against national average	Favourable position	Maintain / improve current performance

¹⁹ Office for National Statistics Census 2021 [Method used to travel to work - Office for National Statistics](#)

²⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables>

Indicator	Quantified data (for Stafford Borough unless stated)	Comparators and Targets	Assessment/Trend	Issues Identified?	Action / Issues for Plan / SA
Developer contributions to the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) ¹²	2024/25: £1,781,955.56 has been collected and is available to spend post 1 April 2025.	No comparators	No trends	Continue to collect contributions to protect and enhance the SAC	Maintain / improve current performance
Local Sites in positive conservation management ²¹	Stafford Borough (2016) 186	Staffordshire ²² (2025) 2008/09: 30% 2024/25: 58%	Increasing number of SBIs in conservation management	Favourable condition	Continue to increase the number of SBIs in conservation management

²¹ Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. The State of Staffordshire's Nature (2016) [State of Staffs technical report compressed.pdf](#)

²² Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2026) [Local sites in positive conservation management - GOV.UK](#)

Indicator	Quantified data (for Stafford Borough unless stated)	Comparators and Targets	Assessment/Trend	Issues Identified?	Action / Issues for Plan / SA
Quality of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) ²³	Most recent data available for each site as of May 2017 13 out of 17 SSSIs had 95% of their area in a 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition ²⁴	Data Compiled in 2014 14 out of 17 SSSIs had 95% of their area in a 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition	Slightly reduction in the number of SSSIs meeting the 95% threshold	Slightly unfavourable condition	Enhance the quality of SSSIs in the Borough

²³ Natural England <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx>

²⁴ Includes all SSSIs within or partially within the Borough boundary

Indicator	Quantified data (for Stafford Borough unless stated)	Comparators and Targets	Assessment/Trend	Issues Identified?	Action / Issues for Plan / SA
Water quality ²⁵	<p>Trent Valley Staffordshire (2019)</p> <p>41 water bodies: 4 = bad 22 = poor 14 = moderate 1 = good</p> <p>Chemical status for surface waters: Number of water bodies = 41 41 = fail 0 = good</p>	<p>Humber River Basin (2019)²⁶</p> <p>982 water bodies: 27= bad 159= poor 646 = moderate 150 = good</p> <p>Chemical status for surface waters: Number of water bodies = 982 982 = fail 0 = good</p>	<p>Poor ecological status compared to the wider area</p> <p>Chemical status is similar to the wider area</p>	<p>Unfavourable condition</p> <p>Favourable position</p>	<p>Consider ways to enhance the ecological status of waterways in the Borough</p>

²⁵ Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs: Environment Agency [Trent Valley Staffordshire Management Catchment | Catchment Data Explorer](#)

²⁶ Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs: Environment Agency [Humber River Basin District | Catchment Data Explorer](#)

Indicator	Quantified data (for Stafford Borough unless stated)	Comparators and Targets	Assessment/Trend	Issues Identified?	Action / Issues for Plan / SA
Noise complaints ²⁷	2016: 460	2015: 517 2014: 630 2013:740	Number of noise complaints across the Borough are decreasing	Maintain / improve current performance	Continue to address causes of noise pollution
Light pollution complaints ²⁸	2016: 6	2015: 5 2014: 12 2013: 8	The number of light pollution complaints have generally decreased	Maintain / improve current performance	Continue to address causes of light pollution

²⁷ Stafford Borough Council Data

²⁸ Stafford Borough Council Data

7. Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

The purpose of the scoping stage is to focus the SA on the sustainability issues which are relevant to the New Local Plan 2025-2045. The assessment will focus on those effects that are likely to be significant, whether positive or negative.

In accordance with Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, the SEA must consider the "likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium, and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects".

Through analysis of the baseline data several key sustainability issues for Stafford Borough have been identified to focus the Sustainability Appraisal Framework for the Development Plan. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework is made up of sustainability objectives, indicators and targets tailored to these key issues thus enabling a meaningful assessment of how successful each document has been in addressing these issues and opportunities. Nevertheless, it is recognised in Chapter 5 of this Scoping Report that other Plans, Policies and Programmes may affect the success of each plan document.

Below sets out the key sustainability issues identified for the Stafford Borough area, based on the baseline information gathered for the Sustainability Appraisal process, seen in the Chapter 6. There may be additional sustainability issues, problems and opportunities for the Borough that hasn't been identified through the collection of baseline data.

Social, Health and Wellbeing

Issues

- High levels of deprivation in some areas of the Borough
- High number of empty homes across the Borough
- The Borough has an increasing percentage of elderly people
- A relatively high percentage of the adult population are overweight or obese

Opportunities

- Planned investment in sport and leisure facilities

- Neighbourhood Development Plans offer an opportunity for local communities to become empowered
- Relatively low crime rate

Economic

Issues

- Need to deliver more employment land across the Borough
- Ageing/shrinking workforce - need continued growth in housing and employment sites and in migration of workers.
- Ensure we have the required infrastructure for growth - including broadband

Opportunities

- Growth in advanced manufacturing
- Delivery of Brownfield Register to provide growth opportunities to meet housing demand
- Growth of business parks
- Opportunities for higher value-added companies in growth sectors
- Need to capitalise on the high skills base of Borough residents
- Support needed for Town Centre regeneration and investment

Environmental

Issues

- Loss of biodiversity habitats.
- Loss of individual character for Stafford Borough's settlements.
- Residents have relatively low access to woodland areas
- Decreasing percentage of housing completions on previously developed land
- Fragmentation of habitats can lead to decrease in population since species may be unable to disperse across a disconnected landscape;

- Climate change is likely to alter the condition and character of the landscapes due to increases in annual temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns, which may affect vegetation cover and hydrological regimes.

Opportunities

- Protection and adaptation of heritage assets.
- SAC contributions are an opportunity to protect and enhance Cannock Chase
- Delivery of Brownfield Register to promote the re-use of previously developed land
- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Habitat improvement and creation via opportunities identified in the Nature Recovery Network

8. Sustainability Objectives, Indicators and Targets

Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework involves the development of sustainability objectives, targets and indicators. These elements of the framework are developed from objectives, indicators or targets set out in Plans, Policies and Programmes. Other important sources include expertise within the Local Authority and consultation with key bodies and relevant stakeholders.

As the main purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal process is to assess the policies and proposals in each Plan document against sustainability objectives, the Sustainability Framework is an important factor enabling the description, measurement, analysis and comparison of the effects of the plan. The following topics from the SEA Directive have been incorporated as elements of the framework.

- Biodiversity, fauna and flora;
- Population and human health;
- Water and soil;
- Air;
- Climatic factors;
- Cultural heritage and landscape;

- Material assets;
- Landscape; and
- The interrelationship between these factors.

It should be appreciated that each plan may only have limited scope to influence these SEA Directive topics. Other Plans, Policies and Programmes at European Union and National level will have a more direct effect, e.g. the influence of future Government Aviation Policy on Climatic Factors.

The following sustainability topics and objectives are proposed for the Sustainability Appraisal Framework:

Theme	SA Objectives
Air quality	<p>Take action to reverse the trend for increasing emissions by supporting and enabling the use of low emission technologies and actively encouraging sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling, particularly where it is possible to leverage the opportunities presented by new development.</p> <p>Locate and design development so that current and future residents will not regularly be exposed to poor air quality; notably the M6 motorway around Stafford and Clayton.</p>
Biodiversity	<p>Minimise, and avoid where possible, impacts to biodiversity, both within and beyond designated and non-designated sites of national and local significance.</p> <p>Achieve biodiversity net gain including through the long term enhancement and creation of well-connected, functional habitats that are resilient to the effects of climate change.</p>

Theme	SA Objectives
Climate change adaptation	<p>Adapt to current and future flood risk by directing development away from the areas of the Borough at the highest risk of flooding from all sources.</p> <p>Provide sustainable management of current and future flood risk through sensitive and innovative planning, development layout and construction.</p>
Climate change mitigation	<p>Continue to drive down CO₂ emissions from all sources by achieving high standards of energy efficiency in new development, by providing attractive opportunities to travel by sustainable means and by protecting land suitable for renewable and low carbon energy generation, including community schemes.</p>
Economy and employment	<p>Ensure that education and skills provision meet the needs of the Borough's existing and future labour market and improve life chances for all.</p> <p>To create high, stable and equitable levels of employment and competitiveness that recognises social and environmental issues, enhancing the vitality of the Borough's town and villages.</p> <p>Support the needs of the local rural economy.</p> <p>To ensure that sufficient supporting/enabling infrastructure of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation.</p> <p>Increase the availability of high speed broadband especially in the villages and isolated properties and all new build properties.</p>

Theme	SA Objectives
Health and wellbeing	<p>Improve opportunities for access for all to work, education, health and local services</p> <p>Improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of Stafford Borough residents, including through enhancing existing health, sports, and leisure facilities and reducing health inequalities between local communities across the Borough.</p> <p>To reduce the impact of noise and light pollution; including potential traffic noise pollution.</p>
Historic environment	<p>Protect, conserve and enhance heritage assets, including their setting and significance, and contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of historic character through design, layout and setting of new development.</p>
Housing	<p>Support timely delivery of an appropriate mix of housing types and tenures, including a focus on maximising the potential from strategic brownfield opportunities, to ensure delivery of high quality, affordable and specialist housing that meets the needs of Stafford Borough's residents, including older people.</p>
Land, soils and waste	<p>Promote the efficient and sustainable use of land and natural resources, including supporting development which makes effective use of previously developed land and avoids the best and most versatile agricultural land where applicable.</p> <p>Support the County objectives for the sustainable management of minerals and waste.</p>

Theme	SA Objectives
Landscape	<p>To protect, enhance and, where necessary, restore the Borough's designated landscape areas and town character, scenic beauty and local distinctiveness, through appropriate design and layout of new development, including the preservation of the Cannock Chase National Landscape and key views.</p>
Population and communities	<p>Sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of Stafford Borough's towns and villages, and their communities through supporting good access to existing and planned services, facilities and community infrastructure, including green infrastructure, for new and existing residents, mindful of the potential for community needs to change over time.</p> <p>Locate development in areas that can support accessibility improvements, reducing deprivation within communities across the Borough.</p> <p>Improve safety within communities throughout the Borough; reducing and preventing crime and reducing the fear of crime</p> <p>Create a sense of community identity, belonging and pride; encouraging community engagement in local issues, and a strong voluntary sector.</p> <p>Ensure tolerance, respect and engagement with people from different cultures, backgrounds and beliefs recognising their rights and responsibilities.</p>

Theme	SA Objectives
Transport	<p>Ensure that the provision of infrastructure is managed and delivered to meet local population and demographic change whilst helping to reduce congestion and travel times. This includes providing infrastructure that maximises accessibility for all and connects new housing developments to employment, education, health and local services, including public realm.</p>
Water resources and water quality	<p>Promote sustainable forms of development which minimises pressure on water resources, water consumption and wastewater flows, including the use of innovative features and techniques where possible, to maintain and enhance water quality of the Borough's rivers and aquifers; consistent with the aims of the Water Framework Directive.</p>

There is an increased focus on monitoring nationally, in light of the proposal to reform plan-making to ensuring a clearer focus on achieving clear ‘outcomes’.

At the current time, it is suggested that monitoring efforts might focus on:

- Employment land requirements - will require close monitoring, given evolving regional and national context. In particular, the needs of the warehousing/distribution sector are subject to change.
- Housing - the Council already monitors numerous housing delivery related matters through the Authority Monitoring Report, and indicators should be kept under review. There is a need to closely monitor affordable housing delivery by sub-area/viability zone across the borough.
- Agricultural land - it is possible to monitor loss of agricultural land by grade.
- Climate change adaptation - potentially monitor housing in close proximity to a fluvial flood zone (in addition to intersecting); also the 1 in 30 year surface water flood zone.
- Climate change mitigation - it could be appropriate to monitor the proportion of new homes linked to a heat network; also the proportion of homes delivered to standards of sustainable design and construction that exceed building regulations. More generally, there is a need to carefully consider how local plan monitoring links to monitoring of borough-wide emissions.
- Water - ongoing consideration should be given to any risk of capacity breaches at Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTWs) and other risks to the status of water courses. Also, there is a need for ongoing consideration of whether the ‘water stressed’ nature of the sub-region, and potentially specific aquifers within the sub-region, is such that there is a need to limit further growth.

9. Next steps in the Sustainability Appraisal process

Consultation

A key aspect of the SA process is consultation. The SA process provides a mechanism to ensure that stakeholder engagement requirements are achieved by providing interested parties/organisations and the public an opportunity to inform the process and comment on decisions taken. Stakeholder engagement also ensures that environmental and social issues, constraints and opportunities are identified and assessed at an early stage of the project.

Public consultation is encouraged as a means by which to help set the environmental context and determine the scope of assessment.

How can I have my say on this consultation document?

Consultation on the new Local Plan 2025-2045: Sustainability Appraisal (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report will take place between 8 June and 28 July 2026. Please provide any responses by 12 noon on Tuesday 28 July 2026.

We strongly encourage responses to be made using the pro-forma available on the Council's website at www.staffordbc.gov.uk/strategic-planning-and-placemaking-consultations and emailing completed forms to strategicplanningconsultations@staffordbc.gov.uk

Alternatively, if you choose to use e-mail please identify the question, section or page number to which your comments refer.

How will my comments be used?

We will acknowledge receipt of your comments and fully consider responses for the next stage of the plan-making process, although the Council will not engage through individual correspondence. All comments received will be published on the Council's website in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Protecting Your Privacy

We believe you should always know what data we collect from you and how we use it, and that you should have meaningful control over both. As part of our ongoing commitment to transparency, and in relation to the General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, we have updated our Privacy Policy.

We will only use your personal information to send you information on the Local Plan and associated planning policy matters. You can find information about how we handle your personal data by visiting www.staffordbc.gov.uk/privacynotices and if you have any queries or would like to unsubscribe from receiving information please contact the Strategic Planning and Placemaking team using the details above.

Methodology for preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Reports

Following the Scoping Report stage (Stage A - Scoping) of the SA process, the Sustainability Appraisal Commentary will be prepared to test the objectives for the Development Plan against the SA Framework and to appraise the Proposed Local Plan content and evidence. The Sustainability Appraisal Commentary and the Proposed Local Plan content and evidence will then be consulted upon at the same time, after which a Sustainability Appraisal Report will be published and consulted upon alongside the Proposed Local Plan. Finally, the Council will prepare the submission plan and submit the policy documents alongside the amended Sustainability Appraisal Reports.

The remaining stages of Development Plan Sustainability Appraisal process are as follows:

- Stage B2 - Developing the Options for each plan document
- Stage B3 and B4 - Predicting and Evaluating the Effects of the plan document
- Stage C - Preparing the SA Report
- Stage D - Consulting on the preferred options and the SA Report
- Stage E - Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Plan document

Stage B2 - Developing and Refining the Plan Options

The Sustainability Appraisal Objectives set out how the key sustainability issues will be addressed, whilst the Plan Objectives will set out what the Development Plan is aiming to achieve in terms of land use and planning policies.

A key element of the Sustainability Appraisal process is to compare the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives with the Plan Objectives to appraise the plan in terms of sustainability and the achievement of targets under SEA target areas. Using the table below the Plan Objectives will be compared to the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives. The purpose of this analysis is to ensure that the Plan Objectives are in accordance with the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives to assist with the development of policy.

Table 2: Example of Appraisal Table

Plan Objective Number	Sustainability Objectives - Economic				
PO1	1	2	3	4	5
	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Conflict	Compatible
Comments: Plan Objective 1 is in conflict with Sustainability Objective 4 because					
PO2	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
	Sustainability Objectives - Social				
	6	7	8	9	10

The Sustainability Appraisal Commentary will also test the compatibility of the Plan Objectives with each other, using the table below. Where conflicts exist between the various objectives these will be highlighted. Whilst the aim would be to achieve consistency with each other, in practice there will be tensions between Plan Objectives. The purpose of this exercise is to highlight where win-win situations cannot be achieved. Where this occurs decision makers are required to determine where the priorities should lie.

Table 3: Example of Plan Objectives Appraisal Table

	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4
PO1				
PO2	Compatible			
PO3	Compatible	Compatible		
PO4	Compatible	Conflict	Compatible	

During the preparation of the Proposed Local Plan content and evidence various policies will then be developed in order to meet the Plan Objectives. Each of these policies will be tested through the Sustainability Appraisal Framework to identify the sustainability effects of each policy and to assess its performance in terms of sustainability.

The various policies and alternatives will be appraised against the sustainability objectives to establish whether the effect is positive, negative or uncertain through the short, medium and long-term perspective. For example, will the policy create two jobs or a hundred jobs; will the policy temporarily cause noise pollution whilst buildings are constructed or lead to a more permanent noise infringement. As such, during this Sustainability Commentary stage general differences between the alternatives will be considered and documented. Further details will be duly assessed as the policies are developed and the Plan document's progress through the various stages.

The most effective way of appraising the effects of a policy is by comparing it with a state, an option or an objective. Using the table below refined policies will be compared with the sustainability objectives. This process may also lead to new policies being developed or composed of several different aspects of the policy.

Table 4: Example of Policy and Alternatives Appraisal Process

	Policy A			Alternative B			Alternative C		
SA	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L
1	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	-
2	+	+	+	0	-	-	0	-	-
3	+	+	+	-	-	-	0	0	+
4	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+
5	0	0	0	-	-	-	+	+	+
6	+	0	-	+	+	+	+	-	-
7	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	0	-
8	+	+	+	+	0	-	+	+	+
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+
11	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	0	-
12	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	0	+
13	+	0	-	0	+	+	+	+	+
14	+	0	-	0	+	+	+	+	+
15	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	0	+
	Policy A			Alternative B			Alternative C		

Comments	Policy A	Alternative B	Alternative C
	<p data-bbox="400 259 675 293">Recommendation</p> <p data-bbox="400 311 1326 344">Policy ** performs best in terms of sustainability objectives etc....</p>		

Where policies could be altered in light of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process this will be highlighted in the SA Commentary. The Sustainability Appraisal Commentary will also provide comments on any sustainability issues that arise during the refinement of the policies or during the consultation process.

The developing and refining policies process will form part of the Sustainability Appraisal Commentary, which will be consulted upon at the same time as the Proposed Plan content and evidence. Alongside the appraisal of plan policies the SA Commentary will also compare plan policies against the alternative of 'do nothing' or business as usual. This will highlight what benefits each plan policy could provide.

Stages B3 and B4 - Predicting and evaluating the effects of the plan

The next stage of the Sustainability Appraisal process is to assess, in more detail, each policy in the Proposed Local Plan to determine whether it is likely to have a significant effect on the environment and sustainable development. The objective of this stage is to predict and evaluate the effects of plan policies so that where adverse effects are predicted consideration will be given to what mitigation measures may be required. This will lead to Stage C - preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Each policy will be assessed using the table set out below, with recommendations for refining the policy included in the process. At this stage it is expected that the predictions regarding the policy impacts may be broad based and qualitative rather than detailed and quantitative if there are limitations in the data that is available. Where possible the potential effects will be quantified, although where this is not possible a subjective judgement will be made.

Table 5: Example of predicted impacts table

Policy 1: [Description]						
SA obj.	Target	Can the effect be quantified?	Effects over time			Comments
			Short term	Medium term	Long term	
Economic objectives						
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
Summary						
Social objectives						
1						
2						

Completion of this process will make it possible to decide if any of the policies are likely to have any adverse impacts. Where adverse impacts are predicted, information will be required on the measures proposed to prevent, reduce or offset these adverse effects. Where an adverse effect cannot be mitigated consideration should be given to deleting or modifying the policy. If a policy does not have any adverse impacts Stafford Borough Council will try and enhance its positive and beneficial effects.

It will also be necessary to assess and record the cumulative effects of all the preferred policy options against the sustainability objectives using the table below. Where there are adverse cumulative impacts, recommendations will be made in the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Table 6: Example of cumulative effects

Plan Policies	SA Objectives								
	Economic Objectives						Social Objectives		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3
Effects									

Where policies are proposed for alteration in light of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process these will be highlighted in the Sustainability Appraisal Report. The SA process will also provide a commentary on any sustainability issues that arise during the refinement of the policy. Conclusions on the overall sustainability effects of the policy will be provided as part of the SA Report.

Furthermore, the Sustainability Appraisal Report will detail the proposals for monitoring the sustainability effects of the plan document, allowing the actual effects of the Plan document to be measured against those predicted in the SA.

The appraisal of the effects of the plan will form part of the Sustainability Appraisal Report, which will be available for consultation at the same time as the Proposed Local Plan.

Following the consultation on the Proposed Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report the policy development will be used to prepare the policies for inclusion in the Submission Plan to the Secretary of State. At the stage the policies in the Submission document will be assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal Framework and the Sustainability Appraisal Report will be amended to detail this assessment process.

Stage D - Consulting on the Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report

The Revised Sustainability Appraisal Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State alongside each Submitted Plan, each of which will be subject to the independent Examination process. The independent Examination will consider whether the Sustainability Appraisal process has been incorporated into the production of submitted plans and whether the requirements of the SEA Directive have been met.

The Environmental Report is a key requirement of the SEA Directive. The Environmental Report documents the whole SEA process and provides a record of how environmental considerations are incorporated into production of the Plan. The elements of the SA process that meet this requirement will be highlighted in a table at the end of the SA Report. The suggested layout of the table is set out below.

Table 7: Environmental Report Table

SEA Requirements for Environmental Report	Location in Sustainability Report
An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution therefore without implementation of the plan or programme	
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental, <i>economic</i> or <i>social</i> importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.	
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been considered during its preparation.	
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.	
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	

SEA Requirements for Environmental Report	Location in Sustainability Report
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with , and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties encountered in complying the required information.	
A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10.	
A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	
The report must include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision0making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Art. 5.2)	
Consultation	
Authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental/sustainability appraisal report (Art 5.4)	
Authorities with environmental, social or economic responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental/sustainability appraisal report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, Art. 6.2)	
Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (art. 7)	

Taking the environmental / sustainability appraisal report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art.8)

Provision of information on the decision:

When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Art. 7 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed:

- The plan or programme as adopted
- A statement summarising how environmental, social and economic considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental/sustainability appraisal report of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Art.7 have been taken into account in accordance with Art. 8 and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- The measures decided concerning monitoring (Art.9)

Monitoring of the significant environmental, social and economic effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art 10.)

Quality assurance: environmental/sustainability appraisal reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.

Examination of the Plan

Following the independent Examination into each Plan document the Inspector will provide Stafford Borough Council with a Binding Report setting out recommended policy changes. Where necessary a Sustainability Appraisal of any significant policy changes made through the Examination process will be required. The completion of this task will result in a second revised Sustainability Appraisal report being produced.

Stage E - Monitoring the Significant Effects of Implementing the Development Plan

After Stafford Borough Council has received the Inspector's Binding Reports. The Plan can be adopted and published. At this time a statement will be issued summarising how the SA results and consultee's opinions have been taken into account, an explanation of the policy choices made and information concerning the arrangements for monitoring.

Monitoring will allow the actual effects of the Plan document to be tested against those predicted in the Sustainability Appraisal Reports. It will help to ensure that issues, which are identified through the implementation of each Plan document, whether or not they were foreseen, can be identified and future predictions can be made more accurately. The monitoring information will also be used to provide baseline data for future Plan documents and SA Reports and can be found in the Technical Appendix.

10. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)

The National Planning Policy Framework provides clear guidance that development should not take place where there is substantial risk of flooding. Paragraph 170 states:

'Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future). Where development is necessary in such areas, the development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.'

Stafford Borough will appointed consultants to carry out a SFRA. The results of the assessment will be reported in a separate document, information will be drawn on when assessing policy development through the Sustainability Appraisal process.

11. Habitats Regulations Assessment

The purpose of Habitats Regulations Assessment of land use plans is to ensure that protection of the integrity of European Sites is a part of the planning process at a regional and local level. The requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment of plans or projects is outlined in Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

Whilst the Sustainability Appraisal and the Habitats Regulations Assessment are two separate processes each with their own legal requirements, the SA will draw on results and evidence gathered by the Habitats Regulations Assessment process. Where this will contribute towards the assessment of policy and development options reference to the Habitats Regulations Assessment process and related evidence will be reported within the SA documents.

Below is a list of Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) sites within or on the edge of Stafford Borough:

- Cannock Chase
- Chartley Moss

- Pasturefields Salt Marsh
- Cop Mere
- Aqualate Mere
- Mottey Meadows

Glossary

Term	Description
Consultation Body	Authorities which because of their environmental responsibilities are likely to be concerned by effects of implementing plans and programmes and must be consulted at specific stages of the SEA. The Consultation Bodies designated in the SEA regulations are the Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency.
Contaminated Land	Land that is polluted by virtue of past industrial and chemical uses or naturally occurring radiation, which makes it unsuitable for development without decontamination taking place to remove potential hazards to occupiers and potential users of the development.
Countryside Character Areas	Areas of distinctive landscape, wildlife and natural features as defined by the Countryside Agency.
Cultural heritage	Places or things that are valued because they give us a sense of the past and of our cultural identity.
Cumulative Effects	These effects can be caused by a number of developments which, individually and in themselves, may have insignificant effects, but together combine to create a significant effect.
DEFRA	Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, responsible for promoting sustainable development, protecting and improving rural, urban, marine and the global environment.
Derelict Land	Land that has been previously developed but has been allowed to fall into disrepair and is no longer used.
Economic Development	The development of the economy of the Council area by the creation of employment opportunities.
Environmental Assets	All environmental assets that provide ecosystem services, e.g. landscape, habitats, pollination, erosion prevention, and the absorption of emissions and pollutants resulting from human activities.
Environmental Capital	The combination of the assets (i.e. the tangible commodities, land, trees, fields, etc.) with the environmental benefits derived from them (leisure opportunities, tranquility, natural habitats etc.)

Term	Description
Environmental Limits	The limit to which an environment or ecosystem can cope with the population, resource exploitation and pollution pressures placed on it. Beyond the environmental limit, there is a risk of causing long-term damage to the health and productivity of an environment.
Environmental Report	A document required by the SEA Directive, as part of an environmental assessment, that identifies, describes and evaluates the likely effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme.
Fauna	All the animal life of a given place or time.
Flora	All the plant life of a given place or time.
Green Belt	Land designated in development plans to be kept open in accordance with PPG2.
Greenfield Sites	Land that has never been built on, usually grassland, farmland or heath.
Habitat	A site or areas inhabited by wild flora and fauna upon which they are reliant for their continued free existence.
Heritage	Things of value inherited or passed on from generation to generation, qualities which are worthwhile to preserve for prosperity.
Historic Parks and Gardens	Parks or gardens of special historic interest.
Indicator	Measure of variables over time, often used to measure achievement of objectives.
Indirect (Secondary) Effects	Effects which are not a direct result of the plan, often produced away from or as a result of a complex pathway
Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	Telephone, computing and other technology designed to enable Communications Technology remote working and communication.
Infrastructure	Roads, sewers, drainage and the availability of energy supplies at the most basic level, through to social infrastructure such as schools and community centres.
Listed Building	A building contained in a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest prepared by the Secretary of State for the Culture, Media and Sport (under Section 1 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).

Term	Description
Local Nature Reserve	Sites established by the Local Authority which can make a valuable contribution to nature conservation, local wildlife or geological interest, providing opportunities for education and enjoyment at the local level.
Local Transport Plan	Plan prepared by Staffordshire County Council detailing transport priorities and actions to be taken.
Local Need	Anticipated requirements (e.g. for housing) generated by local growth or other (e.g. demographic) trends. This specifically excludes demands generated by inward migration.
Modal Split	The proportion of people traveling by different types of transport.
Mitigate	To alleviate or to moderate a quality or condition that is harmful or unpleasant (e.g. pollution)
Mitigation Measures	Measures designed and intended to reduce adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided.
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	An area of national / international importance for nature conservation and managed in accordance with a nature reserve agreement.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was introduced in March 2012 to replace previous national planning policy, and has been revised subsequently. The document sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.
National Playing Fields Association (NPFA)	A charity where the aim is to acquire, protect and improve playing fields and other recreational space for the community.
Net Gain	The useful and/or positive benefits remaining after all deductions have been made.
Non-statutory Designations	A designation not enacted, created, or regulated by statute.
Objective	A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends.
Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)	The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) was established to support the NPPF. PPG provides detailed guidance across a number of specific categories.

Term	Description
Precautionary Principle	The assumption that an activity or development might be damaging unless it can be proved otherwise.
Previously Developed Land (PDL)	Housing land that is or was occupied by a permanent structure (excluding agricultural or forestry buildings) and associated fixed surface structures. The definition covers the curtilage of the development.
Public Transport Nodes	Areas that offer greater accessibility by public transport and reduce reliance on the private car.
Ramsar	A wetland site designated under the European Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.
Reclaim/Re-use	To regenerate, rescue or restore an area to bring it back into use.
Renewable Energy	Energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment (e.g. from sun, wind or wave or fall of water). Plant and some waste materials are also potential sources.
Rural Diversification	Engaging in new and different economic activity to strengthen the rural economy and support existing agricultural businesses and farm incomes.
SEA Directive	European Directive 2001/42/EC 'On the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.'
SEA Regulations	The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations, 2004
Scoping	The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of an SA, including sustainability effects and alternatives which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be used, and the structure and contents of the SA Report.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	A European designation for the conservation of sites of international conservation importance, designated under the European Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora.
Special Needs Housing	A segment of the housing market where a proportion of the housing is targeted or reserved for those people who require special housing requirements. It covers a spectrum of providers and tenures including housing association, joint ventures, public sector and owner occupation.

Term	Description
Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs)	A site of biological importance that is of county importance for its wildlife interest.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	A protected area identified as being of national importance in terms of wildlife, flora, fauna, geological or physiological features. They represent irreplaceable parts of our natural heritage
Special Protection Area (SPA)	A European designation for the protection of wild birds, designated under the European Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds.
Standardised Mortality Ratio (SMR)	Is the ratio of the actual number of deaths one would expect if the population had the same death rate as a standard population?
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	A tool for integrating environmental considerations into decision-making by ensuring that significant environmental effects of the decision are taken into account.
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	Appraisals of plans, strategies and proposals to test them against the four broad objectives set out in the government's sustainable development strategy.
Sustainable Development (SD)	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland 1987).
Synergies	The working of two things to produce an effect greater than the sum of their individual effects.
Target	An objective that seeks a specified desired end, stated usually within a specified time-scale.
Unstable Land	Land which by reason of geological conditions or man-made changes, is likely to be subject to movement or collapse, putting at risk life and developments located on or near it.

Stafford Borough is changing... help us shape it.

New Local Plan 2025 - 2045

Scoping and Participation
Consultation - 2026



What would you like this borough to be like in the future?

What would you change in your local area to make it a better place to live?

What do you think we should change and how?

We are at the early stages of creating a new Local Plan, and it's very important to us that you are part of the process from the beginning.

This is your opportunity to help make sure we're going in the right direction.

We would like to know your thoughts on our eight key themes.

1. Addressing climate emergency

2. Design, healthy lifestyles and safe communities

3. Nature recovery and biodiversity

4. Protecting landscapes, townscapes and heritage

5. Transport and connectivity

6. Right infrastructure in the right places

7. Meeting our housing needs and delivering the right types of housing

8. Securing economic prosperity



Have your say on the new Local Plan by scanning the QR code or visiting www.staffordbc.gov.uk/new-local-plan-2025-to-2045 or you can email your comments to us at strategicplanningconsultations@staffordbc.gov.uk
Consultation ends 12noon Tuesday 28 July 2026

From: [Corporate Support](#)
Subject: Stafford Borough New Local Plan 2025 - 2045: Scoping and Participation Consultation
Date: 03 June 2026 14:22:10
Attachments: [image194902.png](#)

Dear Parish Clerk

Stafford Borough New Local Plan 2025 - 2045: Scoping and Participation Consultation

The purpose of this message is to invite you to respond to the Stafford Borough New Local Plan 2025-2045 consultation documents which we are consulting on during June and July 2026, and to make you aware that other stakeholders will be contacted over the next few days. The consultation seeks views on what to include in a spatial strategy for the area, key issues and the approach to consultation across Stafford Borough over the next 20 years through the following documents:

- Scoping the Issues and Early Participation
- Communication and Engagement Strategy
- Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report

We have recently issued Notices on the intention to commence preparation of the next Stafford Borough Local Plan and this Scoping Consultation, a new Local Plan timetable, and consultation documents alongside evidence based reports together with additional information. To view please visit [New Local Plan 2025 to 2045 | Stafford Borough Council](#).

During the consultation period, hard copies of the New Local Plan consultation documents will also be available for viewing at Stafford Borough Council's offices and all libraries across the Borough during normal opening hours.

If you wish to comment, please submit your response using our consultation form which is available at <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/local-plan-2025-2045-scoping-consultation> or by sending an email to strategicplanningconsultations@staffordbc.gov.uk

Please ensure that your responses are received by us between Monday 8 June 2026 and before **12 noon on Tuesday 28 July 2026**. Comments received before or after these consultation dates may not be considered.

Please refer to the Privacy Notice within this message, in relation to current data protection legislation which sets out how we will use your personal information.

A summary of responses made to the New Local Plan consultation documents will be published in due course and taken into account when preparing the "New Local Plan contents and evidence base" stage through 2026 and the early part of 2027.

If you would like to know more information about the Local Plan please visit [New Local Plan 2025 to 2045 | Stafford Borough Council](#). If you have any additional questions or require assistance in making a response please do not hesitate to

contact the Strategic Planning team either by email at strategicplanning@staffordbc.gov.uk or by telephone on 01785 619000.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Yendole
Planning Policy Manager

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STAFFORD BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN 2025 - 2045 **STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL – PRIVACY NOTICE**

How we will use your details

All responses received to the Stafford Borough Local Plan 2025-2045 consultation documents will be included in a schedule and made publicly available once the consultation has closed.

Stafford Borough Council will consider all representations received, using them to inform the next stage of the process for the Stafford Borough Local Plan 2025-2045.

Comments cannot be treated as confidential. Your comments, name and organisation will be made publicly available via the web-page [New Local Plan 2025 to 2045 | Stafford Borough Council](#). Other personal information, such as your postal and email address will not be published and signatures will be redacted. Comments will be made public and, because they are used to inform the development of policy, will not be able to be withdrawn once they have been processed and published. In addition, we will use your personal information to send you information on the Local Plan and associated planning policy matters.

We will share your comments and other information you supply with the Planning Inspectorate along with other Local Plan submission documents required for the independent Examination in Public. Except where the law obliges or allows us, we will not further share your data with any external bodies or persons or with other departments within the Council.

We believe you should always know what data we collect from you and how we use it, and that you should have meaningful control over both. As part of our ongoing commitment to transparency, and in relation to current data protection legislation, we have updated our Privacy Policy.

Stafford Borough Council are the data controller and you can find more information about how we handle your personal data by visiting <https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/local-plan-consultation-representations-how-we-use-your-personal-information>. If you have any queries or would like to unsubscribe from receiving information then please contact strategicplanningconsultations@staffordbc.gov.uk



Corporate Support | Democratic and Corporate Services
Stafford Borough Council | Civic Centre | Riverside | Stafford | ST16 3AQ
01785 619207 | corporatesupport@staffordbc.gov.uk | www.staffordbc.gov.uk

Information you supply to us via email will be dealt with in line with data protection legislation. We will use your information to enable us to fulfil our duties in relation to your enquiry. To that end, where the law allows, your information may be shared with relevant departments within the council, and with other authorities and organisations where required. Stafford Borough Council is the data controller for any personal information you provide. For more information on your data protection rights relating to the service to which your email relates, please visit www.staffordbc.gov.uk/PrivacyNotice



Scoping and Participation Consultation

As part of the new Local Plan 2025-2045 (www.staffordbc.gov.uk/new-local-plan-2025-to-2045), we need to develop a land use planning (spatial) vision for the future of the borough.

Please note, the consultation needs to be completed in one session before clicking 'Submit' at the end of this form.

To minimise disruption and to protect your information, we recommend writing your answers into a saveable document before inserting your comments into the response boxes.

Local Plan Vision

To help inform the spatial vision we would like to know your thoughts on:

What would you like this borough to be like in the future?

What do you think we should change and how?

What would you change in your local neighbourhood or area to make it a better place to live?

What should we be considering?

We would like to know what you think are the things we really need to consider. We would like to know your thoughts on:

What matters or issues should be looked at by the new Local Plan?

Why are these matters or issues important?

Please feel free to refer to climate change, the economy, housing, heritage, the environment, infrastructure, transport, community facilities and health in your response.

Key Themes (proposed)

The Local Plan will cover lots of themes and we'd like to know your thoughts on the following questions.

Theme 1: Addressing Climate Emergency

What do we need to do in response to climate change and the climate emergency?

Theme 2: Design, Healthy Lifestyles and Safe Communities

How can we make our communities healthier, provide better facilities and support high quality design in new development?

Theme 3: Nature Recovery and Biodiversity

What is required to protect our high-quality environments and help to deliver nature recovery?

Theme 4: Protecting Landscapes, Townscapes and Heritage

How can we protect our unique heritage, natural and town landscapes?

What aspects of the borough's heritage matter most to you, how it can be protected, and how it should shape sustainable development into the future?

Theme 5: Transport and Connectivity

Do you find it easy to move around freely and get to where you want to go?

Theme 6: Right Infrastructure in the Right Places

What new infrastructure, services and facilities do we need to plan for and where?

Theme 7: Meeting our Housing Needs and Delivering the Right Types of Housing

What type of homes do need and where do we need them?

Do you think it is better to deliver housing in one go or phased, so that new facilities and infrastructure can be provided?

Should we have smaller sites so the new housing can be accommodated within the existing community?

Theme 8: Securing Economic Prosperity

How do we attract more investment and jobs into the Borough?

Consultation Documents

The Scoping the Issues and Early Participation document, Communication and Engagement Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Reports are accessible on www.staffordbc.gov.uk/new-local-plan-2025-to-2045.

Do you agree with the [Scoping the Issues and Early Participation document \(pdf 1.9mb\)](#) and the approach we have taken?

Is there anything you think is missing from the document?

Do you agree with the [Communication and Engagement Strategy \(pdf 2mb\)](#) and the approach we have taken?

Is there anything you think is missing from the document?

Do you agree with the [Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report \(pdf 2.2mb\)](#) and the approach we have taken?

Is there anything you think is missing from the document?

Engagement

Are there any community groups or local groups you think we should be talking to? If so, please provide details.

Contact Details

Full name (required):

Email (required):

Tick the box that is relevant to you (required):

- Statutory Bodies and Stakeholders
- Agents and Developers
- Residents and General Public
- Prefer not to say

Organisation or Company Name (if applicable):

Tick the box that is relevant to you:

(This is a non-mandatory question but helps us understand the demographic of our respondents.)

- Under 18
- 18 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65+
- Prefer not to say / not applicable

Do you want to be added to our Local Plan consultation database to be notified about future local plan updates?

- Yes
- No

How will my comments be used?

We will acknowledge receipt of your comments and fully consider responses for the next stage of the plan-making process, although the Council will not engage through individual correspondence.

All comments received will be published on the Council's website in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Personal data will be processed on the lawful basis that it is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest and in the exercise of official authority.

Protecting Your Privacy

We believe you should always know what data we collect from you and how we use it, and that you should have meaningful control over both.

As part of our ongoing commitment to transparency, and in relation to the current data protection legislation, we have updated our Privacy Policy.

We will only use your personal information to send you information on the Local Plan and associated planning policy matters. You can find information about how we handle your personal data by visiting www.staffordbc.gov.uk/scoping-and-participation-consultation-how-we-use-your-personal-information.

If you have any queries or would like to unsubscribe from receiving information, please contact the Strategic Planning and Placemaking team at strategicplanning@staffordbc.gov.uk.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Please now submit your response to the Stafford Borough New Local Plan 2025 - 2045.

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Stone Town Council - Payments

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The table below lists payments made by the Council in the period identified, for the Committee's information.

The table includes payments by cheque, direct debit, payment card, telephone banking and online banking. It excludes salary and related payments, payments from the Mayor's Charity, and transfers between the Council's bank accounts. All amounts exclude VAT.

Payment Date From : 01/05/2026

Payment Date To : 31/05/2026

<u>Payment Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount (£)</u>
01/05/2026	10968	Prism Solutions	FJC Leased line rental - April 26	60.90
01/05/2026	10968	Prism Solutions	SSTN Leased line rental - April 26	59.90
01/05/2026	10968	Prism Solutions	Leased line rental - April 26	49.99
01/05/2026	10968	Prism Solutions	Leased line rental - April 26	54.99
05/05/2026	01834522	VALDA ENERGY	HC Elec Usage 31.03-15.04.26	106.92
07/05/2026	140075	B Hygienic Ltd	HC - Hygiene Contract to 30.04.27	130.00
07/05/2026	INV-1291	CE & PS Ltd	St Georges Day Barriers and Elec Supply	514.60
07/05/2026	INV-12013	EDG Security Limited	HC - Fire and alarm maint to Oct 2026	90.00
07/05/2026	INV-12012	EDG Security Limited	HC - replace emergency light	106.50
07/05/2026	INV-6	KTC Security Services Ltd	Install/remove bollards 05.04-26.04.26	60.00
07/05/2026	INV-12011	EDG Security Limited	SSTN - 6 mth Fire Alarm Service to Oct 26	75.00
08/05/2026	SINV101548	Worknest	Worknest - H&S Insurance policy	65.00
08/05/2026	7070298690	Stafford Borough Council	Temp Road Closure -Two Wheel Tuesday	139.05
08/05/2026	5783	Christmas Plus	Installation and dismantling of bunting	1,980.00
08/05/2026	7070298691	Stafford Borough Council	Temp Road Closure - Stone Carnival Parade	139.05
08/05/2026	7070298689	Stafford Borough Council	Temp Road Closure - St Georges Day Re-enactment	139.05
08/05/2026	SINV101548	Worknest	Worknest - H&S Insurance policy	28.21
08/05/2026	SH060355/1/1	Stone House Hotel	Civic Dinner April 2026	1,560.42

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Stone Town Council - Payments

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<u>Payment Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount (£)</u>
08/05/2026	7070298688	Stafford Borough Council	Temp Road Closure - Craft Markets 2026	139.05
11/05/2026	14642849	British Gas	Elec Usage 61 High Street 25.03 to 25.04.26	19.37
11/05/2026	14654584	British Gas	Elec Usage - Feeder Pillar 1, 25.03 to 25.04.26.	18.36
11/05/2026	225273935	Miscellaneous	Office Stamps	14.56
12/05/2026	201021110M	WM Morrisons Supermarket Ltd	Buffet for councillors and TW	28.15
13/05/2026	201615202610242	Pozitive Energy	HC - Gas Usage 11.04 to 30.04.26	49.96
13/05/2026	201615202610242	Pozitive Energy	Gas Usage - HC 01.04 to 10.04.26.26	69.06
13/05/2026	Inv2209	The Secret Kitchen	Buffet for TW & Councillors	180.00
14/05/2026	INV-23253	ABSOLUTE MUSEUM AND GALLERY	HC - Cord, Cable and hooks for hanging system	218.45
15/05/2026	INV354179581	Zoom Video Comm Inc	ZOOM Subscription May 14 to June 13 26	25.98
15/05/2026	SINV101414	Worknest	Worknest -H&S Subscription to May 2027	2,702.00
18/05/2026	INV-1960	IG Stage Hire	Stage Hire Summer Music Event 15.08.26 - 30% payment	420.00
18/05/2026	25614	West Midlands Employers	WMEmployers Corp Mship 26/27	500.00
18/05/2026	INV-12010	EDG Security Limited	SSTN - Replace battery in intruder alarm	223.00
18/05/2026	22658	Cress Security	Annual Monitoring Chg to 31.01.27	376.00
18/05/2026	SIA822064	Reach Publishing	Advert for Assistant Town Clerk	619.91
18/05/2026	SIA825160	Reach Publishing	Advert for Assistant Town Clerk	330.09
19/05/2026	30730437451	Stafford Borough Council	Temp Event licence for Stonefield Park Event	21.00
19/05/2026	01858938	VALDA ENERGY	Valda Energy 01.05.26-31.05.26	331.95
19/05/2026	01858938	VALDA ENERGY	Valda Energy 01.05.26-31.05.26	653.51
19/05/2026	01858938	VALDA ENERGY	Valda Energy 01.05.26-31.05.26	270.23
19/05/2026	01858938	VALDA ENERGY	Valda Energy 01.05.26-31.05.26	412.54
20/05/2026	SBC	Stafford Borough Council	Meal - Capt Cromie 50% share with SBC	161.00
20/05/2026	211308	Black Rose Solutions Ltd	Internal Audit Fee 2025/26	327.00
20/05/2026	5831	BEA Fire Safety Ltd	HC - Annual Fire Ext Service 6.05.26	56.00

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Stone Town Council - Payments

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<u>Payment Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount (£)</u>
20/05/2026	18099	All Print Equipment Ltd	Copier usage - Apr 26	23.41
20/05/2026	CD-244448514	Culligan	Water Cooler Rental May 2026	23.06
20/05/2026	226728742	Miscellaneous	Interview day refreshments £13.00	13.00
26/05/2026	743014903/001/05	Virgin Media Business	Broadband Usage - 6 May - 6 Jun 26	60.76
26/05/2026	240815	Prism Solutions	Prism IT Managed Service - June 26	1,352.83
27/05/2026	wp-INV12418427	Water Plus	Water usage SSTN to 05.05.26	106.69
28/05/2026	1000290581	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste Collection FJC - April 26	136.28
28/05/2026	LLYY-QG4W-BYVL	Staffordshire County Council	SCC - scanning archive recipe book	80.00
28/05/2026	7070298802	Stafford Borough Council	Office Annual Service Charge 2025/2026	4,917.70
28/05/2026	1000290581	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste Collection SSTN- April 26	85.72
28/05/2026	556146268	Zurich Municipal	Insurance - premium adjustment yr to 31.05.27	17.30
28/05/2026	555927024	Zurich Municipal	Insurance cover to 31.05.27	8,362.42
29/05/2026	wp-INV12461334	Water Plus	Water usage - M Rd 9.04-09.05.26	64.46
31/05/2026	SBC Rates May 26	Stafford Borough Council	Rates SSTN - May 26	178.00
31/05/2026	SBC Rates May 26	Stafford Borough Council	Rates Mkt SQ - May 26	17.00
31/05/2026	SBC Rates May 26	Stafford Borough Council	Rates FJC - May 26	267.00
31/05/2026	SBC Rates May 26	Stafford Borough Council	Rates HC - May 26	265.00
				32,230.25